



ROSEVILLE AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Raider's Den

THE HEARTBEAT OF 623

News for January 13, 2017

Principal's Message - Oil and Water

We are in full swing at RAMS. Students have transitioned from winter break and have re-established routines in the classroom and navigating the school day. Staff are providing instruction and deepening their connections with your children. This is the time of the school year where learning can be maximized. I had an opportunity to visit a science classroom this week where students were completing a lab where they had to identify the best source to separate oil from water. The pictures below capture some the lesson. If you are an eighth-grade parent, you should ask your child where their class identified as the best source?



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Brain Development in Young Adolescents

With the use of a new platform to deliver the weekly newsletters we now have the ability to reach more families. With this new expansion, I will be running past information on brain development.

Although most people believe that cognitive development plateaus in early adolescence, current research shows that young adolescents go through tremendous brain growth and development. Far from being over the hill, they are just beginning to encounter the mountain.

Intellectual Growth and Behavior

Adolescence is a critical time for brain growth. Significant intellectual processes are emerging. Adolescents are moving from concrete to abstract thinking and the beginnings of metacognition (the active monitoring and regulation of thinking processes). They are developing skills in deductive reasoning, problem-solving, and generalizing.

This period of brain growth marks the beginning of a person's ability to do problem solving, think critically, plan, and control impulses. This brain development cycle also impacts short-term memory. A middle school student can retain from 5 to 7 bits of information at one time, so teachers should not try to cram too much information into one lesson. The more engaged and "rich" the new information, the more likely it is that the new information will be retained. The short-term memory maintains information until it moves into another area of the brain (long-term memory) or until more, new information is introduced. At this point, the short-term memory ignores the new information for the previous information or discards the previous information to deal with the new.

Some of these changes manifest themselves in behaviors that are observable and stereotypical of middle school students. Taken in concert with the other major development issues at this age, brain development reinforces the following typical adolescent behaviors:

- * Engaging in strong, intense interests, often short-lived
- * Preferring interactions with their peers

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* Preferring active to passive learning

RAMS Restorative Practices

Restorative measures in schools build community, civic engagement, and relationships. These practices provide structure to problem solving. In a restorative school, people who harm others are held accountable to the person they hurt as well as to the school community, not just to a student handbook. Students are actively involved in fixing the problems they make. A restorative school is intentional and transparent in providing support to the person harmed as well as to the student who caused harm. A restorative school uses face-to-face communication and problem solving." by Nancy Riestenberg, from Circle in the Square (pp. 5-6)



At RAMS we take the practice of restore school-wide by holding circles every Monday morning during the STAR advisory class. Teachers use this time to get to know students and establish a sense of community within the classroom.



Date	Time	Event
January 16	All Day	No School: MLK Observance Day
January 19	5:30 - 7:00	AVID Family Night: 5(Cafe. Media Center)
January 23	5:30 - 7:00	Curriculum Night: Incoming Grade 6 Parents\

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January 26	3:30 – 8:00	Parent-Teacher Conferences
January 27	8:00 -12:00	No School for Students: Conferences and Teacher Professional Development Day

For more information about Roseville Area Middle School and the Raider's Den, contact Dr. Brookins, Principal at tyrone.brookins@isd623.org or 651.482.5280.

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