

R. B. STEWART MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Bulldog Bark!

2015 Summer Edition - Volume One

Shae L. Davis
Principal

Laurie Johnson
Assistant Principal

Shalonda Brooks
Assistant Principal

Dear Bulldog Parents and Students,

I would like to welcome you to the 2015 - 2016 school year. The teachers and support staff have worked tirelessly to prepare for our school opening and are excited about meeting their new students.

As educators, we know that children flourish in an environment of high expectations and we will strive to achieve the standards of excellence our district and school has set.

RBSMS has two very special programs for our students that I would like to introduce you to. The ***Infinity Academy*** is a blended learning program where students are provided computers to complete online curriculum in a classroom environment. RBSMS also offers students an opportunity to participate in the ***AVID*** program that is designed to prepare students for college. Students are enrolled in an elective course and they will participate in field experiences each quarter that will explore higher educational learning institutions throughout the state of Florida.

If you are interested in learning more about these unique programs, please contact your grade level guidance counselor. We have many other exciting initiatives in place at RBSMS this year and we look forward to sharing them with you. Staying involved in your child's education is the best way to ensure success!

Shae Davis
RBSMS Principal

DISTRICT-WIDE SECONDARY REGISTRATION DAY Tuesday, August 18 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Registration will be in our cafetorium. At that time, you will be able to pick up your child's class schedule, pay school fees, complete emergency card information, complete free and reduced meal price forms and have your questions answered.

OPEN HOUSE

RBSMS will hold it's Open House for 6th Grade on **Monday, August 31**, and our 7th/8th Grade Open House will be scheduled on **Tuesday, September 1**. Parents should report to the new gymnasium for a welcome from the administration at **6:00 p.m.** Copies of student schedules will be available in the gym if a parent needs assistance.

The format for the Open House will be an abbreviated bell schedule where you will follow your child's schedule. Teachers will briefly explain the content of each course and share their requirements and expectations of students. You will be free to ask questions at the end of each period. The program will be over by 7:45 p.m.



at R.B. Stewart Middle School

7th/8th GRADE ATHLETES

All athletes are required to have a completed and notarized parent permission form, physical examination form, and a copy of a birth certificate prior to participation in any athletic activity. Students must have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 with no more than one failing grade for the past semester to be eligible for athletic participation. Our Athletic Director, Deborah Stacey will be available to answer questions you may have. PE Uniforms will also be available for purchase for \$10.00.

RBSMS SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

- a supply of #2 pencils
- a plastic pencil bag
- colored pencils
- blue or black ink pens
- large glue stick
- 3x5 ruled index cards
- three-ring notebook paper
- ruler (metric/standard)
- graph paper 1/4" (no green scientific graph paper)
- highlighters
- small pair of scissors
- notebook dividers
- one pocket folder
- handheld pencil sharpener
- composition book

Notebooks:

Individual Teachers will give students specific notebook requirements on the first day of class.

****ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES MAY BE REQUIRED BY YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS. SPECIFIC INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL.**

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

The Raymond B. Stewart Middle School Advisory Council (SAC) is an important group of parents, students, school staff and other community members who meet on the second Thursday of most months at 3:15 p.m. in the Media Center.

There are currently **THREE** Parent Vacancies on the SAC and you are encouraged to nominate yourself or others for membership. Please consider filling out and turning in a nomination form on Tuesday, August 18, the district wide secondary Registration Day.

If you are not able to come to Registration Day, SAC nomination forms will also be available in the front office beginning August 17th. Forms must be returned to the front office by Friday, August 21st to be eligible for voting.

Voting will take place during the 6th Grade Open House, **Monday, August 31st**, and the 7th/8th Grade Open House on **Tuesday, August 1st**.

2015 - 2016 SCHOOL MEAL PRICES

	Breakfast	Lunch
Reduced (all grades)	\$.30	\$.40
Elementary	\$1.35	\$2.15
Secondary	\$1.50	\$2.60

TITLE ONE MEETING

There will be a Title One Meeting at 5:30 pm on Monday, August 31st and Tuesday, September 1st, at 5:30 pm in the Multi-Purpose classroom (located in the gym) prior to Open House. Parents can learn about Title One and the Title One budget during this brief presentation.

SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS

Requirements for Td (Tetanus Booster) and Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) for Entry and Attendance into the 7th Grade

If a Td (Tetanus Booster) has been given within the last 2 years this is acceptable. A temporary immunization form will then be written with an expiration date of 5 years from the administration date of the last Td.

If a Td has been given more than 2 years ago this is not acceptable and the student will be sent to get a Tdap before entering the 7th grade.

If you should have any questions please contact the Pasco County Health Dept. in your area.

Students who do not have their shots current AND EVIDENCED ON FLORIDA FORM #680 ("The Blue Card") will not be able to receive a schedule, bus pass, or even enroll in school until their immunizations are up-to date.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

If you have free time and would like to volunteer at RBSMS in the Media Center, for a field trip, work in the concession stand, or any school function/activity, you must complete a Volunteer Application Form and be approved. For more information, you may call the school office, 794-6500, and leave a message for our Volunteer Coordinator, Robyn Herndon.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 17	Teachers Return
August 18	Secondary Registration Day
August 24	First Day of School for Students
August 31	6 th Grade Open House
September 1	7 th /8 th Grade Open House
Sept. 7	Labor Day - No School

DRESS CODE

Students must arrive at school appropriately dressed, and remain so throughout the day. The district Dress Code for secondary students is strictly enforced at RBSMS. Listed below are a few guidelines to help you plan your school wardrobe.

-bikini, tank tops, pajamas, muscle shirts and spandex clothing are not permitted.

-pants shall be worn securely at the waist. No abdomen skin or underwear is to be exposed.

-tops must be long enough to clearly overlap the belt line.

-hats and head coverings shall not be worn on school campus unless approved by the principal for medical, health, or religious reasons.

-shorts and skirt bottoms must be no higher than 4" above the knee.

-blouses, shirts, and sweaters cannot dip below a line formed between the right and left armpit and must have sleeves.

-clothing that advertises tobacco, alcohol, drugs, gangs, or anti-social groups are not permitted.

-jewelry shall be worn in a way that does not permit a safety of health hazard or cause a disruption to the educational process.

-wallet chains and dog collars are not permitted.

A STUDENT IN VIOLATION OF THE DRESS CODE WILL BE REQUIRED TO CHANGE INTO APPROPRIATE CLOTHING BEFORE RETURNING TO CLASS.

SCHOOL HOURS

The student day begins at 8:30 am. and ends at 2:55 pm. Students who ride a bus will load and unload behind the front office. Car riders are to be dropped off and picked up in the driveway in front of the school. No student is permitted on campus before 8:10 a.m. in the morning and students must be off campus by 3:10 p.m. in the afternoon.



PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

There have been some major changes from the Department of Education in regards to promotion from middle school that you should be aware of. According to the State of Florida rules, middle school students must successfully complete Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies each year (**6th - 8th**) to be promoted to high school. Successful completion of these courses require the earning of a grade of "D" or higher. Students who do not pass their core courses will be scheduled into a Course Recovery elective class during the school year.

In addition, one semester course, which includes Career and Education Planning, must be completed by the end of the 8th grade year. This course includes using the online student planning and advising system known as ePep, which results in the completion of a personalized academic and career plan.

Every effort will be made to assist your child in achieving the level of performance required for promotion to high school.

RBSMS Who's Who

Ms. Shae Davis	Principal
Mrs. Laurie Johnson	Assistant Principal
Mrs. Shalonda Brooks	Assistant Principal
Mrs. Kathy Dew	Principal's Secretary
Mrs. Waldron	School Nurse
Mrs. Virginia Dorman	Food & Nutrition Manager
Mr. Leroy Christopher	Plant Manager
Mrs. Amy Pinsky	8 th /Guidance Counselor
Mrs. Stephanie Holzum	7 th /Guidance Counselor
Ms. Courtney Northcutt	6 th /Guidance Counselor

Who's Who Pasco County

Mr. Kurt Browning	Superintendent
Mr. Ray Gadd	Dept. Superintendent
Mrs. Monica Isle	Asst. Superintendent of East Side Schools
Mr. Allen Altman	School Board Member
Ms. Joanne Hurley	School Board Member
Ms. Cynthia Armstrong	School Board Member
Ms. Alison Crumbley	School Board Member
Mr. Steve Luikart	School Board Member

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS OCTOBER 8

Each quarter, RBSMS hosts a Community Connection Night for families. During this event, you may schedule after hour parent conferences, participate in special informational workshops for parents, and engage in hands on educational activities with your child. A light dinner is provided free of charge and students each bonus points for attending. These events usually happen approximately two weeks after Progress Reports are distributed. Be on the lookout for more information that will be sent home with Qtr. 1 Progress Reports on Sept. 25.