



Superintendent Weekly Note #15

Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing...It's About Kids!!!!

RIS Mission: *Our mission is to inspire and empower all students to reach their maximum potential: **one student, one lesson, one day at a time.***

Things I CAN Control...

1. My **ATTITUDE**
2. My **EFFORT**
3. My **BEHAVIOR**
4. My **ACTIONS** to be a Great Team Member

*Continue to focus on the RIS four core beliefs:
It's about Kids! —Accountability—Transparency—Communication.*

☺ *Positives across the district.....*

Russell Primary School (From the desk of Mrs. Crager)

- **January Readers of the month**
 - Kindergarten: Brantley Russell, Camden Biggs, Jacob Ward, Megan Aldrich, Claire Hieneman, London Whitt, Parker Stevens, Harrison Kazeem,
 - First Grade: Lennon Stoner, Kendall Short, Harper Thomas, Jaxon Harris, Brycen Bennett, Bayla Fryer
 - Second Grade: Avery Gullett, Anna Castle, Remi Burgess, Arden Douglas, Kaiden Johnson and Vernon Black-Clark
- **February Readers of the month**
 - Kindergarten: Slone Perry, Jaxson Callihan, Cooper Ramey, Ethan Scott, Maisy Hensley, Carter Stapleton, Caroline Stevens
 - First Grade: Emma Pope, Leland Lowe, Ryder Everman, Brooklyn Gipson, Barrett Smith, Elyse Young, Maverick McKee
 - Second Grade: Sheyanne Hale, Kennedy Manifold, Raymond Hampton, Quinn Kiffer, Elisabeth Park, Halina Frasure

We love seeing all our students growing into readers!

- In Mrs. William's first grade class students from VREd's came over to teach the students about Valentine's Day using the Merge Cube. The VR experience gave the students a broad overview of the history of Valentine's Day and a 3D Valentine's Day card. Their hope was for students to learn the possibility of the next generation of technology. The kids loved working with the Merge Cube and were completely surprised with the 3D aspect of using the Merge Cube with the iPad. They enjoyed the opportunity to work with the Merge Cube. Thanks to the VREd Team for creating a lesson on their level.

- Mrs. Fleming would like to say: Thank you so much for your support to the American Heart Association during our annual Kids Heart Challenge event. Our school raised over \$16,000.00 for this great cause! We had 2 students that raised over \$2,000 this year. Congratulations to Chloe Warnock (\$2,000+) and to our top fundraiser in the school Brantley Russell (over \$2,200)!! All students worked so hard to help raise money for the American Heart Association. They also had an amazing time completing their Heart Challenges during their PE class.



- Our Kindergarten Students celebrated their 100th Day of school parading the hallways in their homemade 100th Day of School T-Shirts.

Russell-McDowell Intermediate (From the desk of Mrs. Wright)

- THE RMIS ACADEMIC TEAM WON DISTRICTS THIS WEEK IN A BIG WAY! We were first in Quick Recall and our team had straight wins without a single defeat! We tied for first in FPS as well as took 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in EVERY content assessment. We swept Social Studies with our students placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd! A huge thanks to our students, parents, and coaches for their dedication! Now on to Regionals on March 5!
- Our Trauma Team has developed a mentoring program for our students who have experienced trauma. Each student has been assigned a mentor to provide extra check-ins and supports in addition to the school-wide supports we are implementing.
- Calming Corners are popping up in our classrooms to help students who are having a hard time throughout the school day. We were able to purchase several through fundraising efforts and are working with FRYSC to fund the remaining.
- Teachers and administrators were involved in a lot of professional learning this week! We had CHALK curriculum map training, ELA and Math Cohorts at KEDC, and an HMH Into Reading training for all classroom teachers.

- Our Volleyball Club is off to a great start! We have over 100 students participating. Thanks to Mrs. Parker and all of her volunteers who had the vision to offer this at RMIS!

Russell Middle School (From the desk of Mr. Moore)

What a Battle of the BEE between Gavin G. and Ahya F! After 53 rounds Gavin G. secured the victory and advances to the regionals at the University of Kentucky. Congratulations to both competitors.



RMS Honor Roll

272 students of 509 made the Honor Roll for the second nine weeks. This is 53% of our student population. This is a testament to the work of our students, teachers and all support staff! Keep working hard.

Students continue to demonstrate their superb skills via projects” Light House of Alexandria by Tinsley S. and performing at “Hobby in the Lobby” by Noah.



Russell High School (From the desk of Mrs. Chaffin)

- Congratulations to High School KMEA All State Choir Ensembles
 - Noah Brand
 - Ryan Derifield
 - Harper Grizzle
 - Caitlyn Poole
 - Leah Russell
 - Madison Weiher
- RHS Academic Team won the 64th District Title.

The following students all placed and have advanced to the regional competition.

- Jacob Nance (Senior)- 1st in Math and 1st in Science
- Seth Derscha (Senior)- 2nd in Science, 2nd in Written Composition, and 3rd in Math
- Vinessa Fressola (Senior)- 1st in Arts and Humanities
- Arnav Dharmagadda (Junior)- 1st in Social Studies and 2nd in Math
- Leah Russell (Sophomore)- Tied for 1st in Language Arts
- Lillian Tompkins (Sophomore)- Tied for 4th in Arts and Humanities
- Snehan Saroch (Freshman)- 3rd in Science

The Quick Recall team consisted of the following members:

- Jacob Nance (Senior-Captain)
- Vinessa Fressola (Senior)
- Samantha Roark (Senior)
- Brody Kilburn (Sophomore)
- Snehan Saroch (Freshman)

The Future Problem Solving team consisted of the following members:

- Vinessa Fressola (Senior)
- Audrey Abbott (Senior)
- Delaney Hetzer (Senior)
- Arnav Dharmagadda (Junior)

- Davis Brown was named the DAR Good Citizen Award winner for RHS.
- Both basketball teams finished 6-0 in the District and have earned the #1 seed

Russell Area Technology Center (From the desk of Mrs. S. Thompson)

- February is CTE Celebration Month!!! We are so proud of our staff and students at the RATC! Career & Technical Education has SO much to offer our kids in terms of life readiness for college & career! Our teachers work so hard every period of every day to build relationships with our students, share their technical expertise and passion, and shape the future of our community! I am so very thankful and privileged to work with such great people! We have recognized Jennie Phipps, Aaron Woolum, Missi Wilburn, & Tom Springer thus far! Check out their spotlight sheets! Follow us & Check out our student videos & pictures on Twitter @AtcRussell!

Russell Area Technology Center...
 "It's Happening NOW!
 You DON'T want to miss this!"

RATC Staff Spotlight:

Computer Science:
Computer Programming

Jennifer Phipps

- Graduate of Lawrence Co. High School
- MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY - BACHELOR'S, MASTER'S, & RANK I
- 14 YEARS in Education at RATC
- 5 years of Restaurant Management
- Hobbies & Interests: Reading and taking walks
- Favorite Food: Sweetfire Chicken from Panda Express!
- Best thing about my life: My favorite thing about my life is being a mom, even when it makes life pretty crazy!

"I like working with young people because life is HARD and I think that teaching is an opportunity to be a bright spot in a hard day when that's what they need! In CTE it's especially rewarding because we often get to have our students for multiple classes during their high school career, and it gives us lots of chances to build great relationships with our students and try to inspire them to do great things!"



BEST thing about RussellATC:
 "The best thing about the RATC is the active role we get to play in helping students find their passion and possible career path and fueling the fire they develop for that path with certifications and CTSOs!"

"Career and Tech Ed is the BEST! It is the best way for students to make real-life connections with things they are learning in a classroom, and to learn things that they can carry with them through their careers and their lives. They learn skill sets and work ethic, which they can carry with them forever."

#CTEMONTH Remind: @russelltec
 Twitter: @AtcRussell & @CTEWorks
www.russellind.kyschools.us/3/Home

Russell Area Technology Center...
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RATC Staff Spotlight:

Manufacturing:
Entry-Level welder


Aaron Woolum

- Graduate of Boyd County High School
- ASHLAND COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE - Associate in Applied Sciences/ Welding Technology
- 3 YEARS in Education at RATC
- My first career was a Plumber's Helper for Quality Plumbing(6 years). Next, I worked as Welder/Fabricator for Ashland Machine(9months). From there, I went to Wooster Machines(7 1/2 years), where I continued to fabricate underground mining equipment. In 2015, I started work for CSX Transportation as a Locomotive Mechanic(4 years).
- Hobbies & Interests: Hunting, Gardening, & Knife making
- Favorite Food: Seafood, Red Meat, & Fresh Vegetables from my garden
- Best thing about my life: My family, my faith, and my sense of humor

BEST thing about RussellATC:
 "Having great people to work with and being able to teach skills that can provide income opportunities for young people."

"Career and Tech Ed is the BEST! CTE allows me to teach students a hands-on skill that can provide for them and their families for the rest of their lives."

"I love working with young people because I enjoy being able to lead them into successful opportunities to empower them to earn a brighter future."



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RATC Staff Spotlight:

Business & Marketing:
Personal Finance & Accounting

Melissa Wilburn

- Graduate of Greenup Co. High School
- MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY - BACHELOR BBA-ACCOUNTING, MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING
- 7 YEARS in Education at RATC
- 22 years of Accounting Experience in Personal & Corporate Accounting
- Hobbies & Interests: Loves traveling & boating!!!
- Favorite Food: Surf & Turf
- Best thing about my life: My family & working with teenagers! They keep me young!

"I love teaching Personal Finance because it is one of the most important things you can do to live a healthy, happy, and secure life. It will impact every part of a child's life and can mean the difference in prosperity and poverty. I love to hear from former students and see what they are becoming. They are the best role models for current students and they remind me why I teach."



BEST thing about RussellATC: Our role in shaping the career paths that kids take. It is rewarding to see that your program took hold of a student and led them to great places!

"Career and Tech Ed is the BEST! It is the best way for students to make real-life connections with things they are learning in a classroom, and to learn things that they can carry with them through their careers and their lives. They learn skill sets and work ethic, which they can carry with them forever."

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Travel IS THE ONLY THING YOU BUY THAT MAKES YOU Richer



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Russell Area Technology Center...
 "It's Happening NOW!
 You DON'T want to miss this!"

RATC Staff Spotlight:


Construction:
Industrial Electrician Assistant

Tom Springer

- Graduate of Russell High School
- ASHLAND COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE & MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY - Associates in Applied Science & Master Electrician
- 1st YEAR in Education at RATC
- Hobbies & Interests: Outdoorsman, Electronics and Computers
- Favorite Food: Pizza
- Best thing about my life: Families, from home family of my wife and kids to my RATC family and every other relationship in between.

BEST thing about RussellATC:
 "The best thing about the RATC is even though we might be small, it makes us more like a family. It helps us so everyone gets to know the staff and students and we get to meet their individual needs."

"The great thing about working with young students is that their view on a subject matter is new and fresh, which gives them multiple viewpoints when learning a skill for the first time. It helps in that we get to see different angles of how skills are developed and how subject matter is taught and relayed."



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- Dare to Dream Competition - Mrs. Wilburn organized six student groups to compete in our RATC competition. We had a panel of local business leaders as our judges. Three teams were chosen to go on and compete in the official Glockner Dare to Dream Contest on March 1st at Shawnee State University. Congrats to Noah Keeton, Ashton Madden, Brice Kirk, Sadie Hill, Audrey Abbott, Garrett Wilburn, Gracie Bates, Brody Stump, & Elijah Abdon! Good luck!!!
- WIFI Access for all of our feeder schools - Raceland & Fairview students can access our WIFI! Thank you, Mrs. Casto & Mr. Dillon, for your long hours of

work on this! We are so excited and our students are so happy! This will take our learning to the next level! You are loved & appreciated at the RATC!

- Huge Thank you to Mrs. Murray at RMS!! She hosted Mrs. Phipps and our seniors to demonstrate the awesome power of the Glowforge! We are excited to learn & grow!!! Mrs. Murray & Mr. Moore also donated a sublimation printer to Mrs. Phipps' classroom! We are so thankful and excited to learn a new printing process & application! You are loved & appreciated at the RATC!
- SkillsUSA competed at Regionals at ACTC. Ashton Madden won 1st place in the Welding Contest! He won an awesome welding helmet from the Boilermaker's Union! Way to go, Ashton & Mr. Woolum!
- We received our Interactive TV's for all classrooms this week! We are super excited for our teachers to have these! Huge thanks to Ms. Tammy for ordering these and working so hard since August to get them shipped to us! Huge thanks to our Russell Maintenance Team for hanging them and to our Russell Technology Team for making the connections!!! You are all loved & appreciated at the RATC!

Russell Preschool (From the desk of Mrs. Staton)

Preschool had a short week of only 3 days, but we were SUPER busy!! We have been learning about nutrition and the groups in the food pyramid. We sorted foods in our kitchen center into the correct categories. During lunch we talked about the categories of food that were on our tray. We used our senses to see, taste, smell, touch, and hear foods from the different categories. We tried bread, cheese, strawberry, kiwi, lemon, and orange. We also started a science experiment with bread!! We placed a slice of bread in a baggie untouched. We touched another slice of bread and put it in a separate baggie. We are going to watch to see what happens to each slice!!



What's happening at central office / district this week?

- **February Board of Education Meeting**—February 28 at 6:00 PM in the Central Office board room. **This is an open meeting and a great opportunity to learn what is going on in the district. Great leadership opportunity!**