



1st Quarter 2020

The Falcon Gazette

STUDENT, TEACHER, PARENT COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

<http://www.rinconvalleymiddleschool.com>

RVMS Mission Statement:

We promote academic excellence, social responsibility, physical fitness, and an appreciation of the arts for all students

STPC Website

**4650 Badger Rd
Santa Rosa CA 95409
707.890.3870**

Upcoming Events:

- 10/15 – 6:30 p.m.
STPC meeting
- 10/1-11/20 – Open enrollment transfer window
- 10/22 – 4:30-7:30
Dine and Donate at Ricky's Eastbound
- 10/29 – 7 p.m. Fall Concert (virtual), all instrumental classes

A Message from the STPC President

Greetings RVMS Families,

What a crazy start to our school year! I hope your students are adjusting to distance learning and making meaningful connections with their teachers and classmates. I know our teachers are working incredibly hard to adapt their curriculum to fit the Zoom format. To that end, the goal of the Student Teacher Parent Council (STPC) will continue to be to support the students and staff at RVMS the best we can even though that will look a little different this year.

Keep a look out for our STPC newsletters for information about our Family Giving Campaign starting later this year. In the meantime, you can support STPC by attending our dine and donates and changing your Amazon Smile beneficiary to Rincon Valley Middle School Student Teacher Parent Council. Every little bit helps STPC fund things like take home science kits as well as applications and curriculum that teachers have requested from STPC to make their instruction more effective.

This year will have its challenges but if we work together, I know we can still find ways to support our students, teachers, and staff. Please consider joining the STPC at our next meeting on Thursday, October 15 at 6:30 pm over Zoom. STPC meetings are the best way to stay informed and get involved. We still have a few key volunteer positions to fill and we will have an update from Mr. Navarro on how distance learning is going and other district news.

Amy Niesen Kempiak
President
Student, Teacher, Parent Council
amyoniesen@aol.com

8th Graders: Open Enrollment Transfer Window

Students who live in the Rincon Valley Middle School attendance area will automatically be registered at Maria Carrillo High School for the 9th grade. If you live outside the RVMS attendance area, or would like to have your student attend a high school within the Santa Rosa City School District other than your school of residence, you will need to make a Secondary Intradistrict School Transfer Request. The open enrollment transfer window is October 1st – November 20th. Starting October 1st you may request a transfer electronically through the district website: <https://www.srscschools.org/Page/2171>. Questions: call Mandy Kelly, Counseling Secretary and Registrar, at 707-890-3870x33117 or email her at mkelly@srsc.k12.ca.us

Another High School Option

If you are interested in learning about another high school in our area, you can check out this [4 minute YouTube video about Cardinal Newman](#) and fill out their [enrollment survey](#).

Happy, Healthy Hearts and Heads

Dr. Jennifer Walker, a local ICU and ER doctor and friend of RVMS math teacher Kelly Wattell, developed [SHINES-MG](#) a few years ago. SHINES-MG is an acronym for a daily personal physical and mental health check-in system based on 8 areas that have a significant impact on our day to day lives. As your kids seek to cope with the stresses of COVID, on-line learning, and all of the other things that they juggle each day, using the SHINES-MG prompts to check in with them (or yourself) may help identify an easy step to take to lift their mood and keep them productive and positive. Check out this [link to the acronym template](#), and if you have questions or would like more details you can [email Ms. Watell](#).

Wellness Resources from the Counseling Office

The RVMS counseling team is well prepared to support you and your student. Their [webpage](#) offers a broad variety of information, from mental health services, food programs, and housing help, to fun at-home learning ideas and a list of local tutoring centers. Check out the page! If you don't find what you need there, give the fabulous RVMS counselors Ms. Loggins or Ms. Wilkins a call: 707-890-387 ext. 33117



Interested in Getting Involved Behind the Scenes?

Current STPC Openings:

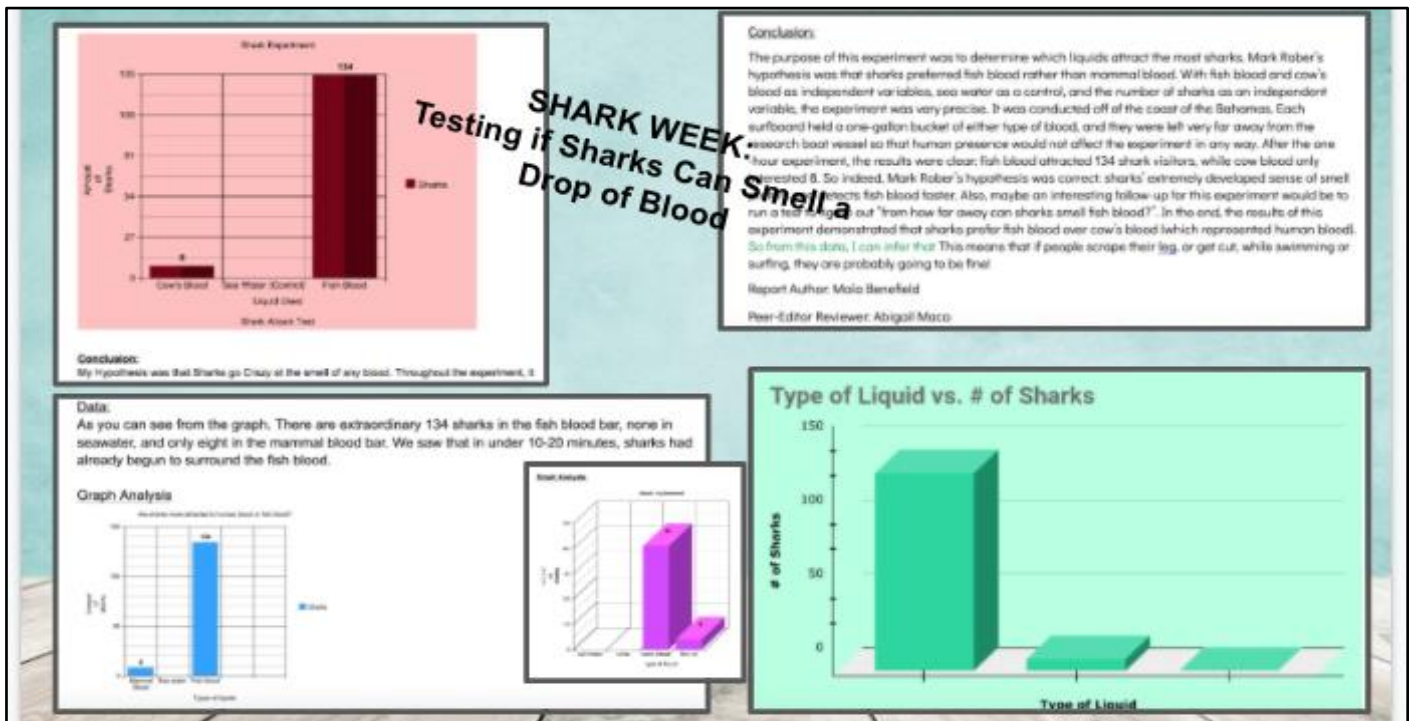
Escrip Coordinator * Family Giving Campaign Coordinator * Dine and Donate Coordinator
Contact Amy Niesen Kempniak at amyoniesen@aol.com

The Science of Distance Learning

During our Science & Engineering Practices Unit, Rincon students engaged in the steps of the engineering design process by testing multiple paper airplane designs that could carry cargo (coins). Controlled variables included size and weight of the paper (8.5 x 11 white printer or binder paper), and the mass of the coins used to act as cargo. In this way, we were able to collect data on the distances that each students' airplane was able to fly, while holding (at minimum) two pennies (~4.6 grams). As an extra challenge, students tried other coins for more mass. We were also able to discuss uncontrolled variables like wind environment and "arm-throwing power" and make a connection to $F=MA$.



During Shark Week (!) students watched a video experiment where a former NASA engineer visits the Bahamas to explore what scents attract sharks. Students then used 21st century skills and created their very own lab reports, including inserting google sheets graphs and analysis to demonstrate their understanding of employing a systematic scientific process to answer a question. So impressed with our Rincon scientists' skills and thinking! Next up: Physics!



Featured Students: Kate B, Kapil D, Payton B, Joshua J, Maia B, Mark K, Esmeralda L, Rylie B, Axel P, Stella C, Abigail M, Brayden Z, Skylar R, Nathaniel L



RVMS Leadership on the Gram: [rvms_activities](#)

The RVMS Leadership class has been hard at work trying to adapt to a virtual world. The committees are posting fun facts, activities and birthday wishes to the RVMS community through Instagram. We are also profiling fun facts about our teachers on the RVMS website and getting out into the community doing park clean-ups. We ask all parents to encourage/allow their students to follow [rvms_activities](#) on Instagram. Keep an eye out for updates as we will be raising money for families who lost their homes in the Glass Fire.



From the Counseling Office and Registrar

Parent Portal Access

Only legal parents/guardians have access to the parent portal. If you are a legal parent/guardian and have not yet accessed your portal but want to, please email mkelly@srcs.k12.ca.us to get an access code. Access codes are individualized for each user, so be sure you use the one associated to your name and account.

Parent Square

SRCS is now using ParentSquare for school email, text, & app notifications. ParentSquare automatically generates an account for each parent, using their preferred email address and phone number drawn from the student information system. We encourage parents to access their accounts so they can download the mobile app and update their preferences on when and how they are notified. To activate your account, go to parentsquare.com/signin. You will “Sign Up/Create Password” using the same email address or phone number that you use in the SRCS student information system, Illuminate Ed. Type the email or cell phone they associate with you in that box labeled “Email or Cell Phone Number” then click “Go.” Check your email or cell phone for a message from ParentSquare, then follow the instructions they send.

High School Applications

If you are applying to a specialized program such as Art Quest or applying to a private school, please direct any necessary documentation requests (transcripts, teacher or admin/counselor recommendations, attendance/behavior reports) to Mrs. Kelly in the counseling office. If you will be applying to a school outside of SRCS, we must have a signed release of information form from the parent. Most schools include this in their enrollment packets. If information needs to come directly from the school, please include a pre-addressed envelope with postage.

More High School Info:

Elsie Allen High School

University Center @ Elsie Allen High School
Information Night: Wednesday, October 28th
at 7pm

If you are interested in hearing more about the University Center at EAHS, below you will find details for their information night. This is a wonderful program for students with particular interest in attending Sonoma State University upon high school graduation.



UNIVERSITY CENTER @ ELSIE ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL Information Night

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020
7:00 PM

To join, click on this Zoom Webinar Link:
<https://zoom.us/j/92319323638?pwd=OW05eFZicGtpOG9zV110WWtYWUyYjQ0>

Passcode: 110237

A Partnership with Sonoma State University

INFORMATION NIGHT

Wednesday, October 28, 2020,
7:00 PM – Zoom Webinar Link
(707) 975-1659
<http://elsieallen.srscs.k12.ca.us/universitycenter>

Program Highlights:

- Guaranteed admission to Sonoma State University
- Annual savings of \$10,000 in college tuition and fees
- Golden Bell Award Winning Program
- Transportation to and from Sonoma State provided
- Priority registration at Sonoma State
- Access to the library facilities, financial aide services and counseling at Sonoma State

Una Sociedad con Sonoma State University

NOCHE DE INFORMACIÓN

Miércoles 28 de octubre de 2020
a las 7:00 PM – Zoom Webinar Link
(707) 975-1659
<http://elsieallen.srscs.k12.ca.us/universitycenter>

Puntos Claves del Programa:

- Se garantiza el admisión en Sonoma State University
- Se puede ahorrar hasta \$10.000 de tarifas y matrícula universitaria
- El programa ganó el premio de la Campana Dorada
- Se provee el transporte entre la preparatoria y Sonoma State University
- Los alumnos pueden seleccionar sus clases con la máxima prioridad en SSU
- Los alumnos pueden usar la biblioteca y los servicios de ayuda financiera y orientación en SSU

UC@EA



SANTA ROSA
CITY SCHOOLS
Embrace | Engage | Empower



Santa Rosa High School

For an inside look at ArtQuest, the award-winning magnet program for the Visual and Performing Arts at Santa Rosa High School, don't miss the 27th Annual ArtQuest Fall Showcase on Thursday, Oct. 15th starting at 6:30 pm.

This FREE event is a great opportunity to learn more about the eight ArtQuest Arts Specialty disciplines: Dance, Digital Arts, Instrumental Music, Photography, Theatre Arts, Video Arts, Visual Fine Arts, and Vocal Music. You can also find out about the ArtQuest entry process, meet the teachers, and see and hear outstanding samples of student work and performances!

If you, or a student you know, could benefit from a unique public high school experience with a focus on the arts, make sure to come and check out the ArtQuest Fall Virtual Showcase on Thursday, October 15th, starting at 6:30 pm streamed live at

<http://www.artquestonline.org>

All are welcome!

For more information contact ArtQuest via email, at artquest@srscs.k12.ca.us or 707-890-3850 ext. 52290, or visit www.artquestonline.org.

Those interested in attending Art Quest must apply. Art Quest Entry Packet information is available on their website:

<http://www.artquestonline.org/entry-process.html>

APPLICATIONS DUE by Wednesday 11/18

Questions about High School enrollment? Talk to Registrar, Mandy Kelly

Meet Your RVMS Team...

Counseling Team



Kendall Loggins
Counselor (A-K)

Robin Wilkins
Counselor (L-Z)



Clare Pitton
SAY Counseling
LMFT, School Based Mental Health
Clinician with Social Advocates for
Youth (SAY) is on RVMS campus on
Mon/Wed to help students decrease

Administration team



Ed Navarro
Principal



Ryan Thompson
Assistant Principal

Office Staff



Mandy Kelly - Registrar-Counseling
Tammi Leggina - School Secretary
Elaine Strahl - Health Tech
Veronica DeQuerra - Business Office
Lindie White - Attendance Tech

Electives Department



Kirsten Bathé - Leadership
Brandon Binder - Band, Perf. Art
Taylor Beidatsch - Student teacher
Jennifer Brown - Perf. Arts
Sarah Henrich - Culinary, Spanish
Katherine Norris - Spanish
Christine Knight - French
Paul Gaudreau - Art/Maker

Student Support Team



Saitip Khanachalern
Restorative Resource Specialist

Special Ed. Department



Jessica Sellinger
Dana Brede
Marissa Palmer
Kristine Trzeciak
Brenda Johnson
Darla Tillman

Department Chair: **Danielle Justin**

Physical Ed. Department



Josh Heald
Jay Meyer
Kara Myers
Chris Woodbury

Department Chair: **Kirsten Bathé**
Mike Ramage - Student Teacher
Amy Knebel - Long term sub

Math Department



Simon Terrell
Kelly Wattell
Nathan Willis
Roger Page

Department Chair: **Stacey Fong**

English Department



Ann Mary Ferguson
Kyle Hart
Gina Giovannetti - Student teacher
Katharine Norris
Janice Rodeck
Jen Toby

Department Chair: **Abby Walls**

Science Department



Joanne Macchia
Pam Mentch
Lindsay Qualls
Vanessa Ruiz

Department Chair: **Linn Briner**

Custodial Team



Jesus Morales - Head Custodian
Anna Martinez
Gustavo Martinez
Gimray Zogai

History Department



Jenny Candelaria
Ola King-Claye
Cassie Kubiak
Sara Stathatos

Department Chair: **Jan Myers**

Last but Not Least, Your STPC Leadership:

President: Amy Niesen Kempniak
VP: Terah McIntosh
Treasurer: Kim Cohee

Secretary: Kinna Crocker
Volunteer Coordinator: Jamie Moessing
Hospitality: April Louton and Deana Terrell

STPC
PARENT GROUP
Amy Niesen, president
Meeting Times:
1st Thursday of each month

- Stay involved in your child's education.
- Help support our programs.
- Get to know great parents!

Welcome Back to School

Join us for a Dine-n-Donate to support
RVMS Student Teacher Parent Council



Thursday, October 22nd

4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

5755 Mountain Hawk Dr, Santa Rosa

Outdoor Dining Open and Take-Out Available!

Order online at rickyseastbound.com

Or call 707-843-5143 to place an order.

Bring this flyer, show it on your smartphone, or tell your server you're supporting RVMS Student Teacher Parent Council.