

# The Royal Review

Fall 2019 Issue

## **6<sup>th</sup> Graders Share Thoughts on R.M.S.**

Written by Kathleen H. Keeseey

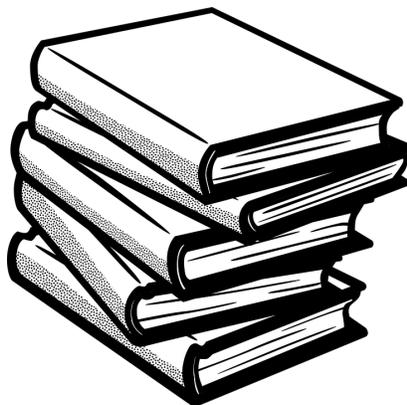
How do 6<sup>th</sup> graders really feel about the transition from elementary school to middle school? Read this article to find out their first impressions of R.M.S.

When asking 6<sup>th</sup> grader Allison Coss on her thoughts, she replied, "At first I was intimidated and nervous, but after time, the layout was super easy to navigate, and my schedule was easy to remember."

Another said, "I was worried I was going to be crushed and not be successful."

Maggie Wittenauer stated, "It was a lot of kids compared to my old school, but I really grew to like it."

Different perspectives are shared by many students relating to their middle school experience; however, in my opinion, junior high can be daunting in the beginning, but it becomes easier and more enjoyable as you go through the year.



## **Insight to R.M.S.'s Gifted Female Athletes** Written by Kathleen H. Keesey

In an interview with a few of the Dixon Jr Duchesses Volleyball team, I got an insight to the assets of the team.

Their ratio of wins to losses is 7 to 3.

“My least favorite part of the practice were suicides,” Micki Worrell stated. “My favorites were bumping, setting, and especially serving.”

“The team was ok, but we got better throughout the season,” Izzy Queckboerner, another player, commented.

“My mom played volleyball, so that encouraged me to try it,” Micki expressed.

“Practices were my favorite parts of the season because we could watch each other improve in different skills.”

## **Who is Mrs. Wagner?** By Jordan Prado

Mrs. Wagner is the new 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher. Before coming to Reagan, she taught 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade ESL at Carpentersville Middle School. Then she taught 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts and Literature at St. Mary's School in Elgin for 2 years. She has been teaching for a total of years. Mrs. Wagner's favorite thing about teaching at Reagan Middle School is that she likes teaching science. She has been teaching for 4 years. Science is one of her favorite subjects. Her favorite thing about Science is conducting experiments and learning about the different systems in the natural world. After she is done doing all her teacher duties, she goes to pick her son up from the sitter. Then she will play for a little before dinner. Then once her son goes to bed, she gets to read, watch Netflix, or crochet. Mrs. Wagner is a great science teacher at Reagan Middle school.



## **10 Ways to Be Successful in Middle School** Written by Kathleen H. Keesey

### **Arrive on time to class**

Arriving on time to all of your classes will build good punctuality habits. Tardiness can lead to many consequences and disturb your work ethic. It is okay to chat with friends in the hallway, but remember to stay conscientious of time.

### **Study**

Often, students with high marks in their classes study frequently. Studying becomes very important when you are older, especially to make sure that you grasp all concepts before taking an exam or presenting an important project. Studying for even just half an hour before a test can ingrain much of the information in your brain.

### **Stay organized**

Organization is a vital skill needed for junior high, whether it is dealing with having a neat locker or making sure that you take the right things to each class. Organization is one of the most key components of middle school because organization can be a factor in success as you grow older.

### **Complete all schoolwork**

Many teachers in R.M.S. take 25% off of your grade for late assignments and projects. Therefore, multiple late assignments can really bring your grades down and build irresponsible habits.

### **Get involved in your school**

Studies show that extra-curricular activities improve the mind, help you become more connected to your school, and develop new skills. Extra-curriculars are also a great place to make new friends!

### **Abide by school rules**

Abiding by the rules of your school is crucial to maintain a safe and welcoming learning environment, not only because of your academic reputation but also because of being respectful to authority figures and other students. Abiding by school rules is how schools are kept controlled and productive.

### **Don't be afraid to ask for help**

Asking questions is how you learn new information. Questions can lead to discussions, hence bringing an environment more conducive to learning in the classroom. If you are struggling with schoolwork, having someone else explain it to you is one of the best ways to comprehend course material.

### **Maintain a positive attitude**

Having a positive attitude in junior high relieves stress, as well as motivating you to do your best academically. Optimism can help middle schoolers learn from their mistakes and also encourages self-esteem and confidence.

### **Pay attention in class**

Paying attention in class helps you absorb information more easily than occasionally listening. Paying attention to whomever the speaker may be in your class is important because attentively listening to someone when they talk is giving them the respect that they deserve.

### **Pick your friends wisely**

The people that you surround yourself with influence the person that you become, so make sure to pick your friends wisely. Good friends make you a better person and support you. You deserve friends that will respect you, so don't pick friends that give you any less.

# Why Video Games aren't Bad for You

By Andrew McCracken

Video games are not bad for you because there are educational games that kids can play. Also, video games can help kids improve reaction time because some games like Geometry Dash need you to react fast. Also, some games like Minecraft can teach you how to survive. Also, it can let your creativity brake free. Fortnite is another game that can teach you stuff. Fortnite can teach you about guns and can show you how to compete in battles.

There are many reasons why video games aren't bad, here are some more. Most racing games can teach people how to drive cars, trains, semis, and many more. They also can help improve strategies and thinking methods. Another thing is video games can sometimes help relieve stress and help improve problem solving skills. Also, some video games can lead you to new interests and hobbies. For example, Geometry dash is a rhythm game, so it has music. I used to like rock a lot but then I played Geometry Dash and I found electronic music, which is my favorite type of music now. So, video games aren't bad.

## The Game Geometry Dash

No this game is not actually geometry. Geometry Dash is a platform game where you play as a square. The square is customizable with different colors and forms. There are also different game modes such as, ship, robot, ufo, spider, ball, and wave which are also customizable. You jump, fly, switch gravity, and teleport. There are main levels which are what you play on. You can make your own level in the editor. There are a lot of different songs that RobTop (the creator of the game) uses from a website called NewGrounds. That is where you can find your own song to use in the editor. There are a lot of creators on NewGrounds that make songs here are some creators, F-777, WaterFlame, Xtruller, Dj-nate, and many others. There are also a lot of creators in Geometry Dash that make levels like, Viprin, FunnyGame, JonathanGD, and some more. There are faults that you put codes in to get more stuff. If you go to where you can choose to go to the editor and vault etc. There is a featured page where levels that the creator has seen and rated are that could become the daily level.

There are different types of ratings. Auto (1 star), Easy (2 stars), Normal (3 stars), Hard (4 and 5 stars), Harder (6 and 7 stars), Insane (8 and 9 stars), And Demon difficulties Easy demon, medium demon, hard demon, insane demon, and extreme demon are all 10 stars. There is also a weekly demon page. You can do quest on the quest page. You play levels to get them done. You can make your own levels in the creator tab. It's amazing! You can use any block in the game to make something amazing! Or just a random thing. If you get the game you can see the rest of the stuff in the game. You should get Geometry Dash it's a really fun game. It's only a couple of dollars. There is even an update they might come out soon.

## **Middle Schoolers Make a Difference in our Community** Written by Kathleen H. Keesey

Recently, Builders Club made ghost pops to sell at lunch to raise money for United Way, a nonprofit organization that donates to needy children. They were 25 cents each.

They assisted the Key Club with a Trunker Treat event at D.H.S., October 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Trunker Treat is when people decorate their cars and people go from car to car and grab whatever treats each individual car has.

Bashar Elbzour, president, Caroline Childers, vice president, and Katie Drew, secretary, are only a few of the middle schoolers doing good and making a difference in our community. Mrs. Renkes, the teacher in charge of Builders Club, says, "It's a good club to get involved in if you want to do good in the community. We're always open to new members."

Meetings are every other Wednesday morning from 7:15-7:45 a.m. There is a significant number of members, but anyone is welcome to join.

## **Mr. Matteson Interview** Written by Kathleen H. Keeseey

I recently interviewed R.M.S.'s new health teacher Mr. Matteson. He is one of R.M.S.'s three new teachers.

When asked what his first impressions of R.M.S. were, Mr. Matteson replied, "Fun."

Mr. Matteson had previously taught at Wilmington Middle School for 8 years after attending college at Eastern Illinois University.

"Busy," was Mr. Matteson's response when asked what a typical day looks like for him.

"My favorite part of R.M.S. is the faculty and the kids," he stated.

Mr. Matteson coaches football and baseball at D.H.S. in his spare time. Interestingly enough,

"My favorite subject when I was in school was P.E."

We hope that Mr. Matteson feels welcome at R.M.S.

## **Mrs. Abell Interview** Written by Kathleen H. Keeseey

Mrs. Abell, a 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher, is one of R.M.S.'s three new teachers in the 2019-20 school year.

She has 2 children, 1 daughter and 1 son, and her husband works in Sterling as an Astec supervisor.

Mrs. Abell's first impression of her new school is, "Lots of students compared to the school that I previously taught at and a very nice staff."

She formerly taught for 13 years at Kings Elementary School, a K-1<sup>st</sup> building.

Mrs. Abell attended Sauk Valley Community College before earning her degree in education at Northern Illinois University.

What is her favorite part of teaching at R.M.S.? "It's close to home in contrast to Kings," she expressed.

In her spare time, "I attend ball games, walk my dogs, and spend time outdoors."

A normal day for Mrs. Abell consists of preparing for the school day at home, teaching all day, going home, and doing whatever the chain events for the evening involves.

"In middle school, my favorite subject was P.E.," she said.

We welcome Mrs. Abell to be part of our school system.

## Interview with a New Counselor

By Andrew Cover

I interviewed Mrs. Weigle, the new RMS counselor. I asked her these questions. Here are her answers: she is married and she had kids. She has two boys. I asked her how old she was and she said, "Old." In her spare time she travels and likes to read. She counsels seventh grade students. She's there Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. She is new this year, so go see her.

### **Yearbook: What is it about?** Written by Kathleen H. Keeseey

R.M.S.'s yearbook program is directed by Mrs. Pace, an ELA teacher, and Mrs. Longan, a math teacher. These teachers have directed yearbook for 7 years.

The yearbook staff uploads pictures to the app ReplayIt that will be included in that year's yearbook. They design/choose the backgrounds, pictures, colors, and format of the yearbook. Action shots of events throughout the year and pictures of individual students are some of the typical things that will be on the inside. Meetings are called when needed, and Saturday workdays will be held later in the year.

"I like to see what the students create," Mrs. Pace, one of the directors, stated.

"It sounded like fun to be part of the team."

# Book Reviews

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## **So many books, so little time** Written by Kathleen H. Keeseey

Of the plethora of quality books that I have read over the course of the year, I have written reviews on some of the most noteworthy reads below.

### *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

Stargirl has been through many names, but strange as she might be, she has the heart of an angel. The students of Mica High turn on Stargirl for her abnormal peppiness and warm heart. Even though Stargirl gives the school happiness and spirit, her friend, Leo, gives her advice that goes against everything that makes her special: act normal, in an attempt to blend in with the other students at Mica High. Through a tale of individuality, inspiration, and the meaning of kindness, Jerry Spinelli brings together a heartwarming novel that will make you realize the importance of being unique.

## Book Reviews (continued)

### The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Matthew Corbin has not left his house in weeks, and his hands are cracked and bleeding from his constant cleaning. He stores latex gloves under his bed out of fear of becoming infected with germs. To pass the time, he stares out of the window and takes notes on what his neighbors are doing at specific times of the day. When one of the grandchildren of his next-door neighbors goes missing, Matthew might just have clues that lead to who kidnapped him. Lisa Thompson crafts a wonderful novel filled with suspense and a message of finding teamwork in the most unlikely of forms.

### Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Esperanza has it all: a luxurious ranch, posh clothing, and a loving family. But when tragedy strikes, Esperanza and her mother are forced to flee to a camp for Mexican farm workers in California. Esperanza's mother soon falls ill, and Esperanza has hardship forced upon her family due to hard labor, financial struggles, and poor working conditions. Esperanza depends on being able to rise above her troubles, for both her and Mama's sakes. Esperanza Rising is a story filled with determination, hard work, and finding strength in the hardest of situations.

# Students Show the Preferred Subject in a Survey Conducted

By Kathleen Keesey

In a random survey with 15 girls and 15 boys of different grade levels in R.M.S., the data shows that social studies is overall the school's favorite subject, math and language arts being close seconds. I interviewed random middle schoolers throughout the course of this past week about what their favorite subject is.

Statistics show that 27% of students said mathematics is their favorite subject. One student that I surveyed enjoys mathematics because, "I love to work with numerical values corresponding with my everyday life, and this subject invigorates my learning."

27% of students said that language arts is their favorite subject. A lot of the students that named language arts as their favorite subject said so because, "The class is very fun overall." Apparently, one of students' favorite aspects of language arts is learning about grammar.

30% of students said that social studies is their favorite subject. Two people I interviewed about what their favorite subject is love social studies because, "It is very easy." Many of the students that say that social studies is their favorite subject have also described the teachers as being amiable and funny. Others stated that, "I love the study of the world in general."

6% of students said that science is their favorite subject. One interviewee said that science was his favorite because, "The experiments that you get to perform are exciting." A few students like science because, "You sometimes get to work as a group."

10% of students said that physical education is their favorite subject. A girl that I interviewed likes this subject because, "You are allowed to socialize with others more than in other subjects, you get to move around a lot, and the activities planned are often lively."

## Things You Probably Don't Know about the Joker

By Andrew Cover

This about the origin of the joker. He was a criminal, who had a gang. The gang members wore red hoods, and the Joker was the leader. He was knocked into a vat of chemicals. It turned him pale and made him psychotic. His hair also turned green. There is a theory about the Joker that he is hyper sane. He knows he is a fictional character, and that's why he does crazy things. It's also why he comes back to life after he dies. His original sidekick was not Harley. It was Bo-Bo . DC revealed that there are three jokers. Similar to this in Gotham the tv series there are the Valeska brothers. One brother looks like the joker and the other one acts like the joker.