



TWO DISTRICTS. ONE MISSION.



Richmond-Burton CHSD 157 - Nippersink SD 2

FALL 2021

What's Inside:

- Professional Learning Communities
- Nippersink Middle School Welcomes New Principal
- A Back to School Message from Mr. Baird
- A Few Words From Liz Young



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

October is here and fall has come to our community bringing with it excitement of another year of school. Although we are still dealing with COVID-19 and the mitigations that go along with it, students have returned to enjoying so many of the back to school traditions we have come to expect and enjoy with each year's return to school.



A priority this year for both District 157 and District 2 School Boards is to continue to work on each District's Long Term Facility Plan. The long term facility plans were designed over a four year period with the help of Wold Architects and Engineering. Our long term facility plans have allowed both boards of education to develop a schedule for preventative maintenance and needed repairs to our oldest buildings. Central to these plans are maintaining a safe and secure learning environment while making needed facility changes to support the 21st century learner.

The Nippersink School District's long term facility plan is focused on increasing student safety and improving building security by removing the older mobiles that sit outside both grade schools. The long term facility plan also addresses mechanical issues associated with the Nippersink Middle School which is over 70 years old. The major mechanicals at Nippersink Middle School needing replacements include boilers, piping, electrical wiring, univents and roofing.

Richmond-Burton CHSD 157 also continues to follow its long term facility plan in order to stay up to date on preventative maintenance and modernize its campus to continue to provide its students and community with state of the art facilities.

This summer District 157 replaced the original chiller which is used to air condition the school with a more efficient model. In addition, District 157 was able to secure federal CARES Act money to purchase a state of the art air purification system that will be installed during this school year. District 2 was also able to secure federal CARES Act money and will use it to purchase an ionization air purification unit for each classroom.

As each district continues to move forward on implementing its long term facility plan we will keep you informed and up to date. It is important to understand that both District 157 and District 2 are two separate school districts with very different funding and budgeting. Although both school districts share the same superintendent, the funds available for projects in the long term facility plans may differ greatly from one district to the other.

Dr. Tom Lind, Superintendent of Schools

Teachers and support staff at Richmond Grade School and Spring Grove Elementary will launch into Professional Learning Communities (PLC) in the 2021-22 school year. The purpose of PLCs is to increase student achievement through open collaboration, continuous professional learning and ongoing modifications to instruction. In practice, PLCs are grade level, subject level or support team teachers who work toward answering four questions:

1. What do we want students to learn?
2. How will we know if they've learned it?
3. What will we do if they didn't learn it?
4. What will we do if they already know it?

By answering these questions, PLC teams can better support student growth and achievement.

Teams will focus on the first question during the 2021-22 school year, specifically identifying priority academic standards to support all students and the following three questions in the 2023 and 2024 school years. We honor the opportunity to work with our children on their academic journey and look forward to sharing the outcomes of PLC work.

NIPPERSINK MIDDLE SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL

Scott Whipple started his career as a science teacher in North Chicago. He taught seventh grade science there and loved being a teacher. Principal Whipple got into administration because he wanted to change how student behaviors were being addressed. He was able to move into a Dean of Students position which then evolved into an Assistant Principal position. He spent 11 years in North Chicago and then decided to look at other opportunities. He was fortunate to be hired as an assistant principal at the elementary and primary school in Big Hollow School District. From there he was promoted to the principal position in middle school where he served for five years.



Principal Whipple shared, "I'm excited to join the Nippersink team for a couple reasons. One, it's a smaller community and I've already had the pleasure of getting to know the students. I'm trying really hard to learn all 340 plus students' names. In addition, I have had a great response from families and I am really impressed with their kindness and how welcoming families have been! Last, but of course not least, we have a very veteran staff that have been here a very long time which just shows what a great culture we have in our building and I'm eager to continue the great work that has been happening at Nippersink Middle School."

Principal Whipple's goals for this new position are:

1. Get to know our students and what interests they have in continuing to make NMS a great place
2. Learn more about the Richmond and Spring Grove community so I can best serve the needs and wants of our community
3. Lastly, really work with staff to transition out of last year's learning environment into something that is familiar to them but without losing the valuable lessons educators learned through the pandemic and remote learning

Please look for Principal Whipple in and around the district and introduce yourself. Nippersink is excited to bring him aboard.



A BACK TO SCHOOL MESSAGE FROM MR. MIKE BAIRD

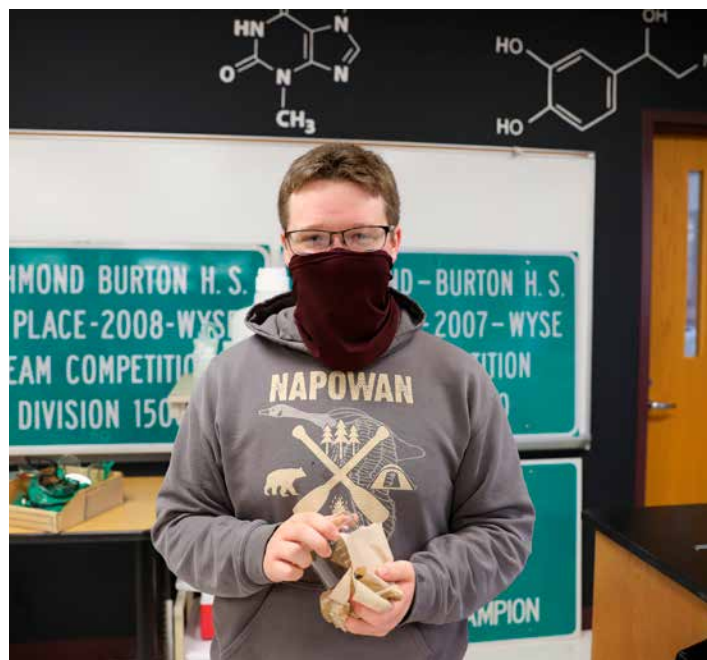
Following a roller coaster school year, the summer of 2021 was a busy time at the high school. Our extracurricular camps were in full effect, new air conditioning was installed, and our driver's education cars were running 24/7 for all of our eager drivers.

As we entered the 2021-22 school year, our hallways were filled with excitement and energy for our full return to action. Students met up with old friends for the first time, tried to remember how to work a locker, and finally got to sit together again at a lunch table and talk about what crazy things had occurred during the morning.

Our classrooms have been filled with laughter, discussion and learning. Watching students interact in-person has been a simple yet amazing joy for all high school staff this year. As we push into fall we look forward to capitalizing on every moment that we get together.

Go Rockets!

Mike Baird, Principal



A FEW WORDS FROM LIZ YOUNG, SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT OF NIPPERSINK SD 2

Did you know the Nippersink Public Library has some great reference books about the history of Richmond and Spring Grove? Here is some history about the school buildings that comprise Nippersink School District 2. In 1962, Spring Grove Elementary School opened and construction of the Richmond Grade School was completed. Nippersink Middle School opened in 2000; however, it was originally the high school building and first occupied in 1948. All three buildings are still in use today, and although they have had some additions since they were first built, they each still have a significant amount of original components.

Over the past two school years, recognizing the age of the buildings in the district, the Nippersink School District 2 Board has created goals specifically focused on buildings, grounds, and infrastructure, with the belief that a healthy, safe and secure school environment provides the best foundation for learning. To take the first step in accomplishing these important goals, safety and security practices have been reviewed and the Board continues to identify and implement improvements based on the latest research and technology. In addition, building infrastructure needs have been assessed and a Long-Term Facility Plan (LTFF) has been created to support optimal building efficiencies. The LTFF lays the groundwork for future facility improvement and optimized curriculum development and efficiencies within and across grade levels.

YOU'RE INVITED!

The Richmond-Burton Community H.S. Board of Education holds regular board meetings on the third Wednesday of each calendar month at 7 pm. The meetings are to be held in the District Administrative Center at 4213 US HWY 12, Richmond, Illinois. You are invited to attend these meetings. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Nippersink School District 2 Board of Education holds regular board meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each calendar month at 7 pm. The meetings are to be held in the District Administrative Center at 4213 US HWY 12, Richmond, Illinois. You are invited to attend these meetings. We look forward to seeing you there.

RICHMOND-BURTON CHSD 157 SCHOOL BOARD

Tracy Highley President
 Jennifer Read Vice-President
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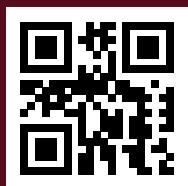
NIPPERSINK SD 2 SCHOOL BOARD

Liz Young President
 Elke Kleisch Vice-President
 Marcy Garrison Secretary
 Joel Johnson Member
 Joe Quinn Member
 Robin Taylor Member
 Carl Uphoff Member

OUR PHONE NUMBERS

Richmond-Burton Community H.S. (815) 678-4525
 Nippersink Middle School (815) 678-7129
 Spring Grove Elementary (815) 678-6750
 Richmond Grade School (815) 678-4717

OUR WEBSITES:



www.rb157.org



www.nippersinkdistrict2.org



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RICHMOND-BURTON SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021-2022

Nov 5 Early Dismissal
 (Middle School, 10:50, Grade Schools 11:45)
 Nov 22-23 Parent/Teacher Conferences-
 No Student Attendance
 Nov 24-26 Non-Attendance Days
 Dec 3 Early Dismissal
 (Middle School, 10:50, Grade Schools 11:45)
 Dec 20-31 Non-Attendance Days
 Jan 14 Early Dismissal
 (Middle School, 10:50, Grade Schools 11:45)
 Jan 17 Non-Attendance Day
 Feb 18 Teacher Institute Day-No Student Attendance
 Feb 21 Non-Attendance Day
 March 4 Early Dismissal
 (Middle School, 10:50, Grade Schools 11:45)
 March 28-31 Non-Attendance Days
 April 1 Non-Attendance Day
 April 15 Non-Attendance Day
 April 18 Non-Attendance Day
 May 6 Early Dismissal
 (Middle School, 10:50, Grade Schools 11:45)
 May 26 Last Day Student Attendance
 (with no emergency days used)
 May 27 Emergency Day
 (Subtract one for each of five emergency days not used)
 May 30 Non-Attendance Day
 May 31 Emergency Day
 (Subtract one for each of five emergency days not used)
 June 1-3 Emergency Day
 (Subtract one for each of five emergency days not used)

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 Nov 24-26 Non-Attendance Days
 Dec 3 Early Dismissal
 (Middle School, 10:50, Grade Schools 11:45)
 Dec 20-31 Non-Attendance Days
 Jan 12 Start of the 3rd Quarter
 Jan 14 Early Dismissal
 (Middle School, 10:50, Grade Schools 11:45)
 Jan 17 Non-Attendance Day
 Feb 18 Teacher Institute Day-No Student Attendance
 Feb 21 Non-Attendance Day
 March 4 Early Dismissal
 (Middle School, 10:50, Grade Schools 11:45)
 March 17 Start of 4th Quarter
 March 28-31 Non-Attendance Days
 April 1 Non-Attendance Day
 April 15 Non-Attendance Day
 April 18 Non-Attendance Day
 May 6 Early Dismissal
 (Middle School, 10:50, Grade Schools 11:45)
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