



Robbinsdale Middle School
3730 Toledo Ave N
Robbinsdale, MN 55428



Robbinsdale Middle School

an International Baccalaureate World School

WELCOME BACK! This past month we welcomed back all of our 7 and 8th grade students and welcomed our 6th graders to Robbinsdale Middle School. Students started the year with some new routines and some high expectations. We are excited for a fun and learning packed year:

IBMYP

Schedule:

We introduced a new schedule where students attend 4 classes each day with most classes meeting every other day. Classes average 85 minutes. This has resulted in less transitions throughout the day. Teachers are also better able to connect with our students and help students' understanding of subject area curriculum. In addition to this model of block scheduling students have a daily advisory class to start each day. Students will keep the same advisory teacher all three years of their middle school experience. This results in better communication and strengthens relationships between teachers and students.

An IBMYP and STEAM School:

We continue on our journey to implement an ALL SCHOOL APPROACH to the International Baccalaureate Middle School Program and STEAM – an interdisciplinary focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics, (see page 3). This relevant approach to learning helps students to connect and apply what is learned to other subjects as well as apply concepts in unfamiliar situations.

Grading:

Part of the IBMYP includes rigorous assessment criteria in all of our classes. Students' work will be assessed and evaluated using a subject specific criteria rubric where the work is scored from 0-8. When looking at scores for your student's work you will see these numbers in the gradebook. You will not see a letter grade – as this is determined based on the final achievement levels at the end of a marking period. Discussion on grades should center around what levels of achievement your student is at currently and as learning continues, how these achievement levels can improve.



PTAC: Parent Teacher Advisory Committee:

FALL Fundraiser:

- **Orders due on Wednesday, October 14**

Join us!

- **Next meeting at 6:00 on Monday, October 19**

Working together we can make RMS GREAT!

- **More info on RMS website under PARENTS**
- **Like us on Facebook**
- **Contact us at**

rmspt@gmail.com

rms.rdale.org

Have you visited the RMS website lately?

1. **UPCOMING EVENTS in our RMS calendar**
2. **RMS Facebook feed for daily updates**
3. **FOR PARENTS: Parent Portal link to see your child's classes, achievement levels, and class updates!**



AVID

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is not just another program. At its heart, AVID is a philosophy that holds students accountable to the highest standards, provides academic and social support, allowing them to rise to the level of challenge and rigor necessary to be college ready. The AVID Elective targets students in the academic middle – those with B's, C's, and some D's – who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These students are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential. Often times, they will be the first in their families to attend college. **Upcoming AVID Event:** 7th & 8th Grade AVID Students will be attending the College Fair at the Convention Center on **Wednesday, October 21**.

Dr. Nolan Notes:

We are off to an amazing start! Students and staff are responding well to our new block schedule.

The immediate benefits of the block are:

- Students have concentrated time to learn.
- Teachers have more time to reteach.
- Science and Math has more time to work through labs.
- Teachers have time to build relationships with students.
- Students have less transitions in the day.

Another important change from last year is the focus on interdisciplinary approach to learning between content areas.

- Each grade level will produce a project that culminates the work of the student across subject areas.
- Please look for more information coming in the near future on the projects and the date's they will be presented.

FEATURED CLASSROOM: READING

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

1. Read every day together! Take turns alternating pages or paragraphs.
2. While reading, stop to discuss what's happening, make predictions about what's next... Then read on to find out!
3. Set a good reading example: share your favorite books, magazines, and newspapers—ask your child about their favorites!
4. Use similes to define a new concept: "It's like a bus, but it..." this bridges something new with something they understand.
5. Take your child to the library and get them a library card in their name!

STEAM @RMS

RMS is proud to bring 21st Century Skills and Inquiry-Based Learning to every student with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics).

STEAM is:

- Engaging
- Student-centered
- Problem-solving
- Interdisciplinary

STEAM learning is IBMYP learning:

- Promotes critical thinking skills
- Builds creative thinking skills
- Hands-on learning
- Problem-solving

NEW THIS YEAR:

- At least one semester of Gateway To Technology (GTT)
 - ⇒ Design and Modeling
 - ⇒ Medical Detectives
 - ⇒ Automation and Robotics

GTT courses (by Project Lead The Way; the nation's leading provider of STEM programming) allow our students to engage their natural curiosity and imagination in solving real world challenges such as cleaning oil spills, crime scene analysis, and designing sustainable housing for the future.

- At least one quarter of Design Coding
 - ⇒ Graphic Arts (Scratch Creative Coding)
 - ⇒ Design Coding Science (Project GUTS -- Growing Up Thinking Scientifically)
 - ⇒ Design Coding Math (Bootstrap; algebraic and geometric concepts through computer programming).

Design Coding teaches a cyclical approach to solving problems and testing out ideas. Knowledge of computer programming is becoming a fundamental digital literacy and an essential college and career readiness skill. Code creates the digital worlds we explore every day!

Coming next issue....the IBMYP Design Cycle!



Quote of the day

"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly"

- Langston Hughes

IB Learner Profile:

CARING

We show empathy, compassion, and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

Join RMS in our **We Scare Hunger** food drive by bringing in cans or non-perishable food items this month.