



Fairfield Union Local School District

Rushville Middle School

Back To School Newsletter

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

We are so excited to welcome you back to school for the 2022-2023 school year.

The teachers and the staff have all been very busy preparing for the upcoming first day of school on **Thursday, August 18th**. Our goal is to love, support, and care for the entire well-being of all our students. We want your child to grow academically, socially, and emotionally throughout their middle school years. We are confident that we can accomplish all of these things if we work together.

As always, please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tricia Haughn, Principal

Dawn Rice, Assistant Principal

First Day Outlook:

Bus Riders: Buses will unload from the west entrance by the cafeteria.

Parent Drop-off: Parents will come in the front entrance of Rushville Middle School and turn to the right. Traffic will flow to the front entrance of the building. Multiple cars will pull up along the front sidewalk and students will safely exit the car. Students need to walk on the sidewalk to the front door of the building. A staff member will be outside to help with this process. Please be patient in the parent-drop off line, as we always have many families choose this option for transportation.

Breakfast/Morning Routine: All students who choose to get breakfast will have that option available to them. Breakfast items will be "grab and go" and 5th grade students will eat in the cafeteria, while the 6,7, and 8 grade students will eat in the gymnasium.

All students will have extended time to practice their locker combination throughout the first few days of school. During the first day of school, students will learn classroom, building, and safety procedures that are expected. Students are encouraged to bring a clear water bottle with them each day.

Lunch: Students may pack their lunch or get lunch from our cafeteria.

Students' breakfast and lunch prices are as follows: Breakfast \$1.75 Lunch \$3.00

Dismissal: Students will have a staggered dismissal, beginning at 2:38 pm with bus riders. Students who are parent pick-up will be dismissed immediately after bus riders. All parents need to park in the Activity Center parking lot if they plan to pick up their child.

Rushville Middle School Staff

Administration and Staff:

Tricia Haughn, *Principal*
Dawn Rice, *Assistant Principal*
Lorrie Bailey, *Secretary*
Brian Funk, *Counselor*
Carole Osborne, *School Nurse*
Eydie Schilling, *Curriculum Director*
Gifted Coordinator
Trisha Rogers, *Psychologist*
John Turnbull, *Special Education Supervisor*
Andy Clark, *Athletic Director*

Fifth Grade Team:

Jodi Markwood Denise Schoonover
Laurette Bachmann Molly Oliver
Trent Johns Mary Beth Marcinko
Annamarie Dinan Kelsie Warnock

Sixth Grade Team:

Lisa Caton Hayley Elkins
Julie VerDow Suzanne Stewart
Jennifer Dilcher Holly Culver Kelsie Warnock

Seventh Grade Team:

Drew Stemen Jon Markwood
Jodi Forsythe Nate Stephenson
Scott Burke Lacie Murdock Casey Bischof

Eighth Grade Team:

Debbie Gatton Rachel Thomas
Liz Henwood James Miller
Chris Hass Marlo Grubb Nate Stephenson

Tutors:

Adam Phillippe

Electives:

Bobbi McKinnon Matt Gregory
Luke Boucher Julian Savage
Megan Leitnaker Jonie Fisher
Bart Smith Pam Bevis
Jennifer Miller Monica Phillips
Stephanie McCoy Jared Kitchen

Building Aides:

Cindy Swinehart Teri Hunt
Becky Pugh Jenny Ray

Custodians and Maintenance:

Ken McCarty Charlie Roberts Matt Smith
Jim Guseman Seth Cooperider

Food Service:

Melanie Baker Taryn Anderson
Peggy Elder Mary McCafferty
Marie Jasper Michelle Runkle

Staff Email Directory:

<https://www.fairfieldunion.org/Directory.aspx>

School Counselor News:

Mr. Funk is our building's school counselor. Mr. Funk provides services on an as-needed basis and helps to support students in their academic and emotional development. E-mail or call Mr. Funk for questions or concerns.

News from our School Secretary, Mrs. Bailey:

Welcome back to school everyone! I am looking forward to seeing everyone on August 18. Please remember to call the school if there will be an absence. Doctor and dental excuses can be turned into the front office each morning and should be received within 3 days of the appointment. If you need anything from the office, just ask. Let's make this year the best it can be!

School Fees:

There are no classroom school fees for the 2022-2023 school year, but if you would like to pay past years' fees, you may pay your child's fees online by visiting our website. At the bottom of our home page, look for Quick Links and click on PaySchools Central to set up an account.

<https://payschoolscentral.com/>

News from the Clinic:

Welcome Rushville Middle Students. I have a few reminders for this year. Students need to enter the clinic from the hallway door not through the office. If no one is in the clinic please have a seat and someone will be with you.

Parents, please check your students for any symptoms of Communicable Disease prior to sending them to school each day. If your child displays any of the following symptoms, DO NOT send them to school:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If your student displays symptoms of Communicable Disease during the school day you will be called to pick them up from the clinic. Please make arrangements to pick up your student promptly. Because of social distancing requirements space in the clinic is very limited. We are unable to use school transportation to take any students home.

As mandated, all students and staff will be required to wear face coverings while on school transportation.

As a reminder, all medication needs to be supplied from home. Prescription meds need parent and physician permission. The Medication Permission Form can be downloaded from the Fairfield Union Website. Non-prescription medication requires a note from parent/guardian.

All medication prescription and non-prescription must be in the original container. Medication must be delivered to school by an adult.

I'm so excited to be back and for the beginning of a new school year. We want to do anything we can in the clinic to help you and your student at the Middle School. Please feel free to call or email at any time with questions or concerns.

Mrs. Osborne, School Nurse

Clubs/Activities:



Art Club: Art Club is passionate about creating Art!

We will work on individual projects as well as projects around the school as needed. In the past we have collaborated with the annual Book Fair, bulletin boards and various art requests around the school. We look forward to seeing you at RMS Art Club in the Middle School Art!

This club will be held on Wednesdays after school for til 4pm. Spots are limited: Please see Mrs. McKinnon if you are interested to begin a sign-up sheet.

Leo Club:

Leo club is passionate about student-led community service and outreach. It is very important for students to be active, positive participants in our local community. Leo club allows students to work together on brainstorming and implementing positive activities and projects into their local community. Some projects this year could include making small tie blankets for babies at Fairfield Medical Center, cards/paper flowers for local nursing home residents, and even collecting materials and letters for soldiers. If you are interested in joining Leo Club please see Mrs. Phillips in room 209!



Student Council:



Every school year, students select 12 members from each grade to represent RMS through student council. Student council assists the building in creating a healthy learning environment and helps to support the school district's mission. Elections will be held in September, see our school counselor (Mr. Funk) for more details.

Power of the Pen:

Power of the Pen is a creative writing competition that spans all of Ohio. Each year a writing team of 7th and 8th graders compete in three different tournaments, putting their skills to the test against other writers. POP will look a bit different this year because we will be having *virtual* meetings via Google Classroom. We will start mid October, and continue through January-February. If you are interested in finding out more about POP, look for an email mid-September. -Mrs. Loughrige



Math Counts:

MATHCOUNTS is a national enrichment, club and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement through grassroots involvement. MATHCOUNTS inspires excellence, confidence and curiosity in U.S. middle school students through fun and challenging math programs. The program is available to grades 6-8, and we will meet virtually starting after the Fair break. Our MathCounts team will hopefully compete in Zanesville and at Columbus State Community College this coming spring.
Mr. Burke

Robotics Club:

Robotics Club for 7th and 8th grade will be combined this year! In Robotics Club we will be using the EV3 Lego Mindstorm robot to participate in a FIRST LEGO League Challenge! Through FIRST LEGO League you will experiment and grow your critical thinking, coding and design skills by working with a team to build a robot and compete in mission-based robotics games. This year's theme is SUPERPOWERED - you will explore where energy comes from, how it is generated, how it gets to you, and the future of energy. Click [here](#) to watch the FIRST LEGO League season reveal video!

Day: Wednesday (EXCEPT for the first Wednesday of each month)

Time: After school until 4:00 PM



The first club meeting will be on September 14th. A sign up sheet will be provided as spaces will be limited.

8th Grade Teacher News:

Mrs. Gatton

Welcome to reading in room 108(right next to the library)! Whether you love reading or not, you will find many different types of fiction and nonfiction reading that you will enjoy and hopefully love. In addition, we will work on language and grammar skills, quotes, and a variety of other things. I am looking forward to getting to know you and hope you share (or learn to share) my love for literature as we work together throughout the year.

Mrs. Thomas

Hello 8th graders! I can't wait to meet each of you in Room 109. This year in Science we will be exploring a variety of topics such as Earth's physical features and how they are formed, forces and motion, and exploring how traits and characteristics are passed from one generation to the next. No matter what topic we are learning about I can promise you one thing... we will have fun while we are doing it! I am excited to get the school year started and get to know each of you. The 8th grade hallway is ready for you! Please follow Room 109 on Facebook (Mrs. Thomas' Class), Instagram (mrs.thomas_science), and/or Twitter (Mrs. Thomas' Class - @MamaT_rms).

Miss Henwood

I am extremely excited to welcome you to Room 110 for Language Arts this year. Throughout the year we will do a variety of projects, presentations, and essays, all focused on improving your writing skills. Our classroom theme for the year is centered on the quote "Becoming who you are meant to be starts with understanding who you want to be, and then acting on that," so we will focus our work on identifying who you are, what's important to you, what your goals are, and what steps you need to take to reach those goals. I use our classroom social media pages to share our writing journey, so please feel free to follow Room 110 on Facebook (Miss Henwood's Class), Instagram (misshenwood_rms), and/or Twitter (Miss Henwood's Class - @HenwoodMiss).

Mr. Miller

Welcome to room 111 and to what I affectionately refer to as, "*The Greatest Show in HISTORY!*" aka, 8th grade Social Studies. Our focus is on American history from colonization through the Civil War and reconstruction (1492-1870). Though the focus of the class is history, we are not limiting our discussions and our learning to past events. This class will also be used to understand and discuss current events happening in our community, our country and around the world. I look forward to seeing you, challenging you, and discussing with you all that makes us who we are as a country.

Mr. Hass

Hello and welcome to room 112. I look forward to helping you develop math skills throughout the year. I will be teaching 2 different curriculums this year, 8th grade math and Algebra. The 8th grade math focus will be on pre-algebra topics such as equation solving and number sense. The Algebra focus will be on the different types of functions and how to manipulate them. In both classes we will focus on those topics as they relate to real world situations so as to reinforce the real world application of those skills. We will be using a combination of worksheets, guided notes, workbooks, and the SAVVAS online program for lessons and assignments. The lessons and assignments from SAVVAS will be posted in google classroom for the students to access them. Don't hesitate to email or contact me with any questions.

Mrs. Grubb

Hello new 8th graders. I am located in room 116. Even though I am an 8th grade Intervention Specialist, I am here to help whomever needs assistance. I will be out with inclusion classes for Math, Language Arts, Reading, and Science in the 8th grade. Come down and ask for assistance if you need help in any of your academic classes.

Mr. Stephenson

Hey everyone! I'm an Intervention Specialist now and will be in several classrooms throughout the day teaching and helping students. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again, and welcome back to school!

Mrs. Leitnaker

Hello and welcome to Health Class! Health is a semester class where we will learn about the 3 different areas of Health. The goal of Health Education is to positively influence our decision making and improve our overall health and well-being. We will be discussing many topics, including; Personal Hygiene, Stress management, Safety, Nutrition, Physical Fitness, and Alcohol and drug prevention.

Mr. Smith

Greetings! I am the new S.E.L. Wellness teacher. I look forward to meeting you all throughout this school year as we build on the life skills crucial to understanding ourselves, developing positive self-image, taking responsibility for our actions and forging relationships with the people around us!

We will continue to focus on character strengths and how they apply to the middle school student.

Mr. Boucher-

Welcome to Physical Education. Our focus this year will be learning and developing skills to improve and enhance our overall level of fitness. We will be participating in a variety of sports and activities for health, enjoyment, challenge, self expression and social interaction.

Mrs. McKinnon

Hello from the RMS Art Room. The goals for this Art Class will be learning to create many amazing art projects. We'll learn about color theory, drawing techniques and basic construction. We'll also get our hands in some clay using many techniques such as slab building, attaching and shaping and each student will have an opportunity to use the pottery wheel developing skills progressively through the semester. All the while, I'll be pulling in math, social studies and various other subject connections for some sneaky cross-curricular learning. It is my goal that all students will leave art with a strong capability to solve problems creatively, which is a highly sought after skill in today's world. The class expectations are below. Class expectations are as follows:

1. Respect other students and the adults in the room. 2. Respect the art materials and classroom space. 3. Think like an artist. If students are having significant trouble following the expectations, we can work on a solution together. All assignments and reference video will be posted on google classroom just in case you miss the in class demonstration.

Mrs. Phillips- Welcome to Career Exploration!! This course is a semester (18 weeks) long and will help prepare you to make informed decisions about your future academic and occupational goal as you prepare for transitioning to high school. Through direct instruction, interactive skills, demonstrations, practice assignments, and projects, you will learn how to assess your own skills and interests, explore career clusters and pathways, and develop plans for career and

academic development. You will also work on improving communication, identifying leadership qualities, improving your ability to work with others, and setting goals for the future.

Mrs. Fisher- ¡Hola estudiantes! You will be learning some *español* and *cultura* about the Spanish Speaking countries! There will be *música*, *videos* and *literatura*! My goal is to make the language comprehensible to everyone and to have fun doing it! In this class, *práctica es muy importante*! So be ready to be engaged! In the first quarter you will learn to discuss weather, calendars, talk about yourself, count and discuss your likes/dislikes. Email and Google Classroom will be essentials for this class (and every other class). The Spanish I course is for high school credit and follows the same curriculum as the high school Spanish I class. See you soon! ¡Adiós!

Mrs. Bevis- Bonjour! 8th graders enrolled in French 1 will be learning to read, write, speak and comprehend spoken French. There will also be cultural activities including the study of francophone countries. Some of the topics this year include : describing yourself and others, talking about your daily activities, telling time, weather, describing your town and shopping. This course is for high school credit and will follow the same curriculum as the high school French 1 class. Google classroom will be used for the daily agenda and study materials.

Mr. Gregory-

Welcome to 7th and 8th Combined Choir! Learning to focus with 2 grades together will hopefully increase our sound and cooperation skills with one another. For this year in choir we will cover how to sing in 3 part harmony, how to start navigating voice changes, how to read more difficult rhythms and melodies, and start to learn “Solfege” (a system used for reading music) . We will have 3 concerts this year and one trip. There will be a couple singing tests to monitor your progress throughout the year to make sure we are growing. I’ll see you very soon!

Mr. Kitchen-

Welcome to 8th Grade Band! I am incredibly excited that you have chosen to continue participating in band! If you are brand new to the band this year, I look forward to meeting you and catching you up on what we learned in previous years! A major focus for us this year will be to continue learning how to play our instruments through book exercises, sheet music, and small chamber ensembles. I may also encourage you to perform a solo at OMEA Solo and Ensemble, where you can showcase your talent and musicianship! We will have bi-weekly playing checks to monitor your progress as we continue through the year together. Band will almost always be hands on, but I may have us use chromebooks from time to time as well! I look forward to the first day of school and know that this is going to be an awesome year!

Mrs. McCoy-

Welcome to 8th Grade Multimedia Applications! A big theme for class this semester will be around the engineering design process and how it has helped improve the lives of humans through the advancement of technology. We will be learning about the history of various technologies and the influence they have on our lives and in the workforce. You will also begin creating a digital portfolio as well as evaluating your own digital footprint to gain a better understanding of online tracking and the importance of privacy. Later in the semester you will work through a series of mini courses to create digital media related to topics we have learned about in class as well as your personal interests and hobbies. I look forward to seeing you back at school!

Mrs. Miller-

Welcome to Math Lab! I am excited to start a new year with all of you. In Math Lab we will be reviewing previously learned skills as well as helping you in your understanding of your new grade level skills. We will be using manipulatives, playing games, small group activities, and hopefully some fun math projects. Be ready for some fun with Math!

If you are joining me for personal finance, we will be covering topics such as money in our lives, budgeting, credit, saving, and investing just to name a few topics. Looking forward to seeing everyone again!