

RAMSEY AROUND THE HORN

MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Monthly Newsletter for Ramsey Families

Volume 2, Issue 1
September 2013

An Update from Principal Marietta

I was surprised by how frequently I overheard students say, "I am so glad we didn't cancel school because of the heat," in the first week of classes. I believe this is a testament to how well students felt welcomed and ready for school here at Ramsey. We welcomed 215 new sixth-grade students this year along with 20 new seventh-grade students. Doubling our student population this year has been surprisingly smooth.

Please note that as we adjust our class sizes and staffing needs, we may need to make some tweaks in students' schedules during the first few weeks of class. But be assured that we will strive to work with families and students to help with any transitions and provide the best programming for all students.

We are excited to bring the sixth-grade students to Camp St. Croix this fall. Please consider chaperoning the trip if you are available.

I love hearing both concerns and successes from students and families, so please feel free to [e-mail me](#) anytime. It's going to be a great year!

Join Us for Curriculum Night Tonight

All parents and guardians are invited to Ramsey's Curriculum Night **tonight** from 5 to 8 p.m. Dinner is from 5 to 6 p.m., during which a few students will be selling coffee and root-beer floats to raise money for Camp St. Croix.

The staff requests that parents attend Curriculum Night without their students for the parent-focused sessions, which run from 6 to 8 p.m. Sessions will include information about iPads, class content, Standards-Based Grading, a Camp St. Croix Q & A, the social/emotional needs of middle schoolers, and more! This is great way to connect with other Ramsey parents and get an in-depth look at what your child is learning.

Contact Information

[Join Our E-Mail List](#)
[Ramsey Middle School website](#)
[Ramsey PTA website](#)

612-668-4040

Important Dates

Thu, Sep 12
5-8 pm
Curriculum Night

Tue, Sep 17
9:15 am
Coffee and Discussion
6:30 pm
PTA Meeting

Sep 17-20
9 am - 4 pm
Fall Scholastic Book Fair

Sep 23-35
6th Grade Overnight to
Camp St. Croix

Tue, Oct 8
School Pictures

Camp St. Croix is Fast Approaching

On September 23, all sixth-grade students, their teachers, and Principal Marietta will board a bus to Camp St. Croix in Hudson, Wisconsin, for three days and two nights of community-building and outdoor excitement. Please return all permission slips and money by Monday, September 16. Talk to your child's advisor if your family needs any scholarship help or special accommodations. [Chaperone forms](#) can be found on the Ramsey website.

A Message from the Seventh-Grade Teachers

Seventh graders can look forward to a busy and exciting year of learning. We kick off the school year with the study of populations and ecosystems (Science 7), the study of personal history (US Studies 7), the method of writing personal narratives (Language Arts 7), the study of area, circumference, and volumes (Math 7), and the use of graphs, tables, and equations to show the relationships between variables (Advanced Math 7). Come hear more about these subjects at Curriculum Night.

We are also teaching students how to use planners, how to manage their passing time, and how to organize their materials in their lockers. Please make sure your student has the color-coded materials for each subject: green (Science), yellow (US Studies), blue (Language Arts), red (Math).

Please note that Personal History Projects are due in US Studies on September 16.

Calling All Volunteers

Whether you'd like to help with one event or be a regular volunteer, there are a number of opportunities throughout the year for parents to get involved. The Ramsey PTA has set up a [Google spreadsheet](#) with descriptions of our school's volunteer needs. Check back during the year for more opportunities as they become available.

If you signed up for an event at the Open House, there is no need to sign up again. The volunteer coordinator will contact you.

Mark Your Calendars for the

Fall Scholastic Book Fair

It's time to stock up on great selections for your student's independent reading. The Fall Scholastic Book Fair will take place September 17-20 in room 105. The Fair is open to students and families from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. The Fair will also be open between 6 and 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17 before the PTA meeting. To volunteer for the Book Fair, [sign up online](#).

Coffee with the Principal and PTA Meeting Next Week

All parents are invited to attend the first PTA meeting of the year on September 17 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Media Center. Each PTA meeting this year will focus on a different element of education; this month's meeting will explore Athletics and After-School Activities. Childcare is available. If you can't attend the evening meeting, please join Principal Marietta and PTA members for a casual coffee and discussion from 9:15 to 10 a.m. in the Media Center. If you have questions about the Ramsey PTA, please e-mail [Bridget McGinnis](#).

After-School Programs Begin Soon

After-school-enrichment and academic-support classes will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, beginning in October. Registration information will come home soon. For more information, you can contact the Community Education office at 612-668-3450.

Support Ramsey While You Shop

There's an easy way to help us raise money for our school: by participating in Target's Take Charge of Education program. The funds from this program can be used for books, band uniforms, reading programs, and other items that need extra funding.

Here's how it works: Visit [Target's website](#) or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school. (Ramsey Middle School's ID number is 153325.) When you shop using your REDcard, Target will donate up to one percent of your purchases to Ramsey Middle School.

Grandparents, alumni, friends, and neighbors are all welcome to participate in the program. The more people we involve, the harder the program works for

our school. If you're already participating, thank you! Check out our school's progress anytime at Target.com/tcoe.

Save Box Tops for Ramsey

Clipping Box Tops is an easy way to help Ramsey earn money--even neighbors and relatives can pitch in. Box Tops will be collected in the box in the main hall outside the PTA room. The fall collection deadline is October 29. [Click here](#) for a list of participating products. If you have questions, please e-mail [Sara Strzok](#).

3 Ways to Stay Connected at Ramsey

Sign up for [Ramsey E-News](#), which provides this monthly newsletter--Around the Horn--as well as PTA updates.

Sign up for the [Student Directory](#).

Sign up for the [Parent Portal](#).

Art Room Supplies Needed

If you have the following items and would like to recycle them into art, please donate them to Miss Elissa in the art room:

- Magazines for an upcoming Surrealism unit
- Clean and empty coffee cans or quart yogurt containers
- Aluminum foil
- Beads, sewing needles, and thread
- Sponges, stamps, and ink pads
- Enamel paint, leftover latex paint
- Small pieces of wood, decorative scrap, and sculptural items

Send Us Your Submissions

If you have any suggestions or contributions for the next issue of *Around the Horn*, please [send an e-mail to the editor](#) by October 4.