



REED CITY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Every Student, Every Day... Commit, Succeed, and Lead

Administrative Office

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Elementary to Middle School Transition

WELCOME TO RCMS!

We are so excited for you to join us at the middle school. We know this is a huge transition. It is the biggest transition since starting kindergarten. The sixth grade team knows this, plans for this, and it is what we do best!

SCHEDULES:

Core Class Schedule:

- Classes are scheduled for the students and they will receive these at registration.
- Each student will have 2 math classes, an english/language arts class, a social studies class, and a science class.
- 2 math classes, we build a strong foundation for future math classes and work on skills that are needed.

Rotation Classes:

- Art Class
- Physical Education
- Technology
- Band

Red and Black Days:

- Classes happen every other day and are announced in the morning.
- Time built into the schedule for students to get help with skills that are missing or are able to explore other classes.
- Classes include: math support, ELA support, team games, art explore, math counts, science explore, social studies explore.

Special Education

At RCMS we provide special education services in many formats:

- Push-In: The special education teacher provides specially designed instruction and accommodations during the general education course.
- Red/Black: Students receive 40-50 minutes of IEP goal work and accommodations every other day during their red/black day on the opposite day they go to an explore class. This may also include pre-teaching and reteaching.
- Resource Room: Students receive their core instruction for ELA, Math and at times when appropriate life and social skills taught by the special education teacher. This course is for students with IEPs only that require intensive support and instruction to meet their instructional level.

SIXTH GRADE TEAM:

- Mrs. Breedlove -- Math -- dbreedlove@reedcityschools.org
- Ms. Schermerhorn -- Math -- aschermerhorn@reedcityschools.org
- Mrs. Hilliard -- Social Studies -- dhilliard@reedcityschools.org
- Mrs. Nelson -- Science -- dnelson@reedcityschools.org
- Mrs. VanScoyoc -- ELA -- lvanscoyoc@reedcityschools.org

BUILDING STAFF:

- Mrs. Decker -- Counselor -- adecker@reedcityschools.org
- Mrs. Frederick -- Secretary
- Mrs. Baker -- Office Secretary
- Mr. Hammond -- Phys. Ed
- Ms. Ekdom -- Art

BAND: We would love to have you join our Reed City Middle School Band! Typically we have an opportunity during the school year to showcase what band may look and feel like in middle school. Due to the school closure, our band director, Mr. Michael Klepp, has generated a handout to help support your questions. Please reference this and reach out with any questions you may have.

[2020-Sixth Grade Band Flyer](#)

LOCKERS: All students are assigned a locker. The locker has an attached combination lock. If you have one at home and are able to practice over the summer, that would be extremely helpful. Sixth grade teachers allow time to practice at the beginning of the year.

PASSING TIME BETWEEN CLASSES: Between each class students will have five minutes to go to their lockers and retrieve their items for the next class. This is also the time to use the bathroom. Students will receive tardies if not to class on time. Passing time is a favored freedom of middle school students.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Robotics Club
- Ski Club
- Art Club
- Yearbook
- Student Council
- Activity Nights
- E.G.G (Gamer's Night)

SCHOOL-WIDE BEHAVIOR:

As students enter middle school, it is time to grow and mature. At RCMS, we expect responsible behavior and encourage students to act how they want to be treated. Therefore, we have a system of behavior that teaches students responsible, respectful, and safe behavior. This system is followed school-wide.

- Classroom social contracts - Agreement of behavior within the classroom, that teachers and students agree on.
- Lunch reflections - If students break their agreements on the social contract or exhibit behavior listed in the handbook that falls under lunch reflections, students will reflect on their behavior at lunch time. If a student receives 3 lunch reflections they will have an after school detention.
- After school detention - Middle school students have after school detentions on Tuesdays or Thursdays until 4:05 if they exhibit behavior listed in the handbook or receive 3 tardies or 3 lunch reflections.

QUESTION AND ANSWER:

Q: Will there be a Meet and Greet with teachers to tour the building?

A: A video will be posted of a tour of the building, as well as a meet the teacher video. We are hoping to do a sixth-grade orientation to help you get to know the building and teachers before you come back in the fall.

Q: Will sixth graders be interacting with upperclassmen?

A: Sixth through eighth grade students will have some passing time that aligns, however, the sixth grade teachers are all located in the same hall as the sixth grade lockers. The sixth grade teachers are often in the hall helping out where needed.

Q: Is there homework? Are there daily requirements?

A: There will be an increase in homework as students move into middle school. Students are expected to read 25 minutes a day and most days will get math homework. Often students have class time to complete the work. It is the sixth grade teachers' philosophy to give time to complete work in class, however students may need to complete some of this work at home that is not completed in class.

Q: How are students graded?

A: Students are graded based on the work they do. There is a mix of work that is graded on effort and work put in, and also on mastery. Learning happens by doing, there will be a large amount of work that is expected to be done without grading. This is to grow and learn. Learning is a process and takes practice. Once work is expected to be understood (mastered) teachers grade the work. The sixth grade team then uses that information to determine who may need extra help on certain areas.

Q: What can I do to relieve anxiety during this transition?

A: This is an anxious time for your students, however it is also extremely exciting. It is a fresh start, a new routine, new faces. Please ask questions of the middle school staff, we are here to help. Point out things to look forward to. Try not to let your students see your anxiety with this transition. This is a perfect time to show your child that changes can be exciting. There will be many new experiences as they enter middle school. With this being said, many students take the summer off from medication, and do a trial of not taking medicine when they enter middle school. Remember to make an appointment with your doctor at the end of summer.