

Renaissance @ Rand Middle School

School Tours 2022

“The Innovative Education Magnet.”

Mission: The mission of the Renaissance Middle School at Rand is to inspire individuals to think critically, responsibly, and empathically. At the heart of our school are students, faculty and staff who continually investigate ideas, become deeply immersed in subjects, and develop a passion for learning. We believe that all students can learn. We put appropriate programs in place to support learning.

General Information for All Grades:

-No Tracking...we raise the bar high for **every** student to strive to reach that level. We believe **EVERY** child can meet the high standards we set. Our teachers provide differentiated instruction to cater to a child’s educational needs whether that child is academically advanced in the class or falling a little behind.

Schedule:

8:20- 3:15- Mondays – Thursdays

8:20- 2:30- Fridays

Core Classes: Core Classes are 80 minutes long. Block scheduling allows students to spend extended periods of time concentrating and working on specific activities.

Collaborative and Cooperative teaching: The 4 core teachers meet every day to discuss the needs of the students. The Related Arts teachers also meet.

Lunch: Lunch is split between will be about 20 minutes of eating lunch and 20 minutes of recess. Students go outside even in the cold weather! Students are allowed to eat their lunch outside weather permitting.

Social & Emotional Support: Students have support ready and available and can reach out for support to our: School Counselor & Student Assistance Counselor (Ms. Gibbs), School Social Worker (Ms. Fossella), Restorative Justice Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA, Ms. Pastor). Students partake in school wide observance such as *The Week of Respect* (as occurring) and advisories where Restorative Circles take place (daily).

School Nurse: Nurse Mullen is available to students who need to stop in for medical care &/or support.

Response To Intervention Courses: Literacy Lab, Read 180, & Math Lab.

Special Education: In-class Support for Math, English Language Arts, Science, &/or Social Studies. Study Skills is also an option for pre/re-teaching and academic support. The Child Study Team work with classified students and consists of a Learning Disability Teaching Consultant, Social Worker, School Psychologist, and Behaviorist.

Community Service: All students are enrolled in Community Service for 1 marking period, in each grade.

Non- profit Pitch- Students form mock non-profit organizations, identify a local/ global issue, propose a solution, survey audiences, & then develop a pitch presentation highlighting their solutions in order to investigate the viability of bringing their ideas to life! Students have been pitching their presentations to the RMS student body at the end of the marking period!

A unique characteristic of Renaissance is the student's involvement within the community. Our unique Friday schedule allows the students to leave the school building and work with local philanthropic, town based and District organizations. Some of the organizations and opportunities over the last several years have included:

Toni's Kitchen - consolidating food and packages to be distributed to seniors and food challenged individuals in Essex County.

College Woman's Booksellers - helping to prepare CWS for their biannual book sale by organizing and categorizing books, movies and music

Montclair Neighborhood Development Corporation - Annual Christmas Toy Drive - wrapping and distributing over 200 gifts

Montclair Children's Development Center - Annual Christmas Toy Drive - wrapping and distributing over 200 gifts

Small business lending program - selecting various needs from around the world to lend money. Over 50 loans and \$900 lent. Students learn about researching charities

Produce Donation - average of 50 lbs. of produce grown hydroponically and, in our garden, donated to Toni's Kitchen

Rand Basketball and Skateboard Park - Periodic clean-up of all recyclable materials

Shalom Community Services - Collection of school supplies and stuffed animals to distribute to children in Latin America

Special Projects - Organizing donations for 1st responders \$1,700 and Ukraine relief \$1,000.

Friday Classes: The Friday schedule is a special approach that allow students to expand the work they do in the classroom through field trips, topic exploration, and community service. Sample of classes included: Drama, Art, It's Time To Move, Survivor, Tech 8, Restorative Justice, Let's Recap, and more!

Student Information System (Genesis & Google Classroom): Every teacher uses **Genesis**, the student information system database to enter assignments and grades for students. Students have access to their schedule, grades, report cards, etc. Teachers also use **Google Classroom**, to post assignments, tests, quizzes, and projects. Google classroom is also synced to each students Montclair Public School district provided email address.

Technology: Renaissance Middle School is a 1-to-1 school, meaning, every student has their own Montclair Public School district issued Chromebook/ computer device to assist in their learning. Every classroom has a projector, document camera and a white board. Teachers sign up to go to the technology lab. There is wireless internet connectivity throughout the building. We believe in the idea that it's not just about adding/collecting more and more devices though—it's about the connections we can make with those computers and tablets.

Physical Education: During the winter months when we are confined to the gym, the students participate in sport activities such as volleyball and badminton and also fitness activities such as Yoga, strength exercises and kickboxing. In the spring, the students will once again be outside playing baseball, tennis and basketball, etc. The lessons are often based on 50% sports and 50% fitness.

Band & Music Courses:

Band- 6th Grade (Brass or Woodwinds):

Learn to play a flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, or trombone. This course is open to brand new beginners and early beginners. We will learn to build our music reading skills as well as comfort and competence on our instrument. Students are responsible for renting their instrument for the duration of the course. In our experience, we found 6th graders learn rather quickly. Of course, students will need to put in the time and commitment. However, when they do, the results are fast and exciting!

Band- 7th Grade:

This is a course for students who have at least one year playing experience. Students must possess a basic level of note reading. This ensemble also includes a bass, guitar, and keyboard player, as well as a maximum of two percussionists. (These instruments require an audition.)

Band- 8th Grade:

This is a course for students who have at least two years playing experience. Students must possess a basic level of note reading. This ensemble also includes a bass, guitar, and keyboard player, as well as a maximum of two percussionists.

Additional Music Classes:

Songwriting, Rock Band, & Chorus are all offered based upon the availability in a student's schedule.

Dance Courses:

Dance 6- All 6th grade students will have the opportunity to participate and learn different styles of dance in this introductory course.

Dance 7 & Dance 8- All 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to participate and learn different styles of dance in this grade level dance course.

Dance Company- Learn and perform dance styles and techniques. Also includes how to write a resume, a bio, etc. for auditions day. This year long course is completed with a dance showcase at the end of each semester. *This course is by audition/ teacher approval, only.*

World Language- Every student is enrolled in a World Language course. Below are the options for students in their respective grades for the 2022-2023 School Year.

- Grade 6: Novice French I & Novice Spanish I
- Grade 7: Novice French II & Novice Spanish II
- Grade 8: Novice French III, Novice Spanish III & Latin 8

*Student must stay with the same World Language for all 3 years.

Art: All students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades experience Art within their schedule. Students also have the option to take additional Art classes in the form of electives. Some of those courses are Painting, Medium Exploration, Drawing & Composition or the 8th grade course, Art Portfolio Workshop, which allows a student to submit a portfolio for the advanced Art placement course(s).

Sixth Grade:

Friday Classes include: Community Service, Drama, Health 6, and Reading & Literacy.

Monthly Field Trips that serve as extensions to the 6th grade curriculum include Sandy Hook, Bronx Zoo, Food Bank, Museum of Natural History, Hindu Temple, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Liberty Science Center, Chinatown, and the United Nations.

Seventh Grade:

Friday Classes include: Community Service, Health 7, Let's Recap, Restorative Justice, & Tech 7.

Monthly Field Trips include Camp Mason, Castle Shakespeare (Pax Amicus) for Life and Times of Edgar Allen Poe and later in the Spring, Romeo and Juliet, Sleepy Hollow, Phillipsburg Manor/Sleepy Hollow, Harriman Hike, Jewish Heritage Museum, Harlem Renaissance, Chelsea Art Galleries, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (Harlem Renaissance), Poetry Café, the Great Swamp, Metropolitan Opera, and Philadelphia (overnight).

[Eighth Grade:](#)

Friday classes include: Social Action, Community Service, Its Time To Move, Art 8, Restorative Justice, & Let's Recap.

Math: *Every 8th grade student* will take Algebra at Renaissance. There is also the option of taking Geometry High Honors (a high school level course) should certain criteria be met. At the completion of 8th grade Algebra, the students will be placed into one of five high school math classes. Typically, 20% of the students go into one of the two Algebra II offerings (11th grade math). Another 30% enter 9th grade prepared to take the Algebra I high honors course. The remainder follow the typical high school math curriculum.

Monthly Field Trips include: Lincoln Center, Liberty Science Center, Ellis Island, Tenement Museum, Mineral Mine Museum, Camden Aquarium, Times Square Discovery Center-CSI Exhibit, Shakespeare Theatre's To Kill a Mockingbird, Wall Street Walk, and Washington, D.C. (overnight).