



Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy

MARCH 2024

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Lori O'Mara—PRINCIPAL

Upcoming Dates

PSAT@RKA (gr 10)—3/20

P/T Conferences—3/21, 5:30-8:00, 3/22,
1:00-3:00 (half-day for students)

RKA PA meeting (virtual)—4/8, 7:00 PM

Report cards viewable—wk of 3/25

RNH Registration—3/25 & 3/26, after school

SAT@RKA (gr 11)—3/27

Senior Trip Dave & Buster's—3/27

Good Friday (schools closed)—3/29

Easter Monday (schools closed)—4/1

MS Dance—4/4, 5:00-8:00

Coffee w/the Principal (zoom)—4/5, 9:00 AM

Senior Spirit Week—wk of 4/8

RKA PA meeting—4/8, 7:00 PM

Eid al-Fitr (schools closed)—4/10

NHS meeting (students)—4/16, 2:50

RNH Youth Expo (last day sess. II)—4/17

NJHS meeting (students)—4/18, per 8

SLT meeting—4/18

Poetry Café—4/19

Spring Break—4/22 through 4/30

HS Accepted Students Night—5/1, 6:00 PM

Triple C—5/2

RNH Teen Theater Mean Girls Jr—5/3 & 5/4,
7:00 PM

10/11 gr Trip Dave & Buster's—5/6

RKA PA meeting (virtual)—5/6

Dear RKA Families,

It's hard to believe we are more than halfway through the school year already! There's lots to keep track of as we speed through the rest of the school year.

The **NYS ELA and Math Exams** for our middle school students are coming up in April and May, respectively. This year, they will be completely online. These exams are important, as they allow us to see how our students are growing against state standards. They also prepare students for future exams like the Regents, PSAT and SAT, and the AP exams. When we receive the school-wide data from these tests, we are able to really see how we are doing, and what needs to be celebrated or adjusted.

We look forward to celebrating our **National and Junior National Honor Society** inductees this year. The NHS/NJHS is an organization joined by invitation. It empowers and equips students with the knowledge and skills to be leaders in their school and in their community. Aside from the nominal dues asked for, students must also complete the required number of community service hours, and an in-service project and a brief application/letter. There is also a community service award for one who really goes above and beyond! Please see Ms. Payne in 306 to submit documented hours, and Ms. Roberts in room 103 to submit dues.

At RKA, we believe that all people benefit when they give back to their community. This is why **we expect all HS students to complete community service to meet graduation hours**. Every HS student must complete 10 hours per year of enrollment at RKA. So, a typical HS student will need 40 hours to graduate, however due to the partially remote year in 20-21, this senior class (2024) only needs 30 hours. Please visit the **Community Service Office in room 306** for opportunities and info. There are lots of community-based Senior Projects coming to fruition this spring and many offer community service hours. Hours are due by April 18.

This letter would not be complete without thanking our hard-working **RKA Parents' Association**. The PA is involved in many important roles in the school, including the School Leadership Team. Through their School Spiritwear sales, they support the staff Mini-Grant Program, provide money to help support our clubs and sports teams, and so much more! Perhaps you have seen all the new tiger-themed rugs and mats around the school, which gave us a much-needed sprucing up. All thanks to the RKA PA. We have a lot of longstanding members "graduating" this year, and they need some bright new "stars" to join the club! Remember, an active partnership between families and the school is essential to the success of our students. **Contact RKA141PA@gmail.com to learn more!**

And please take a few minutes to complete the **NYC Parent Survey**, either online (see the graphic on this page) or on the paper version that was mailed to you last month. Data compiled from this anonymous survey helps inform schools on their best practices. Let us know what we're doing right, and where you think we can improve. And, when you do the survey, contact JPrince4@schools.nyc.gov and we'll give your child 5 Tiger Tokens as a

THANK YOU! Happy Spring! *Lori O'Mara*

NYC PARENT SURVEY

Share your voice!



YOUR SCHOOL
YOUR CHILD
YOUR VOICE

Take just 10 minutes to complete!

Hand in the paper survey
or

Complete online at
NYCSchoolSurvey.org or
[NYCSA ACCOUNT](http://NYCSAACCOUNT)

MEAN GIRLS JR.

RNH Teen Theater

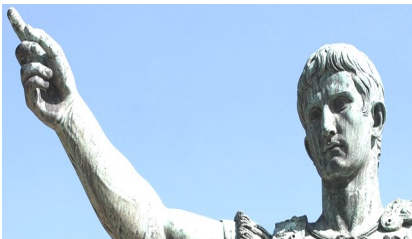
*May 3rd & May 4th * 7:00 PM*

*RKA auditorium * Admission \$5.00*



Grade 6 Family Newsletter

Social Studies



Using the NYCPS *Passport Curriculum*, students are beginning a study of classical civilizations of the Eastern Hemisphere. We will learn about the birth of democracy and philosophy in Ancient Greece, the Rise of the Roman

Empire, and the many amazing Chinese inventions and innovations that we still use today. Students continue to work on supporting claims with evidence as they further develop their writing, listening, and speaking skills.

Mathematics

We are working on Unit 6, *Expressions and Equations*. Students will gain an introductory understanding of writing and solving equations, evaluating expressions, and understanding exponential expressions. They will use and make connections between tables, area models, and linear equations that represent the same relationship. Extra resources can be found in the "Helpful Links" section of Google Classroom. All assignments are listed on GC and on Jupiter Ed. When work is made up, a message must be sent on GC that it has been completed (within 5 days of the due date). Students should come to school with fully-charged devices, their chargers, sharpened pencils, and their math graphing notebooks.

Math Through Technology

Our class complements the Core Math class and offers a dynamic approach to understanding mathematical concepts. Each class encourages thoughtful reflection which empowers students to analyze their strategies and deepen their mathematical understanding. While they complete the "Fitting Boxes into Boxes" project, students will apply their newfound knowledge to real-world challenges, showcasing their creativity and their ingenuity.

ELA

We are currently reading *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly and identifying what made these women's accomplishments extraordinary in relation to both the Civil Rights movement and the Space Race. Next, we will be writing an essay about these women's achievements.



Literature Honors Enrichment

We have begun reading *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton, and analyzing the theme of identity.



Literature

Students are working on identifying central idea, key details, author's purpose and text structure in nonfiction texts. Ultimately, they will draft their own nonfiction articles on the topic of their choice.



RIVERDALE KINGSBRIDGE ACADEMY
MS/HS 141

 *March into Reading*

Grab the perfect Spring read and enter our March into Reading Contest.



Enter books read March 7- April 1
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeY5RL0ZusH26B7BCkaZPHoRGKfGWmNbXJwxbemLsErVs9Asg/viewform?usp=sf_link
 2 Books read and entered=
 4 Honor Society Points



Science

In our *Oceans, Atmosphere and Climate* unit, we are investigating how ocean currents behave and what effect they have on the climate. Taking on the role of climatologists, students will investigate changes in air temperature in Christchurch, New Zealand, during the El Nino years. This serves as the anchor phenomenon we will investigate throughout the unit. Students are tasked with explaining what causes the change in air pressure. They will learn about the relationship between atmosphere and pressure and its effects on regional climate/temperature patterns.

Grade 7 Family Newsletter

Mathematics

We have finished our "Community Day" project, in which students were asked to analyze two scenarios, draw tape or hangar diagrams to visually represent the scenarios, and use equations to help answer the questions. They made clear connections between the scenarios, diagrams, equations, and solutions. Next, we will cover a unit on Probability and Sampling, where we will determine the probability of unknown events, comparing the results of repeated experiments and the expected probability.

Math Honors Enrichment

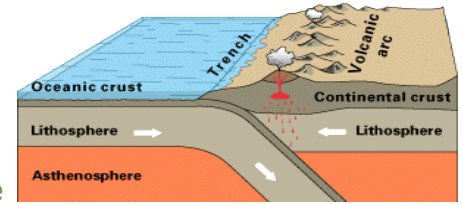
We have been investigating conductivity and pH in our lab setting. We've learned how particles can pass through a membrane in a process called Diffusion. We tested for this by measuring the ratio of conductivity/salt with water from local sources. Students have done a great job reporting their findings and being reflective about their own errors, or errors in the design. Students have also worked together on a variety of tricky math challenges in a competitive setting.

Math Through Technology

Students have worked on their Unit reflections for Unit 6. We focused on expressions, equations, and inequalities. They worked on reflections in which they needed to create and solve their own math problem for each lesson they learned in Core Math. Also, we worked on Unit 7-related problems that allowed us to address common misconceptions.

Social Studies

We are in unit 4 of the Passport curriculum, *A Nation Grows-Expansion and Reform 1800-1860*. After our exams, we will analyze documents surrounding the Lewis and Clark expedition.



Science

Students are participating in the Plate Motion Engineering Internship, in which they will consider the design problem of how to protect people from natural hazards using historical data about the frequency of different magnitudes of earthquakes along the plate boundaries in the Indian Ocean region. They will use a digital model to simulate placing sensors at various places in the ocean which will maximize response time to earthquakes, and minimize false alarms so people do not become complacent and money and resources aren't wasted. We will be using the design tool, "Tsunami Alert," to observe patterns and collect data. At the end of the unit, we will write a proposal persuading our fictional project director that their system design is optimal.

ELA

Mr. Schiller's classes recently went on a trip to see *The Lion King* on Broadway.

Mr. Vergara's class just wrapped up a short writing unit that culminated in an argumentative essay. We will start preparing for the New York State ELA exam in the very near future. Please continue to check Jupiter Grades for your child's progress



Literature Honors Enrichment

We have just finished Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and are beginning a unit project. The, we will start Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, paring the texts with *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.

Spanish



We are beginning Unit 2 of our *Avancemos* program, focusing on the culture and communication of Mexico. We practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking. We employ critical thinking skills as we compare the language and culture of Mexico with that of our own community. Students will connect to other subjects, using Spanish to access new information. We are learning (in Spanish!) to talk about classroom objects, and places in the school. We are using the present tense of *estar* to describe people's feelings and emotions and *ir + a* to talk about places in school. El Repertorio Español has a selection of plays. Visit a Spanish restaurant in the area or Museo del Barrio. Have fun with Spanish!

Grade 8 Family Newsletter



ELA

We have begun our new book, *Summer of the Mariposas*, by



Guadalupe Garcia McCall. As we read the book in class and independently for homework, we engage in daily discussions and activities that analyze how vocabulary, theme, central idea, point-of-view, and other

key elements of English Language Arts play an essential role in shaping our understanding of the narrative. Throughout, we will continue to explore Latin American folklore through various research projects. The unit will include a major writing task in which students will write their own story, rooted in cultural folklore. Students should continue to develop their independent reading assignments. A formal book report is due every 6-7 weeks on a grade-level book of their choice—the next due date is 3/22.

Spanish

We are exploring various cultural aspects of parties and dances. We have reviewed the cultural nuances of the Dominican Republic. In recent discussions, students had the opportunity to share, compare, and contrast their own cultural experiences with those of the Dominican Republic. These conversations fostered a deeper appreciation of diversity and a global perspective. We will continue to explore its unique customs and geography and the impact on the global community. To support learning at home, try watching some Spanish TV, listening to Spanish podcasts, and practicing reading and writing for a few minutes each day. Review vocabulary, use apps in Spanish, complete assignments on time, and use Spanish wherever possible!



Algebra

We finished our unit on Exponential Functions and have started on Quadratic Functions. We are learning to tell the difference between linear, exponential, and quadratic functions. We will soon graph these functions in standard and factored form and learn to identify key features. This unit is extremely important for this and future Math courses; quadratic functions will be heavily represented in our next unit. We are emphasizing notebook practices so that students will have a great resource to study from for their end-of-year exams.

Living Environment

We are currently involved in “Saving the Mountain Lion.” We are investigating different populations of mountain lions by looking at micro-satellite data, and applying concepts of meiosis, mitosis, and cause-and-effect to figure out that the mountain lion in Connecticut came from South



Dakota, seeking genetic variation. Students will apply what they learn about the mountain lion to another organism of their choice similarly affected by a lack of genetic diversity, and consider possible solutions.

Social Studies

As we begin marking period 2, we move on to our World War II unit. The breakdown of the unit follows in steps through April and will conclude prior to the final marking period of the year. In addition to content, advancing skills support high school readiness. Student collaboration, speaking and listening skills, document annotation and analysis, and advance writing all continue to be a focus in our 8th grade classroom.



DON'T FORGET THOSE DUES!

SENIORS—Mr. Edmond—LEdmond@schools.nyc.gov

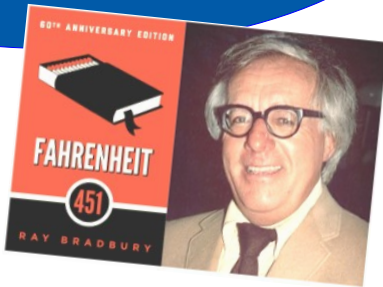
8TH GRADE—Ms. Prado—MPrado-romero2@schools.nyc.gov

Room B24

High School ELA Family Newsletter

Grade 9

We are wrapping up our study of Dystopian Fiction, featuring the prescient American classic, Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. We've been making insightful connections to historical and current events, while analyzing the novel's rich symbolism and character development. 9th graders have also been busy honing their Regents skills by working on the argumentative writing process.



Grade 10

We have begun our first read-through of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. We're following the curriculum from *Shakespeare Set Free*, from the Folger Library. We will break the play down into digestible sections, then teach plot, theme, and the beauty of the language. We will read sections of the text aloud and act out scenes to get us completely engaged. Students will also produce a written analysis of the text and identify the central idea of the play.

Grade 12

Students have begun their senior thesis project. They spent the first marking period choosing their media, formulating their ideas around the media, and researching scholarly material to support their ideas. This marking period will be crucial for this project. It will go through multiple drafts so that students will have a final result to be proud of.

DON'T FORGET THOSE DUES!

SENIORS—Mr. Edmond—LEdmond@schools.nyc.gov

8TH GRADE—Ms. Prado—MPrado-romero2@schools.nyc.gov

Room B24

Film

Student filmmakers have spent much of the first marking period writing their own original scripts, conducting table reads of the scripts, and revising them based on feedback from the teacher and fellow classmates. We have voted on the three scripts that we will film throughout the rest of the school year, and crews have been selected. We will now focus on pre-production and production.



AP English Literature

Our recent unit on Shakespearean sonnets is preparing us for a comparative study of *King Lear*. Students will read aloud in class and watch a filmed version from the Globe Theatre of London. To explore version of the story told in different formats, we are also reading *A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley, and will choose from eight different topics for our final essay assignment. As we have all year, we continue to prepare for the AP Lit exam, which is on May 8th.

AP Language and Composition

We are beginning a unit on Rhetoric, where we will learn about the finer points of an argument, including Aristotelian appeals. We will also read and analyze the letters and speeches of great leaders, before then starting a Black Lit unit, first reading *The Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass*. We continue to prepare for the AP Language exam, which takes place on May 14th. This will make us especially well-prepared for the ELA Regents exam.

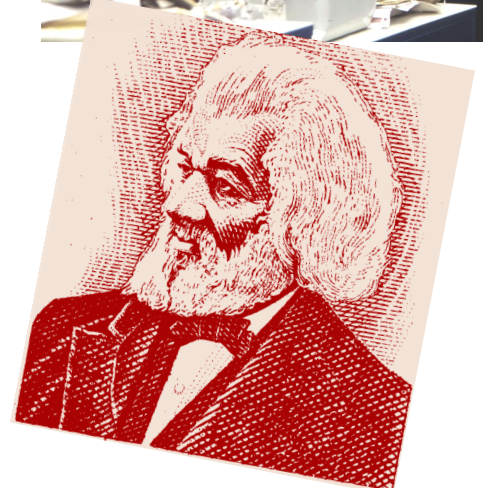


Grade 11

We are finishing our first literary analysis essays and beginning *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass*. We are also focusing on Regents prep for June.

Journalism

Students have worked diligently on writing articles for the second issue of our newspaper. Now we are focusing on an investigative journalism unit, which so far has covered the film *Spotlight* and will also cover *All the President's Men*. Then, we will begin the final issue of the newspaper.



High School Mathematics Family Newsletter

Statistics

In our upcoming chapters, we will explore different types of density functions. Much of the real-life data encountered in science, business, and industry can be modeled with a normal probability density function. We will use normal density inverse functions to convert probabilities and percentiles into values of a random variable, then explore and discuss normal probability distribution and z-scores. We will make calculations involving linear combinations of independent random variables. We will make connections between a geometric sequence and the geometric distribution and make probability calculations, then practice identifying when each distribution is appropriate.

Algebra 2

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Students are using what they have learned about exponents and radicals to extend exponent rules to include rational exponents and to solve various equations using squares and square

roots. They will develop the concept of complex numbers by defining a new number, i , whose square is -1 . When using the techniques of completing the square and applying the Quadratic Formula, students will discover the previously “unsolvable” quadratic equations are now solvable when considering the set of complex numbers.

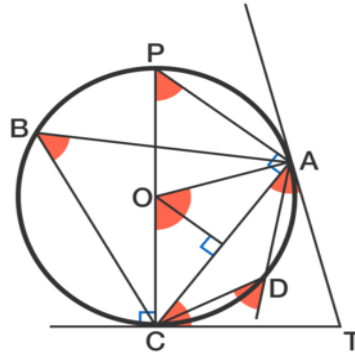
Business and Finance

We have finished our unit on budgeting. We’ve learned about many of the real-world costs that come with becoming an adult. Students tracked their expenses for an 6-week period to get a better idea of how people spend. We finished off the unit with a project planning a summer vacation. Many students were surprised to discover how expensive this could be. Presentations are starting, so we look forward to seeing where and what everyone has planned for!



Geometry

We have recently learned about properties of solids including volume, areas, and dilations with scale factors. We also



learned about density involving mass and population density. Now we are learning about transformations on the coordinate plane, equations of lines in slope-intercept and point-slope form, equations of circles and how to graph them, equations of parallel and perpendicular lines, intersecting lines and circles, and line segments with

weighted averages. Next, we will learn about the properties of circles. Please check Jupiter for updated assignments, grades, and attendance.

Pre-Calculus

We have finished studying polynomial and rational functions, submitting projects in which students were given an opportunity to let their artistic sides shine. In Desmos, they chose an image of their liking or created an original piece, made only of graphs of the different functions they have learned in class. Now we move on to exponentials and logarithms.

AP Calculus AB

We are on the last unit of our course. Recently, students completed a project in which they used differential equations to model real-life scenarios involving either population growth, radioactive decay or Newton’s Law of Cooling. After we complete our final unit, we will begin reviewing for the AP exam which is scheduled to take place on May 13th. We have already been working on problems from the Collegeboard website in preparation. Please check Jupiter for updated assignments, grades, and attendance.



NHS/NJHS Friendly Fridge Coin Collection continues! Please give generously to help combat hunger in our community.

**Do you have a big car?
Could you help us deliver on April 2nd?
Please contact AHope3@schools.nyc.gov**

High School Social Studies Family Newsletter

U. S. History—Grade 11

We have wrapped up the first marking period with units on the early 20th century, studying the Progressive Movement that emerged in response to abuses of the Gilded Age, the Spanish-American War, and the development of the United States as a world power. The major writing assignment for the second marking period will be a document-based essay about the Federal Government's role in the economy during the Great Depression and New Deal Eras.

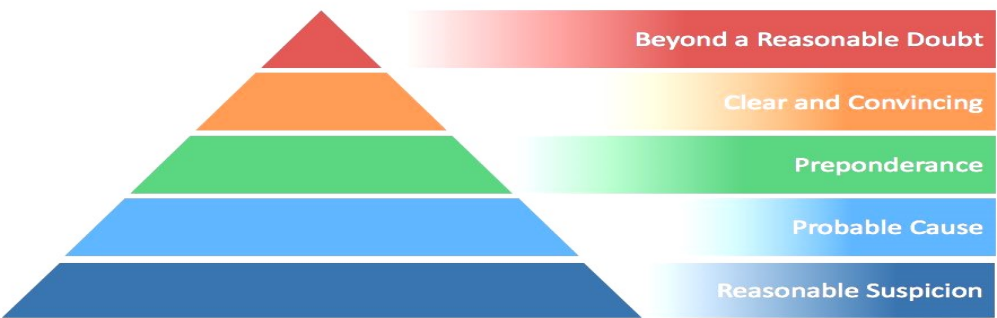


Participation in Government

During the first marking period, our topics of study included: the reasons for and functions of government, and the different forms of government. We researched, wrote, and delivered politically persuasive speeches. This marking period we will study the foundations of democracy in the United States, the importance of the Declaration of Independence, the structure of the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the system of federalism. Lastly, we will examine the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches, and civic participation. We also will continue to regularly discuss current events, and to practice research and debate skills.

Civil Law

Students learned about the Lockerbie Bombing and the subsequent class-action civil trial against Pan Am and the nation of Libya. Students also learned about the importance of auto insurance and how insurance policies work. Finally, we learned about various legal standards, especially those in criminal law, including reasonable suspicion and probable cause.



Global Studies—Grade 9

Students did a deep dive into the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome. We learned about the development of ancient Greece, Alexander the Great, and Hellenistic Culture. Most recently, we learned about the rise of Rome and how it became the most successful civilization in the Classical Age.



Global Studies—Grade 10

We are in the middle of a unit entitled *The World Between the Wars/World War II*. We are focusing on economic policies in the USSR, the Great Depression, the rise of totalitarian regimes, Axis aggression leading up to World War II, the events and outcome of WWII and its effects. We are taking a “virtual “visit” to the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and debating the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Students will be taking a Regents-aligned multiple choice test and a Regents-aligned Constructed Response assessment. Don't forget the Regents exam coming up in June.

AP African American Studies

In our Pilot Year 2, our course has been offering students rich, evidence-based source encounters with the African American experience. We are entering our last unit, and students will begin preparing for their presentations. Students will be taking the AP exam on May 14th—please join us in wishing them the best of luck! If students missed our info session on 3/12 and 3/15, they should see Ms. Loving in the library.

AP U.S. History

We are in the home stretch! We recently finished our unit on World War II, and are now studying the Cold War. Students will complete a substantial review project over the vacation in late April, and the AP U.S. History exam is May 10th.



AP Psychology

We just finished learning about motivation, emotion, and personality. Now, we delve into mental health—discussing symptoms, causes, and treatments.



Psychology

We have been studying the psychodynamic perspective, discussing Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung and their theories.

CLASS OF 2024

SENIOR

DAY TRIP

- Trampolines!
- \$20 Power Play Card
- Bounce Dodgeball/Volleyball!
- VR & Interactive Games
- Foam Pits!
- Unlimited Basic Video Games
- Bounce Slam Dunk Contest!
- Buffet Lunch

WEDNESDAY MARCH 27TH	SENIOR DAY TRIP 8:30AM - 2:30 PM	COST = \$75 OR CANDY FUNDS
LIMITED AVAILABILITY! THIS TRIP WILL SELL OUT!		

SEE MR. EDMOND IN R24

High School Spanish Family Newsletter

Culture of Latin America

We have just finished a unit on Afro Latinos and their history. Students created a poster of notable Afro Latino figures, and presented it to the class. We are also learning about the history of Latin music and dance, looking at a wide variety of styles including influential genres such like Cumbia, Bachata, Bossa Nova, Merengue, Rumba, Salsa, Son, and Tango. We will also create our own dance steps!



AP Spanish Language and Culture

We are starting a unit on Beauty and Aesthetics. We are learning about architecture, defining beauty and creativity, fashion and design, and language and literature. We will focus on different perceptions of beauty and how these are established and how they influence daily life. We will also look at how the arts define and reflect cultural perspectives.



Spanish for Heritage Speakers

Bienvenido! Our class is embarking in module 2 in their *Galeria* text, which takes us to Mexico! We have been studying about our indigenous ancestors, the colonization of the Americas, and the origins of their language. Along the way, we will study grammar, and complete a project on seven different areas of Mexican culture and history. We will analyze the autobiographical novel, *Cajas de Caton* by Francisco Jimenez. We will also study the Mexican Revolution and interpret the works of Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Jose Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros. We'll learn about the musical genre of *Corridos*. What other great adventures will we go on next?

Spanish 1

We are finishing Unit 5 of our *Avancemos* program, focusing on the culture and communication of Ecuador. We practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking. We employ critical thinking skills as we compare the language and culture of Ecuador with that of our own community. We have been learning (in Spanish) how to plan a party, talk about chores and responsibilities, activities, and more. Students have been creating skits and presenting them in class. We learned new dances for Diversity Week.



Spanish 2

We are on Unit 1 of our *Avancemos* program, focusing on the culture and communication of Costa Rica. We practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking. We employ critical thinking skills as we compare the language and culture of Costa Rica with that of our own community. We also connect to other subjects, using Spanish to access new information. We are learning to discuss travel preparations, things at an airport, ask how to get around town, and more. We are also learning about grammar—personal *a*, direct and indirect object pronouns, interrogatives, the preterite of *-ar* verbs and of *ir, ser, hacer, ver, and dar*.

Support your child at home by encouraging them to review notes at home every night, to complete their assignments, and to use Spanish whenever possible. Read labels, watch some Spanish TV, and listen to music. We look forward to seeing everyone's progress over the course of the school year!

Spanish 3

We are on unit 1 of the *Avancemos 3* program. In preparation for our World Languages exam at the end of the year, we will continue to strengthen our abilities in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, and enhance our skills as we learn more tenses in Spanish. Currently, we are working on the imperfect tense. Later, we will learn about the future and conditional tenses. We will learn vocabulary about the beach and will venture out on exciting adventure along the beautiful beaches of Latin America through a variety of projects focusing on their writing and speaking skills. We will also listen to and read authentic resources in Spanish.

**Class of '24
Decision Day!!!
May 29, 2024**



LET US KNOW YOUR PLANS!



High School Science Family Newsletter

Chemistry

We have been studying the world of electrolytes, learning about Avogadro's Number (the mole)—a secret code that chemists use to count the tiniest particles, like atoms and molecules, in any substance. Using this code, we can now figure out exactly how many particles are present by just knowing the weight. This is a superpower for understanding how chemicals react with one another. We've also had hands-on experience with an analytical technique called "titrations." Next, we will explore thermodynamics, which helps us understand how energy flows, and why some reactions happen, and others simply don't.

Forensics

We have unlocked the secrets of the past! We peeled back the layers on fingerprint analysis—the gold standard of identification—and dove into the revolutionary world of DNA fingerprinting. Using these techniques, we even explored the mysteries of cold cases—crimes that have lingered unsolved for years. And our investigation doesn't stop there; there's a world of forensic disciplines waiting to be explored.

Bioethics

From the shadows of Henrietta Lacks and her immortal HeLa cells, we explored the history of systemic racism in medicine and healthcare. We learned about exploitation, unequal treatment, and the fight for representation. Now we focus on another complex issue: organ donation. The challenge will be to consider the ethical framework surrounding the Gift of Life. We'll delve into the desperate need for organs, the delicate balance between respecting donor autonomy and maximizing organ availability, and the ongoing debate about fair allocation practices.

AP Biology

In our recent unit on Molecular Genetics, students explored the history of the discovery of DNA, the relationship between genes and traits, and the revolutionary field of Biotechnology. Now we are studying Evolution. In this unit, we will investigate natural selection, speciation, and look at the variety of organisms that have evolved on Earth.

AP Environmental Science

We are studying Atmospheric Pollution, exploring how air pollution has many sources and effects, both indoors and outdoors. We will learn about how human activity affects the quality of air both indoors and outdoors. We will discover how, through legislation, the Clean Air Act regulates the emission of air pollution that affects human health. By the end of the unit, students will know how gases and particles in the air come from both natural and human sources, and how when pollution sources are identified, methods can be used to reduce it. Then we will study about pollution's impact on land and water.

Earth Science

We are diving in to Earth's geologic time scale, which tells a story about the inception of life and the rise and fall of species—showing life is fragile in the face of gradual and sudden changes to the environment. Students will learn how rock and fossil observations in combination with radioactive dating techniques have been used to construct a geologic time scale. We will also wrap our heads around the vastness of geologic time and the comparative brevity of human existence by generating their own analogies. Finally, we will use all this learning to determine whether a given fossil can be found in the New State.

Physics

We've tackled the mighty force of gravitation, learned how objects whiz around in circular motion, and even cracked the code of energy in all its forms! Now, we're shifting gears to explore the fascinating world of statics. This might sound tame in comparison, but statics are the foundation for understanding forces at play in balanced systems. Forces come alive to power everything from your phone to the lights in your classrooms. Buckle up—static might seem basic, but it's the key that locks the door to the world of electricity!

Child Development

We've been exploring the whirlwind that is Toddlerhood! We've unpacked the social, emotional, and physical growth of our little ones. We've tackled the importance of toddler nutrition—fueling those busy bodies and encouraging them to eat new and healthy foods. Now we'll zoom in on intellectual development, exploring how play and guidance spark curiosity and pave the way for learning. Then, in the exciting world of preschoolers, imagination takes center stage and cognitive skills blossom in a flurry of questions, creativity, and social interaction.

Engineering

We have just switched gears from electric vehicles to the cutting-edge world of 3-D printing. We first got hands-on with electric vehicles, building our own mini electric cars. It was a blast putting our engineering skills to the test and seeing those mini motors zoom! Now, in the fascinating world of 3-D printing, we find this technology has changed the game, and are learning about its practical applications—from rapid prototyping to creating custom parts. It'll be interesting to see how this printing might even influence the design of future electric vehicles!

Anatomy and Physiology

We have completed our study of the muscular system. We explored the anatomy (structure) and physiology (function) of all major muscles. Now, we are studying the nervous system.

rka arts & letters

Spring Arts Festival
May 20th—Instrumental
May 22nd—Vocal



Instrumental Music

Middle School Band classes are working on class folders with full-length songs to prepare for the Spring Arts Festival. To expand their playing skills and meet the challenges of higher-level music, students must work on the weekly practice logs; this will help them improve on their individual growth. The guitar classes have been learning about the Harlem Renaissance. They have also been studying songs from Sam Cooke, Elvis Presley and The Beatles, and current artists like Jason Mraz, Ed Sheeran, and Eminem.

Want to challenge yourself with higher-level songs? Interested in Morning Band? We meet Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:30 AM. Students can see Ms. Castiner in room 152.



Daniel S' collage of Taylor Swift is advancing to the semifinal round of the PS ART contest, an all-borough contest with over 1,500 entries.

Congratulations, Daniel, and good luck!

High School Art

Students are making self-portraits inspired by the artist Alice Neel. Neel was an activist and feminist who lived in Spanish Harlem.

Museum suggestion:

The Harlem Renaissance and Transatlantic Modernism The Metropolitan Museum of Art—5th Ave and 86th Street. Free to all NYC residents.



Introduction to Ceramics



This marking period will be packed with preparation for our class tea party, which will be celebrated with teapots and matching cups which the students created in class.

AP Art & Design

We are in the home stretch of preparation for our May 10th final submission date for all portfolios. Please ask your child where they stand in compiling their work. For students without a fee waiver, the exam fee is \$98.00.

Painting Through History

Students will begin to diverge into their own interpretations of ways to paint with text and creating social commentary with their art.

Vocal Music

Our 6th and 7th grade choruses are mastering their first song for the Spring Arts Festival May 22nd. We are in the process of selecting our next song. Our 8th grade and second period high school classes are learning basic keyboarding skills. 6th period high school continues to pluck melodies and strum chords on the ukulele while improving the cohesion of the ensemble.

Middle School Art

Next up, we will be learning about 3-D sculptures and the materials used to make a sculpture. Students will create their own by applying different techniques and using various materials. 6th and 7th grade students will create paper sculptures while 8th graders will work with clay. We will study and analyze the works of Jen Stark and Alake Shilling.

In the Library...

We celebrate **Women's History Month** with our annual bookmark-making competition. See Ms. Loving for more details.

A reminder that all RKA students and staff have access to **Sora**. Simply log in to <https://soraapp.com/welcome/search>, type in New York City Public Schools, enter your DOE email and password. Voila! You will have access to eBooks, audio books, and magazines!

The New York Public Library offers users new access to borrow eBooks, audio books, magazines and more from your local library for free! "Libby" is the newer library app by OverDrive, loved by millions worldwide, <https://www.overdrive.com/apps/library>.

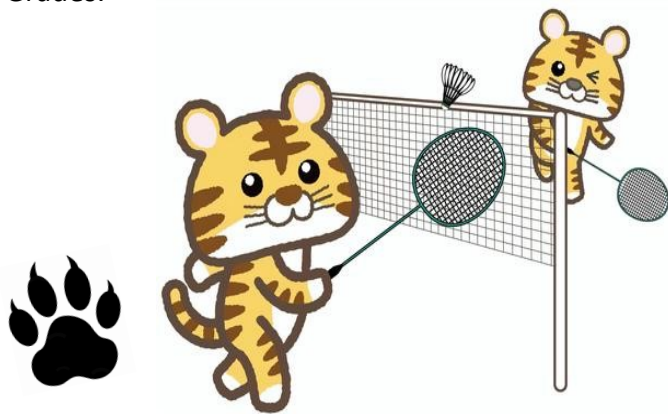
The Black Student Union & Allies Club had a very successful **Afrofuturism** exhibit last month. Please see the Bronx News 12 highlight! <https://bronx.news12.com/riverdale-kingsbridge-academy-students-create-special-exhibit-for-black-history-month>

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Health

In middle school Health, we have finished the first half of our current unit on Violence & Injury Prevention. We are understanding risk and have learned about unintentional injury. We have learned safety rules to prevent common injuries and about safety gear and resisting dares. We work individually and in groups. In March, our school SAPIS counselor, Ms. Johnson, is teaching lessons on leadership, decision-making, and substance abuse prevention. All students should be prepared for class with their laptop, and all assignments can be found on Google Classroom. Parents, please join your child in monitoring GC and Jupiter Grades.



Physical Education

Following after our Volleyball unit, students are now playing Badminton. The skills being taught include the forehand stroke, backhand stroke, and underhand serve. We practice these skills by rallying continually with a partner or competing in singles and doubles matches. Throughout the year, students are graded on participation and preparation. They are required to wear an RKA shirt and sneakers to Phys Ed class. All valuables like electronics and backpacks should be locked up in the locker room in the beginning of class.





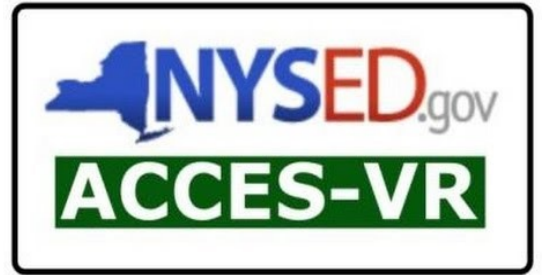
ACCESS-VR

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation

ACCESS-VR provides postsecondary services, including financial assistance for college or trade school, employment support, and various training programs tailored to students with IEPs.

We have an important meeting/ registration scheduled on March 26th from 9:00-Noon in the RKA library. Parents are encouraged to attend, but students can register themselves. For more

information, contact MPayne3@schools.nyc.gov or 718-796-8516 x3061.



Communication Tips—Strengthening Student, Teacher, and School Counselor Bonds

As the school year progresses, effective communication becomes important for academic success. Here are some tips for enhances interaction:

- **Schedule a Meeting**—Request a meeting with your teacher to discuss assignments, seek clarification, or address concerns. It’s important to meet your teachers often. And you can schedule a meeting with your counselor any time in the year for additional support.
- **Use Email**—Get in the habit of using email to communicate with your teachers and counselor. Important information is often shared and you don’t want to miss out on anything!
- **Participate Actively**—Engage in class discussions, ask questions, and contribute to group activities to demonstrate your commitment and understanding. You can also engage in after-school activities.
- **Seek Feedback**—Don’t hesitate to seek feedback on your work, behavior, and class participation to identify areas for improvement and to show your dedication to academic growth. You can write down questions to make sure you don’t forget!
- **Be Proactive**—If you anticipate an issue or concern, communicate early with your teacher to find solutions together. If you are unsure how to do this, ask your counselor!

Effective communication fosters a supportive learning environment, empowering you to excel in your studies and achieve your academic goals. Your school counselor is here to help, support, and guide you in your academic journey!



One Goal/College Career Explorations

We took a deep dive into self-exploration by taking personality profile tests. Students discovered characteristics they possess that make their hearts sing and what careers and interests match their traits. From there, they looked at the Bureau of Labor Statistics to see their career outlook, and how much many they could expect to make. Next, we will wind our way through training programs, 2-year colleges, 4-year universities, all the way to Masters and PhD programs.

Five RKA students participated in the New York State Key Club Convention in Albany!

They went with a cohort from Bronx Science and together represented Bronx scholars! They attended workshops, saw opportunities for scholarships and life-long learning through the acts of both being a leader and serving one’s community. We’re proud of them!

