



Success is a Choice!



A Message from the Principal

Principal's comments:

It is hard to believe the first quarter is over and the holiday season is upon us. It seems like only yesterday we were welcoming back our students and planning our back to school open house. Many wonderful activities have taken place during the first quarter such as: improved literacy, band performances, athletic events, homecoming activities, JROTC drills, FCAT testing, and patriotic assemblies. Also, students have been preparing diligently for FCAT, EOC's, CCE's, AP and IB testing that will take place throughout the year. Academic improvement is being focused on throughout the entire curriculum. This year, we are concentrating on the processes that spur continuing advancement: evaluating what we have, determining what we can do to improve, and identifying what we need to make these improvements.

Reading, writing and discussion across the curriculum also continues to be a school-wide focus. I encourage everyone to support the initiative by focusing on reading and writing at home with your children. Riverdale is continuing with sustained silent reading curriculum as the staff and students have really enjoyed this special time to read. We are also teaching the Florida Standards to our staff and students, so we will be ready for the national shift in educational curriculum.

I would like to invite everyone to our Student Assignment Open House on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, at 6:30 P.M. This night should provide an outstanding opportunity for potential Raiders to see how great the students are doing at Riverdale and will showcase the many activities available to all students in the future.

Finally, if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to call us at 694-4141. Again, our motto is "Success is a Choice", and we know all Riverdale students will choose to be successful.

IT IS A GREAT TIME TO BE A RAIDER!

Gerald Demming
Principal

UPCOMING DATES:

November 3rd—Athletic Booster Club Meeting
November 4th- Senior Panoramic Photo
Football Booster Club Meeting
November 5th- Senior Parent Meeting
November 10th- Teacher In-Service Day
November 11th- Veterans Day
November 18th- IB Parent Meeting
November 19th- Fall Sports Banquet
November 25th- Interim Report Day
November 26th-28th- Thanksgiving Break
December 1st-5th- EOC Exam Retakes
(Alg/Geo/US History/Bio)
December 1st- Athletic Booster Club Meeting
December 2nd- IB Open House for Potential New Freshmen
Football Booster Club Meeting
December 8th-12th- EOC Exam Retakes
(Alg/Geo/US History/Bio)
December 13th- ACT Test Administered
December 15th-19th- EOC Exam Retakes(Alg/Geo/US History/Bio)
December 16th- IB Parent Meeting
December 22nd - Jan 2nd - Winter Break

Belief Statement

Public education is imperative to support and sustain a diverse democratic society. To this end, we believe: Student learning is the chief priority for our school. Challenging expectations increase individual student performance. Students learn in different ways and should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning. The home, school and community must serve and support one another. Teaching and learning require a healthy, safe and orderly environment. Resources and services are essential for effective instruction. All staff must continue to learn, and all schools must continue to improve.

Mission:

Riverdale High School will adapt to the changing face of the community while preparing to meet the needs of a global society. (On website)

SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY

The Sociedad had a culinary event in which they cooked Paella for 25 students. Students prepared various pieces of the meal and then combined the ingredients to make a great Paella. Paella is a Spanish dish composed of rice, chicken, or fish or shrimp. In this case, parents teaching the students used sausage and chicken. The meal that was finally created was scrumptious. 2014



Students learned to prepare Spanish Paella with the assistance of one of the parents, Mrs. Valencia de Mejia (left).



Students took lessons in preparing Spanish Paella and then had fun eating their creations. ¡Olé, tan deliciosa!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Twenty-three Life Skills students will be attending the 2014 Special Olympics on Friday, December 12 from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM at Cypress Lake High School. They will participate in many events that include tennis ball throw, basketball shot, golf, bowling, long jump, soccer kick, shorts races, wheel chair races, and fun games such as the limbo and tug-o-war. The day events also involve the students in dances like the Macarena, YMCA, chicken dance, and of course a picnic lunch. Be sure to wish them luck before they go. Check out their trophy from last year! We will bring back the gold!

Kelly Jo Myers-Madoian, ESE Teacher, Life Skills

Kristen Fox, ESE Teacher, Life Skills

Paraeducators: Mindy Jones, Nicole Campbell, Melissa Yenesel, Chris Fields

Employment Specialist: Sona Dowdy



ARTSY NEWS SUCCESS IS A CHOICE! IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE A RAIDER

Well, we say to you..."What would you try if you knew you would not fail???" Success is automatic in the Art Department...Just try! There are many students who have the creative ability and just need help developing the technical and informational skills to become the future artists, graphic designers, cartoonists, game designers, illustrators, interior designers, architects, fashion designers, and much more! This is a new chance to set new goals to do greater things and to become a better "you". The arts have been shown to increase test scores, decrease stress, and allow students to become a more rounded and creative individual.

There is an ART CLUB for students to join and experience other mediums that have not been experienced before. All art teachers will be involved this year in the Art Club. Come out and join us. We are meeting on Mondays, after school until 3:30.

ART SHOWS

The Florida State Fair Youth Fine Art Exhibition 2014 was judged in December in Tampa. There is also a high school "only" art show at Centennial Park in early February called Art Fest Fort Myers "Under 20". Last year Riverdale came in 3rd in the chalk painting competition. There is an art show at "The Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair" sometime between February – March, 2015, that Riverdale will be participating in. The big High School Juried Art Show will be in April, 2015. Please come out and support our "budding artists".

If you can't make it to the shows there is always student art displayed by the main office and art rooms. Come and see us anytime.

This year the Art Department has 14 computers to be used for graphic arts. All have Adobe Photoshop cs6 installed on them. They are all networked and used by students in the Art Department.

Contact #'s 694-4141 ext. 251 Mr. Greenblatt or 252 Mrs. Eby

SENIOR TIMELINE

CLASS OF 2015

November through March – Grad Bash Payments will be taken

****Grad Bash Deposits of \$65.00 must be paid by December 19th**

Payment in full by March 2nd \$140.00

Tuesday-November 4, 2014 – Senior Panoramic Picture and Picture on the football field- 7:30 AM

Wednesday- November 5, 2014 – Herff Jones meeting on Caps & Gowns/Graduation Announcements 7:15 AM **Auditorium**

Wednesday- November 5, 2014- Senior Parent meeting 6:00 PM **Auditorium**

Monday-December 15, 2014 – DEADLINE: Ordering Graduation Announcements (Phone-278-4555)

****February 9, 2015 -* Last Chance to Order Cap and Gown**** Prices will go up!

Friday-April 17, 2015- Grad Bash- Universal Studios- 1:00 PM- Report to auditorium

Saturday- May 2, 2015- Prom

Tuesday- May 5, 2014- Senior Meeting- 7:15 AM / Cap and Gown Distribution- **Auditorium**

Tuesday – May 5, 2014– Senior Breakfast/ Yearbook Signing 8:00 AM **-Cafeteria**

Friday, May 8, 2015- Senior Pool Party/Slide Show- 10:45 AM **Auditorium**

Tuesday- May 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 - Senior Exams

Tuesday- May 26, 2015- Senior Awards Night -6:30 PM (Wear Cap and Gown) (Invitation Only Required to Attend) Practice Tuesday May 26th @ 7:30 AM in the **Auditorium**

Thursday-May 28, 2015- Baccalaureate- **Auditorium-** 6:30 PM (All Seniors are welcome- not required- Wear cap and gown)

Friday- May 29, 2015- Graduation Practice 12:00 PM Lee Civic Center- Mandatory for ALL

Graduation-TBA

RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL 22ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIVING TREE



Are you ready to make a great holiday memory for selected Riverdale students and their families who may not be looking forward to experiencing the holiday season this year because of the burden of financial, health or personal reasons? You can help turn those sad faces into big smiles by getting involved in Riverdale High School's 22nd ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIVING TREE. This is an annual school and community-wide event that helps to provide in-need Riverdale students and their families with great holiday memories. A holiday tree is set up in the Guidance office and anyone is welcome to take an angel from our tree and buy the gift item written on the angel. All the gift items printed on the angels come from the "wish list" that was provided to us by our chosen Giving Tree families. The gift item is wrapped and the angel lightly taped to your present and returned back to the Guidance office. We also collect monetary donations, food, gift certificates, etc. from our local businesses, private contributors, school staff and students and deliver these items personally to the student's homes before the winter break. Last year we sponsored three families and estimate the total value of our donations to our families was well over \$10,000.00. In conjunction with our three families, we also provided 3 paid yearbooks and grad nite tickets to 3 graduating seniors. In addition, 22 Life Skills students were presented with a gift from their wish list from Santa. We handed out food vouchers for a full holiday meal for both Thanksgiving and Christmas to 30 more Riverdale families. It is a heart-warming experience that many of us have enjoyed being a part of and Riverdale High School is inviting you to join us again this year. We always need contributions and if you would like to make a donation to our Holiday Giving Tree, please contact Mrs. Jill Snyder in the Guidance office at 239-694-4141, Ext. 213 or e-mail JillAS@LeeSchools.Net. Please make your donations payable to Riverdale High School.

Mrs. Jill Snyder

Coordinator

2014 Holiday Giving Tree

RIVERDALE WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHERS

World Language Teachers from Riverdale are also making a contribution to the educational profession. Señor Louis Lillard served as a reader for the Advanced Placement Spanish Literature Exam this past summer. This was his second time serving as a reader. Señor Lillard also presented a workshop on “Making Spanish Fun” to Spanish 1 teachers at the Florida Foreign Language Association (FFLA) meeting in Miami, Florida, this past October, 2014. At this same conference, Señorita Judith Cintron was awarded Most Valuable Teacher for Region 7 of FFLA. Señorita Cintron teaches Spanish 2 and also is the ESOL teacher and contact person.

SPANISH HERITAGE WEEK



La Semana de la Herencia Hispana en el salón de la Srta. Cintón

Happy Hispanic Heritage Week Celebration October 13-17, 2014! Several Spanish classes learned more about Hispanic Heritage Celebration during the month of Sept 15- Oct.15. Checking out Ms. Cintron's Blog, students were able to find information in English or to practice their Spanish reading skills. They also were encouraged to check out several announcements and links posted by Ms. Cintron. She challenged students to celebrate the Hispanic Heritage month celebration by:

1. listening to a song in Spanish,
2. watching a movie or TV show in Spanish,
3. making a typical Hispanic dish,
4. help in the community,
5. researching more about a famous Hispanic individual, and
6. educating themselves about important current events or movements.
7. Srta. Cintrón recommended checking out [United We Dream](#).

IB SPANISH OUT PERFORM DISTRICT AND NATION

A little known secret is that Spanish IB students from Riverdale are outperforming the district and national averages, when it comes to their average score on the Spanish IB test. Raider IB Diploma students are scoring on the average of 5 or higher on their tests out of 7. Minimal score is 3 out of 7. This is an outstanding performance and is indicative of the hard work by Señor Matt Bourbina and the Raider World Language Department.

RIVERDALE LATIN RHYTHM DANCERS

Riverdale Latin Rhythm dancers had their tryouts with 18 people making the team. This year the group will work on the team concept to improve participation and to give members an opportunity to earn community service points. This year the group is composed of 9 boys and 9 girls.

FRENCH CLUB

The French Club held a culinary event in which they made Crêpes and Croque-monsieur, which are grilled cheese sandwiches à la française. The group met after school to create a delicious French pastry. All members enjoyed the fun and planned to have additional activities throughout the year.

RAIDER BATTALION NEWS

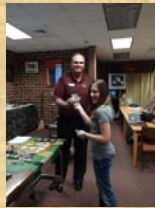
The Riverdale Raider Battalion is going strong in the 2014-2015 school year. The start of the school year was quite eventful. The Battalion provided cadets that helped out at open house, managed parking details and presented the Colors for the home football games.



South Fort Myers High School JROTC and Lehigh High School JROTC visited our campus on in September and October, and they had a fun day using the climbing wall, zip line, high COPE elements, and leadership reaction course.



Our annual cheesecake fundraiser started August 20th and ran thru September 9th. This year the hardworking cadets sold 822 cheesecakes for over \$5750 profit! Cadet Larosa was the top seller with 42 items sold. Cadet Johnson was second best seller with 40 items and Cadet Thomas was third best seller with 30 items. Echo Company had the most sales and won a pizza party.



The fundraiser pays for transportation to many events, tee shirts, sports equipment, and helps defray the cost of county events like JROTC Ball. It also helps us replace equipment for our tower. Thanks to everyone who supported the Battalion, and enjoy your cheesecakes.

This year's homecoming parade will again be led by our Color Guard, and we will also have a small marching unit to represent the battalion.

VETERANS DAY 2014



Our Veterans' Day Ceremony will be held on November 7th on the football field at Riverdale High School. All veterans and parents are welcome to attend. The ceremony will start at 9:20 AM. Veterans at Riverdale High School and from the local community will be honored, poems will be read, the chorus will be singing, and our Riverdale Band will also be performing. If you are a Veteran or know a Veteran come on out to our ceremony. Last year we had a 4 Star Admiral, 3 Star Air Force General and a 2 Star Army General attend. Additionally, there were over 30 other Veterans from the community, including many past Riverdale graduates. Everyone commented on what a nice ceremony it was, and they expected to return for this year's ceremony.



The Raider Battalion will also be performing the Missing Man Table Ceremony for the Pride and Patriotism Event at Barbara B. Mann on 6th of November. The Raider Battalion will also be marching in the Cape Coral Veteran's Day Parade on November 11th.

Our after school teams are in full swing. On November 1st, the Raider Team, will travel to Lehigh to compete in the district wide Raider Challenge. Drill Team and Color Guard teams have started practice, but it is not too late to join up if you want to. Rifle Team will be starting with a safety class the first week of November. Anyone interested in participating should contact Major Falck. Any questions about the after school teams can be directed to 1SG Trent (Color Guard), Major Falck (Rifle Team), or MSG Villaverde (Drill and Raider Team).

Riverdale JROTC Events for the year:

Nov 6 Pride and Patriotism

Nov 7 Veterans Day Ceremony at Riverdale

Nov 11- Cape Coral Veteran's Day Parade

Nov 26-30-Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec 12 Heart Walk set up

Dec 17- Edison Home

Dec 19-Jan 4-Christmas Break

Jan 29- College Trip, University of Tampa and University of South Florida

Feb 27- JROTC Ball

Mar 7- VFWDM Drill Meet

Apr 10- State Drill Meet

Apr 23- District Marksmanship Competition

May 7- District Awards Ceremony Harbor Side Convention Center



NOW ACCEPTING CHRISTMAS ORDERS! DEADLINE: DEC 1, 2014!

Riverdale HS Life Skills class has a mini-enterprise business. They have a Gourmet Dog Biscuit business; they make, bake, and market their product. The students sell 12 gourmet "medium" dog biscuits for only \$2.00 or 18 gourmet "small" biscuits. The biscuits are made from all natural ingredients and are medium in size (est. 3" x 1 1/2"). All of the ingredients are listed on the packaging.

If you would like to place an order, submit an order form and payment to Mrs. M&M, Room 8-03. We will only fill orders about once a month unless you request a special order. These are great treats!



RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL DOG BISCUIT ORDER FORM

NUMBER OF MEDIUM bags _____ TOTAL @ \$2.00 a bag _____

NUMBER OF SMALL bags _____ TOTAL @ \$2.00 a bag _____

CUSTOMER NAME: _____

CUSTOMER TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

Please enclose cash or check (made out to Riverdale HS) with your order

Orders will be filled ONCE A MONTH unless you ask for a special order.

QUESTIONS call Mrs. M&M (Myers-Madoian) at 239-694-4141 x 307

OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHERS

Florida State Statute 1012.2 recognizes that teachers at times must be assigned duties in a class outside the field in which the teacher is certified. The following teachers at Riverdale High School are certified, but are engaged in training to add English of Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to their certificates:

ESOL

Kei Anna (Bennett) Wolff
Dawn Cioffoletti
Sarah Crume
Kyle Dawson
Stacey Gridley
Katherine Jones

Caroline Maher
Jennifer Miller
Shayne Morin
Robert Taylor
Ryan Williams

ENGLISH 6-12

Ryan Williams

MATH 6-12

Barbara Moreland

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION AND LABELS FOR EDUCATION

A school fund-raiser that won't cost you anything!

The Life Skills Class at Riverdale High School is collecting "Box Tops for Education" and "Labels for Education" from food products you may already be purchasing. All you have to do is CUT, CLIP, SAVE, and send them to RHS, Mrs. M&M Room 8-03. You will recognize the sponsors for "Labels for Education": Glad, Dannon, Campbell's, Goldfish, Pepperidge Farms, Bic, Prego, and V8 just to name a few. "Box Tops for Education" sponsors including Betty Crocker, Bisquick, Nestle, Pillsbury, Yoplait, Old El Paso, Ziplock, Hanes, Kleenex, Scott, Hefty, and Chex Mix to name a few. CUT, CLIP, SAVE, and send the labels in. The labels are counted, submitted, and recorded for points and cash. The students will be able to track, graph, monitor, bundle, and mail the labels as a yearly math-vocational project. The labels are transferred into points, rewards, and cash that can be applied to purchase school supplies or classroom items. So, don't throw those box packages away without first checking for these labels!!! Your support will be greatly appreciated. Any additional questions, call: Mrs. M&M 694-4141x307 or Ms. Fox 694-4141x341



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CUT – CLIP – SAVE

RIVERDALE STUDENT ASTRONAUTS

Riverdale is competing in a state-wide high school competition called the Student Astronaut Challenge. High schools can form five-student teams to compete in the areas of shuttle aeronautics and avionics, and especially their ability to work together as a team to solve problems successfully.

The Student Astronaut Challenge promotes creativity, teamwork, as well as the understanding and application of STEM subjects for high school students. Winning in the first round of the competition on Saturday, Riverdale High School's five-person team has won the opportunity to compete state-wide in a 15-team competition. The Riverdale students are Jane Maag, Cassy Mobley, Luke Chin A Foeng, Matthew Villaverde and Henry Maag. These five students, as well as additional interested students, will begin their formal training at Riverdale in early November.

Training will be using the Kennedy Space Center computer simulators to fly a shuttle from Kennedy, proceed in Earth orbit, and return to Kennedy. The Riverdale astronaut team members will practice until the final competition, held at the Kennedy Space Center over three days, February 26-28 2015. The five-student team will consist of a Pilot, Mission Specialist and Commander in the shuttle, and two students at Mission Control. During the flight, the team will be given surprise, operation-related engineering problems to solve. In a separate part of the challenge, the team will develop and present a focused experimental proposal that could be performed on the International Space Station.

I will keep you posted on their progress!

RHS WRESTLING

The 10x Conference and District Champion Riverdale Raiders Wrestling Team is starting back up again. Come join South West Florida's premiere wrestling program and be coached by Hall of Famers Kris Hayward and Jack Gunn. Practices will begin Wednesday, November 12, after school in the New AJ wrestling building out by the portables. Thank you to all of the administration, staff, and volunteers who helped us build this amazing room! Returning state qualifier James Monos and up and coming Daniel Williamson and Jared Galan, are a few of the many wrestlers expected to be placing at the state tournament this year. Come be a part of the continuing tradition that is Riverdale Wrestling.

RIVERDALE BASEBALL



The Raider baseball team have been working hard in their fall workouts on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays in the weight room. If interested in trying out for baseball and participating in fall workouts, see Coach Pringle in room 6 – 24. All athletic paperwork must be in to Mrs. Berry. Baseball tryout, began January 20, 2015.

IB PROGRAM

Riverdale High School IB seniors have begun the task of applying to college and finding scholarships to help support their goal of attending their number one choice school. Two students, Aesha Siddiqui and Jorge Garcia Acosta, have been named as finalists for the Quest Bridge Scholarship. The students will find out December 1, if they will be awarded the scholarship. Students in the program are paired with colleges that would usually be out of financial possibility. In the past, RHS has had several of their IB students receive scholarships in excess of \$50,000.00 a year. We look forward to hearing that Aesha and Jorge will be able to attend their number one choices without concern for paying for their education except by their hard work.

The RHS IB Diploma Program will once again support River Hall Elementary at their Fall Festival in November. The IB Program has supported River Hall since the inception of the IB Program at R.H.S. The mentoring program with the school was the original legacy project for the first IB graduating class. Currently, there are 39 mentors assisting throughout River Hall every Thursday after Riverdale's school day. Please support our sister school by attending their Fall Festival. You will see R.H.S. students helping our community.

Rebecca L. Stewart

Riverdale High School

IB CAS Coordinator, TOK, IB Theatre

ANIMAL RIGHTS CLUB

The Animal Rights Club meets after school on Thursdays until 3 P.M. We need more members. You must have your own ride to and from the shelter (3 minute drive from Riverdale High). If you are interested in walking and playing with dogs at the shelter with us, please get paperwork from Mrs. Eby.

