

River Bluff Middle School

Campus E-News - September 14, 2018

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, September 18

4:15 pm Girls Volleyball, Home
6:30 pm Parent Action Network Meeting - All invited!
7:00 pm 5th Grade Orchestra Parent Meeting

Thursday, September 20

4:15 Cross Country Here (@ Racetrack)
4:15 Girls Volleyball @ Sun Prairie

Friday, September 21

"A" Day

Homecoming Week Theme Days - Sept. 24-28

Monday - Pajama/Crazy Hair Day
Tuesday - Tropical Day
Wednesday - Blast from the past
Thursday - Twin Day
Friday - Viking Pride



From the Desk of Trish Gates

At River Bluff our mission, "We care for all students, by growing together," helps guide our decisions, keeping our students at the center of all we do. At River Bluff our vision for teachers, administrators, support staff is to create a school for all learners that is developmentally responsive, challenging, empowering, and equitable. In order to achieve this, we;

- Embrace the nature of the young adolescent, who is going through tremendous changes in growth both intellectually and socially, as we create curriculum responsive to their changing needs.
- Recognize that every student can learn and work to hold all students to high expectations for academic achievement, academic character and behavior.

- Provide students with the “soft” skills necessary to be successful as they move to high school and beyond. We advocate for every student’s right to learn in an inclusive environment.

At the end of every school year, River Bluff teachers and administration meet and set forth goals for new school year. Together, we determined that our top priority this year is consistency in student discipline and a positive student climate. We look forward to sharing with you throughout the school year, the many enhancements in these areas that were a part of our continuous improvement planning from summer.

The first enhancement we want to share begins next week, as we implement the new "Second Step" middle school program during Homeroom (aka Advisory). The new "Second Step" program is a first-of-its-kind, social and emotional learning curriculum that is modern, web-based, and responsive to the the need of today's students and teachers. It's uses the latest in research in adolescent brain development and social psychology, and is in use in classrooms across the country. The curriculum is designed to help our children do better in school, and do better in life.

The focus of these first lessons are: mindset and goals. Students will learn how to develop a growth mindset and apply it to their social and academic lives. They also learn about if-then plans, a researched based strategy for achieving goals. In another unit, Friendship and Goals, students learn how to use their values to help made good decisions and build strong friendships. The Third unit, thoughts emotions and decisions is all about learning how thoughts and emotions influence decision making, and students learn strategies for calming down and staying in control when experiencing strong emotions. The last unit, serious peer conflicts, is to assist students in learning how to identify, avoid and resolve serious conflicts and help prevent bullying and harassment.

Each week through Campus News we will share the focus of the Second Step, along with a parent question to ask your child at home to learn more about how your child is doing in middle school.

We hope that your child will find the first Second Step lesson helpful in creating a positive mindset and set great goals for academic achievement.

Sincerely,
Trish Gates



8th grade Math teacher, Mr. Koplin, welcomes several 8th grade families.



Ms. Konjuhi greets a new 6th grade student in the Red Block

Dear Family,

We want your child to be successful in school, and that means going beyond the basics. Excelling in academic classes is important, but students also need to know how to learn, make good decisions, handle strong emotions, and get along with others.

This week, we'll begin the *Second Step* Middle School Program, which focuses on skills and concepts that are designed to help students both in and out of school. These include:

Mindsets and Goals: Students learn about ways to grow their brains and get smarter, along with research-based strategies for achieving goals and handling difficult situations.

Values and Friendships: Students learn to identify their personal values and use those values to make good decisions and build strong, positive relationships.

Thoughts, Emotions, and Decisions: Students learn the positive role emotions play in their lives, how to handle unhelpful thoughts and strong emotions, and specific strategies for calming down.

Serious Peer Conflicts: Students learn how to identify and avoid serious conflicts, resolve conflicts that can't be avoided, think about other people's perspectives, and help stop bullying and harassment at school.

If you have any questions about the *Second Step* Middle School Program, please do not hesitate to contact me for more information. Thank you for supporting your child in learning the skills and concepts that lead to success in school and in life.

Second Step: Week One Lesson Summary and Parent Questions

Grade 6, Lesson 1

FAMILY LESSON SUMMARY

In this week's lesson, students will learn how their brains are changing and how the *Second Step* Program can help them grow their brains and learn to be successful.

FAMILY LESSON QUESTION

This week, ask your child what he or she is looking forward to learning this year in school. Describe something you enjoyed learning when you were in sixth grade.

Grade 7, Lesson 1

FAMILY LESSON SUMMARY

This week's lesson will help your child understand some of the changes that happen during adolescence, and how the *Second Step* Program can help your child succeed and do well, both as a student and as a friend.

FAMILY LESSON QUESTION

Ask your child about any changes he or she has noticed in friends now that they're growing up, and what your child thinks about these changes.

Grade 8, Lesson 1

FAMILY LESSON SUMMARY

This week's lesson will help your child understand some of the changes that happen during adolescence and how the social-emotional skills taught in the *Second Step* Program can help your child be successful and get along with others, in middle school and beyond.

FAMILY LESSON QUESTION

Ask about any changes your child has noticed in friends now that they're all growing up and what your child thinks about these changes.

Please join us for our first meeting of the year!

Agenda

- Educational Topic: PBIS
- Updates from Principal Trish Gates
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Open Discussion



Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Minecraft Club

River Bluff will once again have a Minecraft Club that will meet after school every other Tuesday, starting on September 25th from 3:20 - 4:15. The club is open to all River Bluff students. Due to a limited number of software licenses, there is room for up to 26 students each night, so access will be on a first come, first served basis. Students can play and build on their own or compete with others on servers, socialize with other RB students, and meet new people with similar interests. Email Mr. Maedke (chris.maedke@stoughton.k12.wi.us) with questions.

Mark the Dates

Tuesday, September 25th

Tuesday, October 9th

Tuesday, October 23rd

Tuesday, November 6th

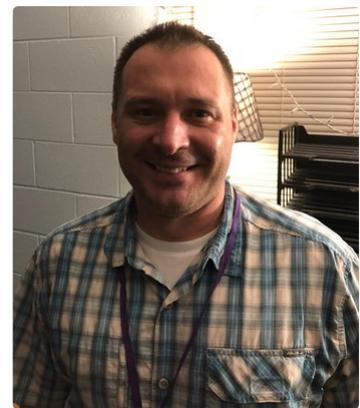
Tuesday, November 20th

Tuesday, December 4th

Tuesday, December 18th

Meet Mr. Scicero

This is my first year teaching in the Stoughton School District; however it is the start of my 16th year of teaching overall. I recently taught special education at Cambridge middle school for a year and at Jefferson middle school for four years prior to that. I also worked as a learning specialist for an alternative education program in manufacturing for two years as well as ten years as a teacher in a residential and day treatment program. I also coached soccer for Jefferson High School's JV and Varsity teams.



I graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a bachelor's degree in psychology. I attended UW-Whitewater where I earned a master's degree in special education and a certificate in alternative education.

I was born and raised in Bay View, a south side neighborhood of Milwaukee, and now live in Jefferson with my wife, Joselyn, and two daughters Sofia (9) and Alondra (7) as well as our three cats (all brothers from the same litter) and ever expanding fish population.

I enjoy being outside; camping, biking, running, hiking, paddling, and gardening. I also love doing projects of all kinds with my daughters and wife. We also travel a great deal spending a lot of time in

Puerto Rico where my wife's family lives. I learned to speak Spanish late in life and we are raising our daughters in a bilingual and bicultural house.

Welcome Ms. Sickles

My name is Sarah Sickles, and I am a new EA at Riverbluff Middle School. I graduated from UW Whitewater with a degree in Elementary Education. I have worked with children for over 16 years, and I love it.

I live in stoughton with my husband and 2 children. We love to stay active and be outside. Our children are involved in many sports. On the weekend, you can usually find us at one of their games.



I am so excited for this school year, and getting to know everyone.

Infinite Campus Portal

Is your Parent/Guardian Infinite Campus Portal account set up and active? Is your household information accurate? Please take a moment to verify by going to <https://stoughtonwi.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/stoughton.jsp>. This is a great tool to have to review your child's student information (attendance, grades, schedules, etc) as well as for registration and contact purposes. If you discover you do not have an account, cannot remember your login information or other related questions, please contact the Stoughton Area School District Infinite Campus Specialist, Heather Lucas at 608-877-5045 or heather.lucas@stoughton.k12.wi.us

DUE TO A STUDENT LIFE THREATENING NUT ALLERGY - there are specific areas within River Bluff that will be labeled Nut Free! In general, we ask that all parents be Nut Aware when sending any food items to school. Thank you.

Other Information

- [District Calendar](#) link
- [Community Events](#) link
- To sign up for the District e-Newsletter, which includes student features, reminders about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, videos, photos and more, [Sign up with this link](#).



RB Staff Shout Outs

If you would like to recognize a River Bluff Staff Member, please fill out the following form. Your recognition will be noted in our staff bulletin. Thank you.

[RB Staff Shout Out](#)



River Bluff Contact Information

Main Office/Attendance: 877-5500

Mrs. Gates, Principal: 877-5501

Mr. Johnson, Assistant Principal: 877-5503

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