Welcome Back RSD Students!

Students from Mrs. Osborne's 2nd grade class at Tom McCall Elementary performed readings from the red carpet of their own narrative stories this Wednesday.

Unfinished Learning

By Holly Brown, RSD public information officer

Every school district in the nation suffered learning disruption during the pandemic. You may have heard it called “learning loss” or “lost learning.” Here at Redmond School District we call it unfinished learning because we believe that learning can be recaptured. Many people are curious about what we're doing to address unfinished learning. There isn't a short answer to how we are readapting education for more than 7,000 students at the same time, but we are confident in our processes.

When addressing individual needs, our school district already has a system in place that regularly monitors student progress. One part of that system is called Response to Intervention (RTI).
Unfinished Learning (cont.)

This system is designed to identify potential gaps early on for students who aren’t progressing at the expected rate.

Identifying the achievement gap that exists among students as they come back to school is a big factor in recovering unfinished learning. Achievement gaps are differences in performance between groups of students; categorized by race, ethnicity, or gender. You can learn more about achievement gaps at the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) website. These gaps existed prior to the pandemic and some grew significantly during the pandemic. This isn’t surprising because every family faced different challenges during the pandemic and some families were disproportionately impacted. Learning about group differences helps us adapt methods and resources to create a more equitable learning environment for all of our students.

The RTI system includes weekly meetings of a multidisciplinary group of school district professionals. The group includes teachers, principals, counselors and specialists who represent a wide range of experts. Each expert has a different lens that might prompt an idea or solution to whatever the obstacle to progress might be. The team reviews a variety of data to evaluate student performance; such as classroom assessments, attendance, work completion, and behavior referrals. With this data, and collaboration with families and support resources, a plan is created, implemented, and progress is monitored to determine if the plan is effective.

Another way we gather data is through state testing. State testing is a summative assessment, which provides information on how well all students in our schools are doing with learning in language arts, math, and science standards. This is likely where you have heard about the learning loss because this data is used to compare school performance nationwide. This data is helpful to the district in tracking patterns of growth or decline, and also to the RTI team because it provides one more data point to create a whole picture of a student’s learning.

In Oregon, parents are offered an opt-out of state testing. We encourage students to participate so that we can more accurately assess student
At the Schools and in the Community

Unfinished Learning (cont.)

progress and have that measurement data to help improve our schools. State assessment participation also impacts other state programs, such as Title I, Part A under ESSA, Perkins funding for CTE and the Student Investment Account. To learn more about statewide assessments, visit the Oregon Department of Education website Student Assessment page.

Assessments are great tools and our RTI process is effective when we have the data to support it. Another important factor for student success is creating an environment where students are ready to learn. The social and emotional environment of a school can greatly impact academic performance and student attitude toward school, according to experts in child development. Based on input from student and family surveys, we are putting extra effort into ensuring that our schools are a safe and welcoming environment for all learners.

It is our goal to build strong school cultures that are designed to teach, reinforce, and celebrate strong respect, rapport, and kindness between students, staff, and families. We are happy to reconnect our students with co-curricular and extracurricular activities such as athletics, clubs, afterschool enrichment, and field trips this year. We enjoy welcoming our families and volunteers back into the schools for special events and being able to connect in person again. Engaging our community is one of the most important priorities in our school system. Thank you for supporting us and all of the students at RSD.
At the Schools and in the Community

Staying Healthy this Winter

Historically, February is the worst month for student and staff absences due to sickness. This year we still have three respiratory diseases floating around: COVID, RSV, and the Flu. Before the Winter Break, they had greatly impacted our school community.

Please take care of yourself and your children and utilize as many strategies as possible to ward off the sicknesses: good nutrition and vitamins, regular sleep, hand washing, cough into your wing and social distancing.

For those of you that are inclined, there are vaccines available for some of the diseases and wearing masks is still recommended by the Oregon Health Authority.

Volunteer With Us!

The Redmond School District is partnering with the Redmond Senior Center to hire a Volunteer Coordinator. This person will help match volunteer opportunities in our schools with folks who are interested in lending a helping hand. Our partnership with the Senior Center is about tapping into the retired community for volunteer help, but opportunities will be sent to parents as well.

Please look for these to be advertised in the next few months. Children have better outcomes when they have more positive adults in their lives.

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District Updates and Events

School Resource Officer Appreciation Day Nov. 9th

RSD is thankful for the dedicated School Resource Officers (SROs) who serve in our buildings. From left to right: Officer Joe Graziano, Redmond Police Department (RPD); Officer Tim Warburg, RPD; Deputy Casey Karpstein, Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office; Officer Landon Rasmussen, RPD; and Officer Nathan Rankin, RPD.

FREE OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW PLAYERS!

TRY LACROSSE CLINIC

No cost and no experience or equipment required!
Registration is required.

Redmond
1st - 8th Grade
Saturday, Jan 21
Hugh Hartman Elementary Gym
11am - 1pm

SPAGHETTI FEED & SILENT BASKET AUCTION
PRESENTED BY
Ridgeview Booster Club & Senior Class of 2023
All are welcomed!
FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2023
6PM - 8:30PM
@RIDGEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL
$15 per plate or $30 for a family of five

Find more events here
push students a little harder. You can help your child by checking in with the teacher(s) about what the priorities are over the next few months. As always, we need your help to make sure that students are getting homework completed and if there is no homework a little evening reading time will make a big difference.

At this point, we have great data on all of our students and our teachers are meeting frequently to tailor their practices to the needs of each of our kids. You have probably heard of the Response to Intervention (RTI) process. Simply put, this is our process for looking at student data and focusing our instruction to accelerate student learning. Feel free to ask your principal or teacher about how it works in your child's school.

2023 is going to be a great year. The Redmond School District is committed to pursuing our vision of creating a place where Students are Thriving, where the community is engaged with the school, and students graduate ready to pursue their dreams. Thanks for being part of that.

Charan Cline, Ed.D
Superintendent