



# Rising Starr Middle School

*Embracing Learning*

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

June 29, 2016

We are busily cleaning the school and preparing experiences for the upcoming year. The first month of summer vacation is over. As the novelty of vacation begins to wear off, you might consider encouraging your students to spend a some time exploring topics of interest to them or working a bit to maintain or improve skills. We have compiled some online resources on the second page of the newsletter. Enjoy the rest of your summer! *NB*

### Lighthouse Schools to Watch Ceremony

June 22-25, 2016, Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Rivard represented Rising Starr Middle School in Washington, D.C. at the *National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform* conference to accept, on behalf of the school, the award for the 4<sup>th</sup> re-designation as a Lighthouse *School to Watch*. Very few schools nationally have received the award four times after their initial designation as a school that continually strives to improve in the areas of academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equitability, and organizational structures.



### Meet the Teacher Process

Due to conflicts with events at Peeples Elementary School and Starr's Mill High School that result in traffic and parking issues, Rising Starr's Meet the Teacher events will be held Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. **These opportunities are NOT drop-in events.** If you want to meet your child's team of teachers, please plan to attend one of the sessions shown below; if you only want to check the team assignment, you can stop by and dash in to see the list. Each team will meet with groups in central locations throughout the school for a 20-30 minute introduction and overview of the team expectations. The team lists and locations of meetings will be prominently displayed that day.

Attend ONE of the sessions below for the Meet the Teacher event.		
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
9:30 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
10 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	3 p.m.
10:30 a.m.		

### Social Media and Children

Social media use is pervasive in our society, and some students have become very savvy at hiding their use from parents. Sadly, it is sometimes necessary to balance privacy concerns with safety concerns. Below are some online resources to help you:

- [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org)
- [www.onlinesafety411.com](http://www.onlinesafety411.com)
- [www.parenting.com](http://www.parenting.com)
- [www.cellphonetracker.net](http://www.cellphonetracker.net)

### Did You Know...

#### HERE'S THE SECRET TO RAISING A SAFE, SMART KID



Common Sense Media offers some excellent advice to parents regarding appropriate use of media. It also includes a link to the *Common Sense Census: Media Use by Tweens and Teens* report <http://bit.ly/RSMSMediaTips>

#### TOP TEN SKILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS NEED TO THRIVE

An article from the *Washington Post* shares the top "soft skills" middle school students need and offers suggestions to parents on developing these skills. As the article states, "As parents, our quest to protect our children can be at odds with their personal growth." Take a look and see what you think. <http://wapo.st/298dd5r>

#### SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

Grade level general supply lists are posted online at [www.rsms.org](http://www.rsms.org). Although each team may have specific requests after students return to school, these lists will help you get started acquiring the supplies.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### August 5

Meet the Teacher (*see article for details*)

##### August 8

1<sup>st</sup> day of school – 8:10 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.

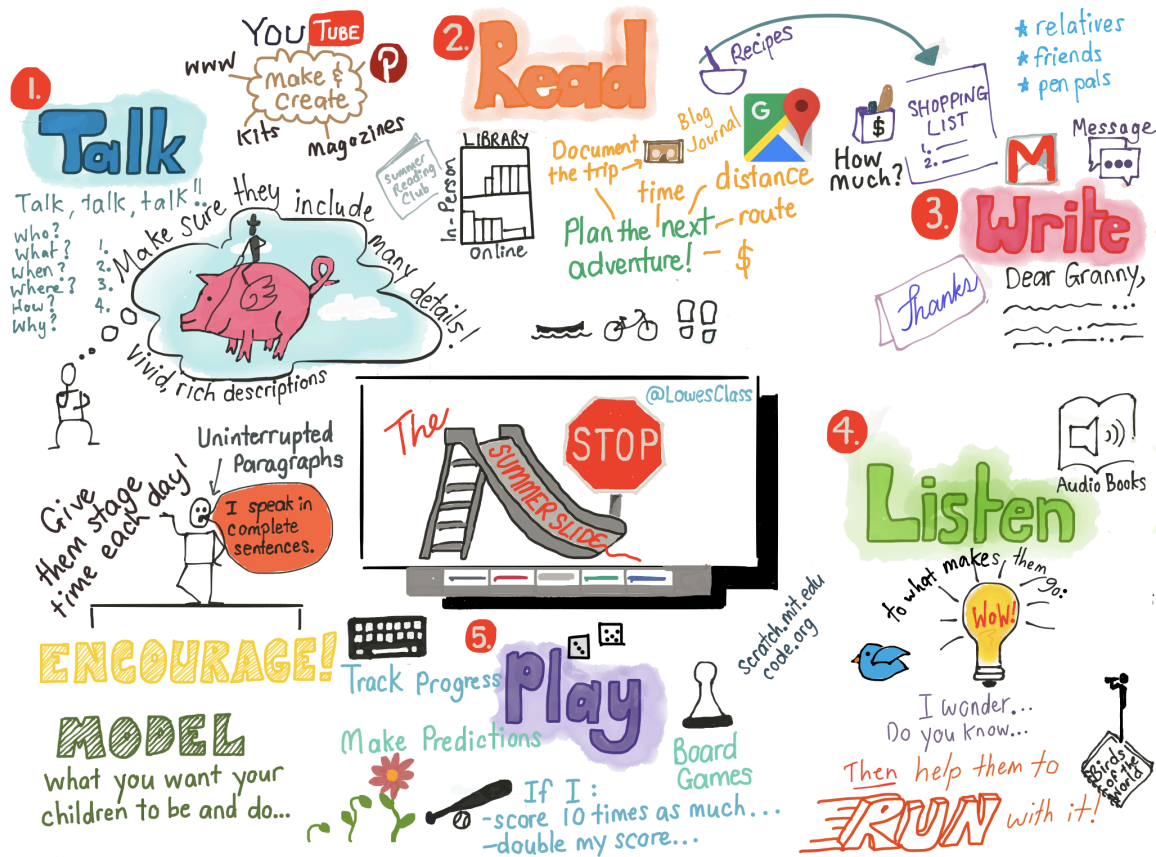
##### August 17

Fall Pictures

*Check the school's website ([rsms.org](http://rsms.org)) for a more comprehensive calendar information.*

*Rising Starr Middle School inspires and prepares students to succeed.*

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Source: <http://lowesclass.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Stop-the-Summer-Slide-3.png>

Students are familiar with many of the websites below. Please encourage them to continue honing their academic skills through practice or encourage their use of skills through individual exploration of a topic of interest.

### Online Resources

- **Math Explorations** via DreamBox <http://www.dreambox.com/>
- **Content Practice** via Moby Max: <http://www.mobymax.com/>
- **Multiple Topics** via Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- **Reading Resources:** <http://www.getgeorgiareading.org/myon2016> -- Over 10,000 free books delivered directly to the reader's computer and/or mobile device(s) April 15-Aug. 31.
- **Reading Lists:** <https://successinthemiddle.org/reading-lists>
- **Free and Fun Summer Learning Opportunities** – list compiled by Edutopia: <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/summer-learning-resources-matt-davis>

### Other Options

- **Intriguing Questions to Prompt Conversations:** <http://minds-in-bloom.com/2010/01/20-question-to-ask-kids.html>
- **Reading Incentive Programs:** Several organizations run reading incentive programs. Some choices include the Braves, the Hawks, Pizza Hut, and public libraries.
- **Kid-Friendly Events in Atlanta:** <http://365atlantafamily.com/52-things-to-do-in-atlanta-this-summer/#.V3PONDkrLZs>