



Robbinsdale Middle School
3730 Toledo Ave N
Robbinsdale, MN 55428



Robbinsdale Middle School
an International Baccalaureate World School



IBMYP

(INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM)

Measuring Outcomes with IBMYP Criteria

With the **1st quarter** nearing the end, our thoughts turn to outcomes and progress made with our students. To measure what students have learned, IB teachers use a wide range of assessment strategies including formative assessments that provide ongoing feedback that can be used by students and teachers to identify strengths and weaknesses and target areas that may need improvement. Teachers use summative assessments which are aligned with subject area **IBMYP criteria** and our **state standards** to determine outcomes of learning. The IBMYP criteria are internationally benchmarked throughout all IBMYP schools. **This means all IBMYP schools have the same high expectations in all IBMYP courses.**

At Robbinsdale Middle School, teachers will be reporting **in-progress** grades at the end of 1st quarter (Nov. 6th), and a **final semester grade** will be reported at the end of second quarter. This allows teachers to assess students in all criteria to get a clearer picture of student progress. The quarter 1 report card will indicate progress using letter grades. The traditional letter grades are aligned with trending leveled achievement levels (0-8) in each of the **four equally weighted criteria** in the respective **IBMYP** subjects to create an overall picture of student achievement.

Please join us for the next **IBMYP family informational night** on **Tuesday, November 12, 2015 from 6:30-7:30 at Robbinsdale Middle School** in the auditorium to learn more about our IBMYP at CHS and RMS.

Have you visited the RMS website lately?

rms.rdale.org

1. *Upcoming Events on RMS calendar > on the right hand side > Upcoming Events > RMS Master Building > scroll down*
2. *RMS Facebook feed for daily updates > on the left hand side > FACEBOOK > Robbinsdale Middle School > scroll down*
3. *FOR PARENTS > PARENT PORTAL > Schoology > sign up to see your child's classes, achievement levels, & updates!*

PTAC: Parent Teacher Advisory Committee:

Join us!

Meetings are the following

Mondays from 6-7 pm,

RMS Choir room.

- *November 16*

Vote in 2016 officers

- *January 12*

Teacher Day!

- *February 9*

- *March 15*

- *April 12*

- *May 10*

Working together we can make RMS GREAT!

- *More info on RMS website under PARENTS*

- *Like us on Facebook*

- *Contact us at rmsptac@gmail.com*



AVID

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, continues after RMS at the High School level. Here are this year's dates that 8th grade students and families need to know to be able to apply for High School AVID:

- Nov. 2-3 High school AVID presentations in 8th grade Individuals & Societies classes
- Nov. 5 Parent preview night at AHS
- Nov. 10 Parent preview night at CHS
- Nov. 20 High School Avid Applications due
- Nov. 30-Dec. 4 AVID Interviews for student applicants
- Dec. 9 AVID High School Notification letters mailed home to families of applicants

Dr. Nolan Notes: Partnership is defined as the state or condition of being a partner; participation; association; or joint interest. The reason I started off with this definition is to articulate our interest at RMS in creating a strong partnership between families and our school. We need to do a better job of partnering, parents need to do a better job of participating, and we have to improve our association because we have a joint interest in ensuring that our students will have a strong educational experience at RMS.

Some things we will do within the next couple of months to increase our communication with our families is to send this monthly newsletter home and improve, and keep current, information on our web and Facebook pages. Parents please take the opportunity to attend our PTAC parent meetings and please be aware of our upcoming Parents as Our Partners meetings which will occur in the spring.

FEATURED CLASSROOM: MATH

6th grade math teachers at RMS are now using Math in Focus:

- A curriculum that was recently adopted K-5, providing continuity
- A program that follows the Singapore math model
- Is very research-based, and has proven results in high achievement
- Utilizes Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract (CPA), allowing learning to start with manipulatives, then progress to creating pictures that represent the learning, and eventually move to success in the abstract math.
- Utilizes the Singapore bar model strategy, which effectively supports students with word problems and higher level application

STEAM @RMS

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) [learning is IBMYP learning:](#)

- Promotes critical thinking
- Builds creative thinking
- Hands-on learning
- Student collaboration
- Problem-solving
- Interdisciplinary
- Engaging
- Student-centered

AT RMS our new STEAM courses in Design (computer) Coding and Graphic Art, use the IBMYP Design Cycle, as well as our new and existing Gateway To Technology (GTT) courses of Design and Modeling, Medical Detectives, and Automation and Robotics.

The Design Cycle structures student inquiry as:

- Investigation and Analysis
- Development of feasible solutions
- Creation of solutions
- Evaluation and testing of the student's solution for the design problem

Students are explicitly taught this cycle throughout these courses, personally experience the cyclical nature of problem solving, evaluate themselves, and receive teacher feedback according to the Design Cycle throughout their design process. This is a holistic approach to Design, rather than an end-product-only model, that values the process behind the solution.

IBMYP Design challenges all students to:

- Apply practical and creative thinking skills to solve design problems
- Explore the role of design in both historical and contemporary contexts
- Consider their responsibilities when making design decisions and taking action

Ask your child about their projects and the IBMYP Design Cycle!



Quote of the day

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

- Frederick Douglass

IB Learner Profile:

OPEN-MINDED

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

Join RMS in our **Winter Wear** clothing drive by **bringing in gently used or new coats, hat, mittens, boots, and snow pants** this month to help our **RMS students in need.**