

Fearless Pursuits

Inspiring Creativity, Innovation, and a Desire to Achieve Greatness!



RIGOROUS ACADEMIC & CAREER PATHWAYS



Sprouting Leaders

For nearly 100 years, the Reedsburg Agriscience Department and FFA chapter have created leaders in agriculture and the greater Reedsburg community. Students gain various leadership skills and experiences through participation in the many activities that agriculture education provides both in and out of the classroom.

"Today's agriculture is ever-changing as the world of food, fiber, and natural resources embraces science and technology to more efficiently feed and clothe a growing population while sustaining our natural resources," said Nick Casey, Agriscience Teacher. "In the classroom, students learn about up-to-date, real-world agriculture topics and apply that knowledge to everyday life. The goal is to ensure all students are informed consumers and prepared for any role in agriculture."

A new veterinary science course starting this year will provide students with a connection to the veterinary medicine world and practice basic laboratory techniques and animal care protocols that will prepare them for a future career in that field.

In addition to the classroom, all RAHS agriscience students are members of the FFA chapter as a part of our local affiliated membership program. Many students take advantage of this to enhance their leadership and career skills by participating in the activities that FFA offers, including attending leadership conferences, exhibiting at the county and state fairs, and participating in specific leadership and career development events. Participation in any of these activities allows students to develop skills such as communication, collaboration, responsibility, and advocacy that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Finding Future Career Success

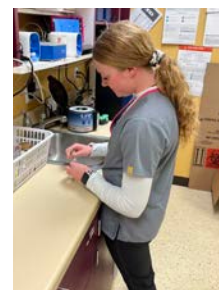
Real world skills and hands-on training is what Reedsburg students gain through the Youth

Apprenticeship program. While earning high school credit hours, students have the opportunity to be trained during their junior and senior year. It gives students the opportunity to try a particular job or trade before entering the job market.

"This program gives students a great head start in their career and a clear advantage over other high school graduates looking to enter a chosen field," said David Anliker, Technology Education Teacher and Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator.

2024 RAHS graduate Cassidy Finke (pictured above) won the CESA 5 Youth Apprenticeship Scholarship for her efforts during her two years in the program. This past year she worked an average of 15 hours a week as a Veterinary Assistant at Sunrise Veterinary Clinic. Cassidy maintained client records and scheduled appointments for clients. She assisted the veterinarians and veterinary technicians with exams and administration of routine treatments, vaccines, and medications. Cassidy helped to monitor animal responses after surgery and took care of hospitalized patients. "I loved being able to learn more about veterinary medicine while working with adorable pets and amazing co-workers," said Finke.

Last year the high school had 36 students involved in the Youth Apprenticeship program that were employed by 25 different local businesses.





Message from Superintendent Rindo

On behalf of the School Board and administrative team, I welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year. Our profession is the only one with an opportunity for a fresh start every year, and we look forward to welcoming students and families back to our schools on September 3rd!

As we begin this new year, I also want to celebrate some of the successes our students and staff experienced during the 2023-2024 school year, the second school year under our 2022-2027 strategic plan. I am proud to announce that last year, we had the highest number of students participating in formal Youth Apprenticeships (36) at RAHS than ever



before. We also saw the completion and successful sale of the Construction Trades program's most recent house flip at 525 Laurel Street in Reedsburg. This fall, that class will take on its next challenge with a new house-flipping project. This past spring also saw the highest pass rate ever for Advanced Placement exams at RAHS, including one course that had a pass rate of 100%! This past school year, we also had more elementary students with disabilities than ever reach their predicted annual growth performance on the iReady assessments in Reading and Math. We still have much work to do, but our targeted, strategic efforts are making a difference.

In this newsletter, you will also see an overview of the two referendum questions the District will be asking the community to consider on November 5th: The first is a non-recurring operational question that, if approved, would allow the District to exceed our revenue limit by \$4 million per year for the next four years. Those dollars would help address projected budget deficits over those years, help us continue with the current strategic work, and address the most urgent maintenance needs at Webb Middle School. The second question asks the community to consider a \$14 million capital project at the Reedsburg Area High School. Those dollars would allow the District to renovate and modernize our Career and Technical Education spaces if approved. In addition to the details in this newsletter, you can expect to hear much more about both of these questions in the months ahead.

I continue to believe that great schools and healthy, vibrant communities are inextricably linked. You simply can't have one without the other. Our community and our school district are on the rise, and we are proud to be a part of that energy. Please feel free to stop by and visit any of our schools. I am confident you will be pleased by what you see.

Go Beavers!



RAHS House Flipping

Over the last nine years, RAHS students have completed three houses through the House Flipping class. 525 Laurel Street in Reedsburg was wrapped up this past spring and sold on August 8th. It was a 3 year project and over 50 students had the opportunity to work on the house.

"These projects have been made possible by the City of Reedsburg obtaining these houses for the RAHS students to work on," said Michael McCarville, Technology Education Teacher. "Giving the students an even greater experience with the trades, we have worked with over a dozen local contractors who have helped us make each of these houses a success."

Growing Goodness

Helping students develop an appreciation and understanding of where their food comes from and to cultivate the joy of learning through hands-on activities is the main goal of Pineview Garden School. Weekly garden tasks include planting, weeding, mulching, watering, and harvesting. Students also take part in research and journal writing around gardening topics and sell produce at the RAMC Farmers' Market.



The motto is *Pineview Garden: Where students grow*. "We mean that literally in the garden as much as through learning intellectually, socially, and emotionally," said Amy Bass, Pineview Garden School Teacher. "Students entering grades 5 and 6 are eligible to participate, and we also invite one or two mentors who have been in the program for two years."

During the summer, classes primarily meet on Wednesday mornings for nine sessions at the Pineview Garden, plus one field trip to Madison for some more hands-on learning and tasting.

YOU Spoke, We LISTENED

2024 REFERENDUM



School Board Finalizes November 5th Referendum Questions

Over the last two years, the School Board has worked diligently through a comprehensive facilities planning process focused on ensuring our learning environments can support innovative programs for our students. Last year, the Board approved a long-term facilities plan to guide its work in this area. While the Board initially focused on including a new middle school as a part of the first phase of this plan along with focused renovations to the high school, the community-wide survey conducted this past spring indicated that the cost of a new middle school was beyond what the overall community would support at this time. However, the Board hasn't lost sight of the significant needs at Webb Middle School. The Board is developing a plan to revisit a middle school project in the future, likely timed with the final debt repayment from the construction of Prairie Ridge Intermediate School.

Responsible fiscal management is one of the focus areas in our strategic plan. As a tactical effort in this area, the District has been working to pay down its current voter-approved debt.

The District also anticipated the potential of going to an operational question to support the District's ongoing operational needs and programmatic goals. As a result of those strategic efforts, the District has created flexibility that can be used to manage the impact of both a capital and operational referendum while maintaining a fairly level and predictable tax rate.

» Estimated Tax Impact

The estimated tax impact for **both referendum questions** combined is an increase of \$.35 cents per \$1,000 dollars of property value. The projected 2024-2025 tax rate with both questions approved is estimated to increase from \$7.00 to \$7.35. The District will maintain this rate by adjusting its early payments on existing debt.

Equalized Property Value	Annual Impact*	Monthly Impact
\$100,000	\$35.00	\$2.92
\$250,000	\$87.50	\$7.30
\$350,000	\$122.50	\$10.21
\$450,000	\$157.50	\$13.13

*\$.035 per \$1,000 of property value. The estimated tax rate increase is based on an estimated 9% increase in property values.

The community will have numerous opportunities to learn more about both proposed referendum questions over the next few months. Highlights include:

1 QUESTION ONE Operating Funds:

Exceed the revenue limit by \$4 million per year for the next four years (non-recurring), ending with the 2027-2028 school year, for the purpose of:

- » Filling projected budget deficits in each of the four years as a result of shortfalls in state funding;
- » Maintaining and expanding on our current focus to provide rigorous academic programs and career pathways for all students;
- » Keeping class sizes as low as possible;
- » Continuing to attract and retain high-quality staff;
- » Addressing the most urgent maintenance needs at Webb Middle School.

2 QUESTION TWO Facilities Project:

Invest \$14 million in the Reedsburg Area High School to:

- » Renovate and update equipment in the Construction Trades, Manufacturing and Engineering, and Agriculture spaces;
- » Add a new greenhouse and provide space for new and innovative programs in Agriculture, Animal Science, and Natural Resources;
- » Renovate the library, large group room, and two adjacent classrooms to create the new Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship;
- » Lightly renovate the cafeteria / commons.

Learn More:

www.rsd.k12.wi.us/district/referendum-2024.cfm

Questions: referendum@rsd.k12.wi.us



SCAN QR CODE
to access Referendum website



Save-the-Dates for Corn Feast & Homecoming!

Corn Feast will take place Friday, September 13th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. before the home football game against LaCrosse Logan at 7:00 p.m. The RAHS National Honor Society will be serving brats, hot dogs, and of course, corn on the cob!

Then Reedsburg Homecoming is the week of September 16-21, 2024! The 2nd Annual Homecoming Carnival will be at the high school from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, September 20th. Come participate in the fun activities and support the high school activities, food trucks, games of skill, and more. Stay for the Homecoming Football Game versus the Sparta Spartans. Bring your #ReedsburgPride spirit and cheer on the Beavers to a win! Watch the RAHS website for more information on these events.



We are hiring!

Join Team Reedsburg and help support all of our children in the greater Reedsburg community. To apply, visit:

<https://www.rsd.k12.wi.us/district/employment-opportunities.cfm>

QUICK LINKS:

Are you looking for something specific? Check out the links below. **Still, need assistance?**

Contact us at (608) 524-2016.

District Calendar: <https://www.rsd.k12.wi.us/family/calendars.cfm>

Activities/Athletics Calendar: <https://badgerconference.org/public/genie/77/school/15/>

TeamReedsburg.live (Streaming): <https://teamreedsburg.com/>

Employment Opportunities: <https://www.rsd.k12.wi.us/district/employment-opportunities.cfm>

Skyward Family Access: <https://www.rsd.k12.wi.us/family/skywardfamilyaccess.cfm>

Lunch and Breakfast Menus: <https://www.rsd.k12.wi.us/district/breakfastandlunchmenus.cfm>

CONTACT US:

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Website: www.rsd.k12.wi.us



SDR Board of Education

Board of Education meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office Building Board Room.

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