

# Mustang Messenger

Redmond High School PTSA 2.8.100

PTSA Presidents ~ Lois Hiskey and Deena Polk  
Editor – Kristy Yuhas

Volume 29, Issue 1  
October 2008

17272 NE 104th, Redmond, WA 98052  
425-498-7130 [www.lwsd.org/rhs](http://www.lwsd.org/rhs)

## Presidents' Message

Dear Redmond High School families,

Hopefully you and your children have smoothly transitioned into the new school year. There are a lot of things going on at Redmond High to keep us all busy!

If you are reading this Mustang Messenger electronically, thank you for doing your part to help the environment and save the PTSA a huge amount of money. Printing and postage for the newsletter last year ate up 25% of our budget. We'd much rather spend that money on valuable programs for RHS students. Feel free to print the newsletter on your home computer if you would like to share it with family members or keep it handy as a reference. We understand that some families prefer only the paper version, and we therefore always will have our newsletter available by mail upon request and in the school office. See instructions in the "Communications flyer" in this newsletter for how to get future paper copies mailed to you.

We encourage you to become a PTSA member. So far this year, over 550 parents have already signed up and we are aiming for many more. Your support is also needed for our Pass-the-Hat fund drive. **We have not achieved our goal of \$15,000.** This is the only PTSA fundraiser for the year (no gift wrap or cookie dough to distribute!). Last year we purchased tables and benches (soon to be installed) for the courtyard, to give kids the option of eating lunch outdoors. We also purchased supplies for the Chemistry, Social Studies and Foreign Language classes, Library materials, and paid for a workshop for Drama classes. The student agendas that every student received in September are funded by Pass-the-Hat funds, as is the Parent Organizer program subscription, which brings you timely announcements about RHS events. We also financially support a drug and alcohol intervention specialist, provide emergency supplies for every classroom, give \$150 grants to each of the ten academic department, award college scholarships to graduating seniors, provide evening parent programs, etc. **Please show your support for these programs by being generous with Pass-the-Hat!**

PTSA meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Please feel free to attend to hear about the goings-on at RHS. You do not have to have a PTSA job to attend meetings... and we won't give you one unless you want one! Our usual meeting time is 10:30 in the Career Center, but several evening

meetings will be held this year. Look for meeting announcements on ParentOrganizer.

I know you all share our desire to provide the best possible high school experience for our kids. Please get involved....attend parent programs, ask questions, volunteer if you can. So far we have over 200 people signed up to volunteer at RHS! Studies show that parents who are involved with their children's education have kids who are more successful. Let's work together to bring success to all RHS kids.

Go Stangs!!

Lois Hiskey and Deena Polk, PTSA Co-Presidents

### Inside this issue:

PTSA News	2
From the Principal	4
From the Associate Principal	5
Drug/Alcohol Intervention Specialist	5
Counselors' Corner	6-7
Yearbook Information Senior "Grad Night"	8
New Attendance Policy	9-10
Sports, Theatre	11
Calendar of Upcoming Events	12

**RHS PTSA Board****Co-Presidents**

Lois Hiskey ~ 558-4432  
dhiskey@aol.com  
Deena Polk ~ 898-7070  
deenapolk@hotmail.com

**Co-1st Vice Presidents**

Marilyn Polis ~ 883-7396  
s\_polis@msn.com  
Melinda Wilson ~ 882-9432  
jamwilson@msn.com

**2nd Vice President**

Inez Mobley ~ 869-8500  
bmobley@att.net

**Secretary**

Sally Whitaker ~ 885-6779  
the.whitakers@verizon.net

**Treasurer**

Peg Hunt Garing ~ 830-5330  
peghunt@earthlink.net

**Legislation Chair**

Matt Loschen ~ 868-9812  
mattloschen@verizon.net

**Mustang Messenger**

The Mustang Messenger is the newsletter of Redmond High School PTSA. It is published once a month throughout the school year. The purpose of the newsletter is to report information from the PTSA and RHS staff to the school community.

**Newsletter Editor**

Kristy Yuhas—556-5190  
kcyuhas@comcast.net

**Newsletter Production**

Pat Bishop—881-1531  
dbishopjr67@comcast.net  
Vicki Martino—558-7577  
mvmartino@comcast.net

Please submit articles to:  
kcyuhas@comcast.net

**Princeton Review & RHS PTSA**

Present

**ACT vs. SAT**

What are the differences? Which test should I take?

Also

**College Admissions 101**

Wednesday  
October 22, 2008  
7:00 pm  
RHS Library

**Help RHS PTSA Earn MONEY! Shop at Safeway!**

Take the time to enroll in **escrip** and whenever you shop at Safeway, RHS PTSA will earn **MONEY**.

- Log onto [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com). Enter Redmond High School as the Group Name and our Group Number is 8566002.
- Complete the information requested and enter your Safeway Club card number.

Each time you use your Safeway Club card a percentage of your purchases at Safeway will automatically be contributed to RHS PTSA. **Funds** will be used to support **Grad Night**. Sign up today and encourage your friends, family members and neighbors to sign up as well.

**Escrip is now enrolling Macys Cards too!**

**That's it! Your family shops, our PTSA earns MONEY!**

Questions: Contact Deena Polk at [deenapolk@hotmail.com](mailto:deenapolk@hotmail.com) or 425- 898-7070

**PTSA Treasurer's Report**

Thanks to all of the families and faculty who have joined PTSA and donated to "Pass the Hat". At press time, we are still short of our \$15,000 goal. If you have not yet sent in your donation, please make your check payable to RHS PTSA and send to RHS, 17272 NE 104th, Redmond, WA 98052. Don't forget to submit your Matching Funds requests. If your company matches funds for your donations (membership dues aren't eligible), please submit that form to the PTSA Treasurer or on-line through your company's matching fund program.

Thanks again to everyone's generosity. If you donated more than \$50, you will receive a receipt. If you still require a receipt, please e-mail the PTSA Treasurer, Peg Hunt, at [peghunt@earthlink.net](mailto:peghunt@earthlink.net). Thanks again to the generosity of our school community.

**August 2008 Financial Report**

PTSA General Account \$13,702.72  
Grad Night Account \$9,088.13  
Baccalaureate Account \$653.73  
CD Account: \$10,000

More detailed financial reports can be found on the Redmond High School PTSA Website <http://redmondhsptsa.org>

## Redmond High School PTSA Presents:

### LWSD PTSA Special Needs Group

Meeting Agenda for 2008

All meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30pm at the LWSD Resource Building,  
16250 NE 74<sup>th</sup> St, Redmond 98052  
Call 425/702-3200 for directions

Contact Chairperson, Beth Angelo [4bangelo3@verizon.net](mailto:4bangelo3@verizon.net) to receive resource emails, meeting reminders, district special education updates and to access the group's online files and links.

- **Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>** "Organizing for a Successful School Year" presented by Judy Hewitt M. Sp. Ed. Helpful tips for parents to start the year off on the right foot!
- **Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>** WA PAVE (Parents are Vital in Education) Parent Training on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and WA PAVE resources
- **Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>** American Red Cross presentation on disaster and emergency preparedness for people with disabilities, as well as tips from our district nursing supervisor on how to be prepared at school.

RHS PTSA presents

**"Redmond High's Comprehensive Counseling Services"**  
***Counseling, Career Center & Advisory Period***  
**Who Does What**

**Thursday, October 9, in the RHS Career Center 8:30-10:00 a.m.**

The RHS principal, counselors and Career Center specialist will be offering a Q & A session for parents. There will be a brief overview of resources and programs that are available to your student as they navigate high school and prepare for post high school. Learn about the new advisory curriculum that is being introduced this year in an effort to enhance advisory period for all students – "Navigation 101".

If you have any questions about this event, contact Joanne Hall at [jjjahall@juno.com](mailto:jjjahall@juno.com) or Janet Dahl at [jmd@primerecognition.com](mailto:jmd@primerecognition.com)

## From the Principal—*Jane Todd, Principal*

Dear Parents:

First let me say how wonderful it is to be starting another year in this fine Learning Community, working with your children and you!

There are a few new things around RHS this year and I would like to take a moment to highlight them. We have several new staff members: Myra Arnone (Science); Kevin Agnew (Social Studies); Alina Iliescu (Math); Heather Chadwick (Family and Consumer Science); Patrick Ishizuka (Special Education); Emily Watterson (English); Nicole Morton (Psychologist); Carol Hanson (Speech and Language Therapist.) Kirkland Junior High has been gracious in sharing Spanish teacher Ruth Anderson with us. And, after a year without an SRO, Redmond Police Department has placed Paul Edwardsen on our campus. In addition, enough name changes occurred over the summer to confuse us all: Jackie Malsam (nee Bloom); Ashley Northup (nee Doran); Jennifer Martinson (nee Murdock) and Melissa Pointer (nee Routh.)

We have an adjusted bell schedule, with Advisory occurring twice a week on Mondays and Fridays for half an hour each time (generally). When I first joined the staff at RHS, advisors were spending most of their time and energy on Culminating Project, which is a 12<sup>th</sup> grade requirement. While understandable, that emphasis did, in fact, prevent advisory from becoming what it should be: a place where students are guided in their academic, post-secondary and personal/social choices. An appropriate role for advisors is one of advocacy; advisory provides a structure in which every student has an opportunity to learn what educational and career options are available to them, how decisions they make now with regard to academics may affect those options, how to be more involved in their school and their community. In order to achieve that goal, we are using curriculum provided by OSPI. Handouts given to students, the “Advisory at a Glance” calendar, and other pertinent information is available to parents on our website.

Speaking of our website, you may have noticed we have a new one!! Teacher pages will follow, we hope, sometime this year. And we are currently working on an agreement with staff that will guarantee timely and accurate updates to Webgrader.

It has been a smooth beginning, and staff and students seem happy and settled. I think back, sometimes, to my first year here two years ago and my goal to encourage communication between the school and the community. That is still (and always will be) a goal of mine, but judging from the number of e-mails I get from students and parents, I think we’re making progress! I would continue to encourage you to let me know when you have a concern or a complaint, as well as, of course, when things have worked just fine! Problems can almost always be solved with good, early communication (before tempers flare) and I consider it both a responsibility and a privilege to be of service in helping to make this a model of an efficient and effective educa-

tional institution for the sake of your children.

Sincerely,  
Jane

### Attention RHS Volunteers!

Time to apply or renew your application to volunteer in the district? You may have received a postcard or email if you have filled one out two years ago. The district requires all volunteers in our LWSD schools to fill out a volunteer application. Once approved, you are OK to volunteer in ANY school in the district for two years. The district is making it very easy to do this. Below is an excerpt taken directly from the Lake Washington School District website. You can go directly to that website or you can do it through Parent Access. It can be submitted electronically or by mail, if you wish.

Thank you for taking the time to do this! Even if you just work in the Concession Stands at a sport event it is best to get your volunteer status officially cleared. It’s for the safety of our students!

Online Volunteer Application for Parents ~ <http://www.lwsd.org>

Parents can apply or renew their approval status through Parent Access ~ All Lake Washington School District volunteers must go through a screening process, for the safety of students and the volunteers alike. This year, parents will be able to fill out their volunteer applications online through the secure Parent Access site. Parents who want to use this online application and do not yet have a Parent Access user name and password can visit the new [user page](#) for information on how to sign up.

Many thanks,

Inez Mobley and Barb Nappen  
PTSA Volunteer Coordinators

## Thank You PTSA Volunteers—*Lloyd Higgins, Associate Principal*

When the students of Redmond High School concluded their summer vacations, the process of returning to school to pay fees, take pictures for their ID cards and pick up class schedules were required steps prior to their official start of classes. Once again to our absolute delight, the wonderful parents and members of the PTSA answered the call. They seamlessly facilitated those two August Registration Days and provided indispensable assistance for a smooth operation for nearly 1500 students. In fact, the first day of 'FEES and PHOTOS' went so well, everyone was surprised when the photographers told us over 400 seniors had taken pictures. There was not a line or a backup all day. This was due in part to the number of volunteers on hand.

On the two first days of school in September, all students had their class schedules in hand and were off to their orientation or classes by 7:30am. This could have only been accomplished by the number of dedicated PTSA volunteers who calmly answered wide-eyed sophomore questions and imparted assurance to cool juniors and seniors concerns.

The students and staff at Redmond High appreciate and recognize the fact that we are truly not a learning community without

the commitment to excellence of our parents. On behalf of the students and staff, I thank you for always answering when we call. I also want to apologize in advance if I happen to miss anyone who helped out in August or September.

Providing valuable assistance to our new bookkeeper Randi Grimm in the bookkeeping office and Fayette Radoll in the student store were RHS staff members Pam Drake, Cyndi Campbell and Sandy Ryan.

PTSA parent volunteers:

Anna Tucker, Vicki Martino, Jenny Danowski, Pat Bishop, Jane Thomas, Sue Schumaker, Lois Hiskey, Tammy Lord, Kathleen Fiander, Jill Jaccard, Melinda Wilson, Marilyn Polis, Joanne Hall, Robin Adler, Linda Burke, Caryn Wheat, Becky Muncell, Elaine Purcell, Peg Hunt, Wendy Swanson, Jackie Kroon, Sheri Sanders, Amy Weisner, Laura Jones, Gayle Di Iorio, Carrie Ulvestad, Pam Yoder, Diana Farrow, Cara Byrne, Chris Torkelson, Caolyn Cottam, Cindy Swanson, Shelly Schur, Barb Hernacki, Co-Volunteer Coordinators Inez Mobley and Barb Nappen.

And finally, a special thank you to the entire RHS Cheerleading squad.

### Thanks for the Help!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers, who are mentioned below, who so graciously volunteered their time to put our parent/student August mailing packets together on Monday, August 4, 2008. I realize that this is a busy time of the year; this task could not be completed in just a few hours without your generous gift of time to help.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Barbara Nappen for making the calls to secure the volunteers and to Randi Grimm, our new Bookkeeper, for supervising for me this year.

Thank you, again.

Linda Simpson, Office Manager

Inez Mobley	Barb Nappen	Joanie Chinn	Keisha Chinn	Lisa Wylie	Joanne Hall
Sue Schumaker	Sheri Sanders	Elaine Purcell	Theresa Funaro	Lori Burrows	Leah Lambert
Sally Whitaker	Rosemary O'Connell	Deena Polk	Bonnie Ellis	Celeste Lavender	
Laura Jones	Vicki Martino				

## Substance Abuse

The beginning of the school year is a good time to review your family's rules regarding teen substance abuse. Adolescents today are faced with many challenges and choices. Peer influence and the need to feel part of a group may lead to substance abuse. It is important that you set clear boundaries of what is/isn't acceptable regarding alcohol and other drugs. This allows teens to make choices and to learn life experiences when those choices don't work for them. Having consequences in place before use becomes a problem, can eliminate confusion if you are faced with this issue. **Experimental use of a substance is 2-3 times, beyond that it is considered substance abuse.** If you

suspect your teen is involved with substance abuse, it is important to seek out a trained, qualified adolescent substance abuse counselor. This will allow you to discuss options available to you.

As the Drug/Alcohol Intervention Specialist, I am at Redmond High School on Tuesdays and Fridays. My role is to be a support person for students, parents and staff around issues involving alcohol or other drugs.

Tena Youngberg, CDP,CCDC  
RHS Tues/Fri 425-498-7171

## Counselors' Corner

### NUTS & BOLTS

Your student will be able to see his/her counselor by signing up in the appointment book with our secretary, Nancy LaBrie (425-498-7134). A slip will then be sent to the classroom at the appointed time.

Students are assigned counselors based on their last name.

A-E	CHERYL DENNIS
F-Ld	JENNIFER MARTINSON (MURDOCK)
Le-Rh	ELLEN ZAMBROWSKY-HULS
Ri-Z	ANITA PAGE

Cathy Sindelar is our data processor. For grading information or changing addresses and phone numbers, please call her at 425-498-7134.

### PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

In keeping with our commitment to learn as much as we can to help your students with the college application process, the RHS counselors recently attended the NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling) Convention in Seattle. They were able to attend workshops and network with college admitting official from all over the country and brought back a wealth of information to share that will benefit Redmond High School students.

### SENIOR SEMINARS

Over the last few weeks RHS seniors attended a senior seminar during advisory where timelines to follow were discussed. At that time each senior was given a copy of the RHS Post High School Planner. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the information in the Senior Handbook that was distributed during advisory. If your senior misplaced their handbook it will soon be posted on the RHS website for your reference!

### SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Students interested in scholarships need to check the Scholarship Bulletin, available in the Counseling Center and Career Center and secure the necessary application forms.

### PSAT

This year RHS is offering the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) to all sophomores and juniors!

- **Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2008**
- **Where: Redmond High School**
- **Cost: \$15.00- payable to RHS, sign up with the RHS Bookkeeper.**

Benefits for students taking the PSAT:

\*The PSAT encourages students to start planning for life after high school. The score report gives students personalized and comprehensive feedback on their test performance, including

suggestions on how to improve specific academic skills.

\*Students receive "My College QuickStart™", a free personalized college planning kit based on their test results, which they will be able to access until they graduate high school. It includes a customized SAT study plan with complete practice test, personalized list of colleges, based on the student's location and preferred major, personalized lists of majors and careers and access to MyRoad™, an interactive majors, college, and career exploration program.

\*On average, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT earn higher scores on the SAT than those who do not.

By taking the test, juniors may qualify to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation's scholarship competitions, as well as programs that give special recognition to high-achieving Hispanic and African American students.

\*Student Search Service™ gives PSAT/NMSQT takers the option to receive free admission and financial aid information from colleges, universities, and scholarship programs.

\*The PSAT/NMSQT assesses critical reading, mathematics and writing skills that are important for success in college. The program promotes earlier and more expansive inclusion of students to increase their college-going aspirations while there is still time for students to effectively plan and prepare (especially important for sophomores).

❖ **Remember- The PSAT will be given only one time, Wednesday, October 15, 2008. The test fee is \$15.00. Sign up with the RHS Bookkeeper. Registration has already started. Please register as soon as possible.**

### FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

On November 12th, at 7:00 pm, RHS will sponsor a financial aid workshop in the RHS Performing Arts Center. We will have a guest speaker who will explain the philosophy behind financial aid and how the final parental contribution figure is deduced. Parents will also be walked through the FAFSA's more difficult questions. This presentation by Making It Count was well received last year and parents of all grade levels are invited to attend.

### COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Remember that seniors are responsible for mailing college applications or using the college website to send applications online. In addition, it is the student's responsibility to contact ACT and/or the College Board to order test scores. **SENIORS NEED TO REQUEST TRANSCRIPTS EARLY FROM THE COUNSELING CENTER. TURN AROUND TIME IS 3 SCHOOL DAYS FOR**

**TRANSCRIPTS. TURN AROUND TIME FOR SCHOOL/COUNSELOR REPORTS AND LETTERS OF RECOMENDATION IS MINIMUM OF 2 WEEKS. MAIL EARLY. DON'T WAIT UNTIL DEADLINES!!**

### RESOURCES

As your senior begins to search for colleges, there are several web sites that will make the process easier and more efficient. As the counselors travel to various seminars over the next month we will be updating our website, so please check it for the latest resources, including how to find schools, NCAA eligibility, scholarships, and test sites.

### TEST DATES FOR 2008-2009

### OUR RHS CODE IS 480-978

	Test Date	Registration Deadline
<b>SAT</b>	November 1, 2008	September 26, 2008
	December 6, 2008	November 5, 2008
	January 24, 2009	December 26, 2008
	March 14, 2009	February 10, 2009
	May 2, 2009	March 31, 2009
	June 6, 2009	May 15, 2009
<b>ACT</b>	December 13, 2008	November 7, 2008
	February 7, 2009	January 6, 2009
	April 14, 2009	February 27, 2009
	June 13, 2009	May 8, 2009

### DATES TO REMEMBER

September 28-29	National College Fair at Convention Center in Seattle (Sept. 28 12:00pm-4:00pm, Sept. 29 9:00am- 12:00pm)
October 15	PSAT; RHS
October 23	ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)-Testing occurs here at RHS. See Mrs. Davidson in the Career Center for information
October 30	Last day of 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter
November 12	Financial Aid Night for Redmond High School, 7 p.m., Performing Arts Center
January 1	File online FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1
January 23	Last day of 1 <sup>st</sup> semester
April 10	Last day of 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter
May 4 – May 15	Advanced Placement Exams
June 11	Graduation
June 16	Last Day of School

### The Colleges are coming!

The college schedule is posted on the RHS website and will be updated weekly. To access the college visit schedule go to the RHS website. On the main menu you can select "Parent or Student information and then follow the Career Center options. If you are interested in attending a college presentation, stop by the Career Center and sign up.

Also, remember to take a look at the additional Career Center links such as "Current Opportunities."

# Yearbook Information

**Parents: Senior Tribute ads** are being accepted by the yearbook staff.

Please email Mrs. Mauck at [jmauck@lwsd.org](mailto:jmauck@lwsd.org) with the size you want to reserve. The deadline for payment and ad submission is **January 20, 2009.**

**Directions for senior tribute ads:**

Dimensions:

¼ page is 4 inches wide by 5 tall **\$70**

½ page is 8 inches wide by 5 tall **\$130**

Full page is 8 inches wide by 10 ½ tall **\$250**

**All the ads are in color!**

**Submission methods:**

1. Parents make up the ad on their computer camera ready and

submit a printed copy on high quality paper to us. We just put a sticker on it and mail it in!

2. Parents give us a sketch of the ad and the words they'd like to use. Our staff members try to follow the directions as best they can. We'll call if there's a question. Pictures are submitted loosely and we tell the company where they go in the ad. Pictures can be reduced or enlarged by the company as long as they're proportional. Pictures are returned in the spring after the book comes out. They're undamaged.

3. Parents make up the ad on their computer and submit it digitally or on a cd. A few rules for this type of submission: pictures should be 300 dpi. We can accept the following formats: Photoshop, InDesign, Jpeg, TIFF, or PPD. The yearbook company will not accept digital ads in Word, Publisher, or Power Point.



## Attention Senior Parents



### Senior "Grad Night" Celebration 2009

Now is a good time to start thinking about senior graduation because as you may have experienced, the past twelve years seemed to have lasted about ten minutes.

**This preliminary notice will tell you five very important things:**

1. The RHS PTSA-sponsored "Grad Night 2009" is **Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>** following commencement.
2. The tickets cost \$110.00 until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Then they will go up to \$135.00 through February and \$140.00 thereafter. **(Yes, it's expensive, but we keep them safe, sane and entertained all night long.)** Buy early, beat the rush, makes a great gift with a nice certificate, too!
3. We need volunteers from pre- party planning to chaperones for the night of the event. A meeting will be held in early January to gather volunteers and form committees.
4. We especially need you as well as your friends and family to enroll in eScrip. This program rebates a percentage of all Safeway purchases back to Redmond High PTSA. Log on to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) . Enter Redmond High School as your group name, and our group number is 8566002. Complete the information requested and enter your Safeway Club number. This is an easy and profitable way to fundraise.
5. Tickets will be sold on Thursday, **Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and Dec.11<sup>th</sup> during lunch.** You may also order tickets by sending your check payable to RHS Grad Night with the coupon below to: **Melinda Wilson at 22707 NE 142nd Place Woodinville, WA 98077.** Your receipt will be your ticket and will be mailed to you. Thank you.

**Questions:** Contact: Deena Polk at (425) 898-7070 or [deenapolk@hotmail.com](mailto:deenapolk@hotmail.com) or

Melinda Wilson at (425) 882-9432 or [jamwilson@msn.com](mailto:jamwilson@msn.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

Senior's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in helping? \_\_\_\_\_

## New Attendance Policy Highlights

During the 2007-2008 school year, a committee of staff members and parents met to review current RHS attendance policies to determine their effectiveness. The committee also analyzed RHS attendance data and discipline data trends. Through this analysis, it became evident that absenteeism was a significant problem at RHS that was having a negative impact on learning. The committee strongly believes that students cannot maximize their educational experience when they are absent because a significant amount of teaching and learning takes place during class time and can not be duplicated at home. This belief led the committee to review attendance policies from several neighboring schools in the Northshore, Issaquah, and Bellevue School districts, in order to assist us in the development of a new RHS policy that would encourage improved attendance. A detailed copy of the new policy can be found on the RHS website and in the student and parent handbooks that will be available in the Fall of 08. Below are a few of the most significant changes to the previous policy. Changes have listed in **BOLD print**. It is important to note that these new policies are not intended to be an imposition on students or parents. They were developed to improve student attendance and ultimately student learning.

### Reporting Absences

The parent or legal guardian of any student who is absent from class is requested to leave a phone message with the school Attendance Office at (425) 498-7140 *within 24 hours* of the absence to **\*explain the circumstances around an absence**. If the parent is aware of an impending absence, please call to notify the school in advance.

- Using the chart below and professional judgment, **the school will determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused. The parent will be responsible for explaining the circumstances around the absences NOT determining whether the absence was excused or unexcused.**

Examples of Excused Absences	Examples of Unexcused Absences
* Illness or medical emergency (in certain instances, a doctor's note may be required to verify the absence)	<b>Oversleeping</b>
Religious Observance	<b>Traffic problems</b>
Family Emergencies	<b>Missing the bus</b>
Pre-arranged medical and dental appointments	<b>Staying home to do homework</b>
Counseling appointments	<b>Job training or work related absences</b>
School related field trips (special school programs, pre-arranged community service activities, or school activities)	<b>Student providing childcare for younger siblings</b>
College visits	<b>Taking drivers test</b>
Required court proceedings	<b>Shopping for prom dress</b>
* Family vacations (only if Vacation policy is followed. See below for details)	<b>Taking pet to veterinarian</b>

### Family Vacation Policy

We recognize there are many reasons why a family may choose to take their student out of school on a vacation; however, students cannot maximize their educational experience when they are absent. Family vacations **must be prearranged in order to be considered excused**. The Prearranged Arranged Absence form must be completed and turned in **5 schools days prior to the absence**. **Failure to follow the procedure will result in the absence being reported as unexcused.**

*Continued on next page*

## New Attendance Policy Highlights (continued)

### Discipline Consequences For Unexcused Absences

Unexcused Absences (In any class, irrespective of class period missed, per semester)	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	Administrative Designee will meet with student to
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	<b>Administrator will assign detention. For 3<sup>rd</sup> unexcused absence, administrator will notify student that the next unexcused absence will result in a parent meeting.</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Offense	<b>Administrator will hold a parent meeting and notify student and parents that subsequent unexcused absences will result in suspension from school at a progressive rate</b>
5+	<b>Suspension from school at a progressive rate</b>

### Tardy Policy

Tardy (Per Class, Per Semester)	Consequence
1-2	Teacher consequences
3	Referral to office. Administrator will assign detention and notify student that the next tardy will result in a parent meeting
4	<b>Administrator will hold a parent meeting and notify student and parents that subsequent tardies will result in suspension at a progressive rate and future tardies will be converted to unexcused absences at a rate of 3=1 (3 tardies = 1</b>
5+	<b>Suspension at a progressive rate and every 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy will be converted to 1 unexcused absence.</b>

## DECA

DECA is an international leadership association of marketing students that provides unique opportunities for students to learn professional and life skills that will be beneficial to them in the years to come. Area, state, and international competitions as well as leadership conferences let students demonstrate their knowledge about the business world and allow them to gain life experiences and make connections with thousands of other marketing students. Washington's first DECA conference is the Fall Leadership Conference on October 26-28 at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue.

Redmond DECA experienced one of its most successful years last spring as Redmond took home three first place finishes at the International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. This year looks even more hopeful with over 160 members and an outstanding Executive Board headed by Chairman Jillian Jaccard, President of Finance Dylan McBride, President of Business Partnerships Landon Sach, and President of DECA Events Collin Neff. Redmond DECA is off to a promising start with the planning of events such as Citizenship Week, a time when students who are 18 years old can register to vote. The Executive Board is also hard at work with the coordinating of multiple blood drives and the organizing of booths for Round-Up during Homecoming Week. So far, it looks like an exciting and successful year is in store for Redmond DECA.

Paige Mullins, Baily Mullins  
Public Relations Officers

## Sports, Theatre

### Cross Country

The Cross Country team has 70 boys and girls on the team and is off to a great start. In the pre-season poll, the girls are ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> and the boys 4<sup>th</sup> in the State.

Aiden Irish, Tyler Dougherty, Jillian Jaccard, and Sarah Lord are this year's captains. Cross country is a no tryout, no cut, every-one participates, no previous experience required, coed sport. We will have one home meet on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> against LW, Juanita, and Eastlake at Hartman Park.

### Easy Access To All Sports Schedules For RHS

Want to easily view schedules for your students sports at Redmond High School? Would you like to receive emails that automatically update you with latest changes? It's easy to do by following these steps.

- First visit the newly updated RHS website <http://www.redmondmustangs.com/>
- Now click on the **Parents** tab. Then click on Activities > Athletics.
- Click on RHS Sports Calenders and VIEWMYSCHEDULE will come up. You'll see choices for team/activities and also there's an icon for "**add/remove me from E-mail Distribution (when events change)**". Fill that out if you choose, and customize what sports you want to receive automatic emails from if schedules change. Very handy!

This link also allows you to print out any sports schedule for Redmond High school.

### RHS Theatre Arts Fall Comedy: *Noises Off*

*The New York Times* called it "a spectacularly funny, peerless backstage farce," when it won awards on the West End and Broadway. Now Michael Frayn's *Noises Off* is coming to the PAC! Director Misty Carson's production will feature a rotating set that reveals the onstage talents and backstage antics of an ill-starred theatre company. Make sure you get your dose of laughter before the flu season starts!

Performances:

November 6, 7, 8 and 13, 14, 15 at 7pm in the Performing Arts Center

For more information and tickets, visit [www.redmondrama.org](http://www.redmondrama.org)

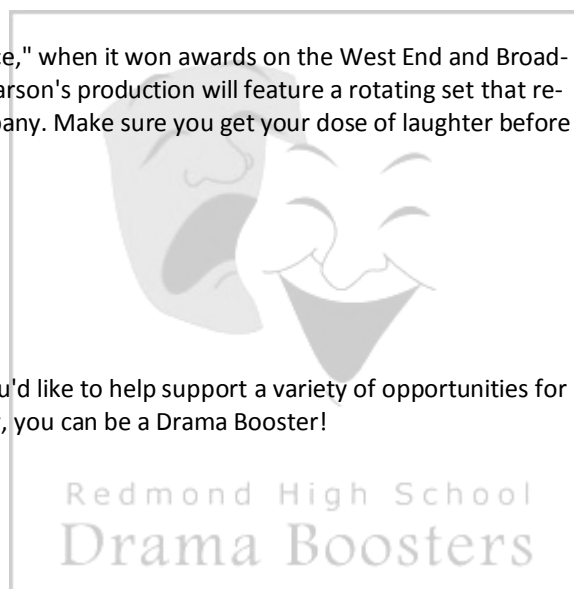
#### RHS Drama Boosters News

"Parents have a role to play, too" is the motto of RHS Drama Boosters. If you'd like to help support a variety of opportunities for students to participate in Theatre Arts in the Redmond Learning Community, you can be a Drama Booster!

Some of the activities Boosters plan for this year:

- *Coordinate rehearsal meals during tech week for productions*
- *Help host regional Individual Events Festival*
- *Sponsor fundraising to help families afford trips like Spring Break in New York City for 9-12 graders, State Thespian Conference in Bellingham, and International Thespian Festival*

For a schedule of meetings and more information, visit [www.redmondrama.org](http://www.redmondrama.org) and click on "Drama Boosters Enter Here."



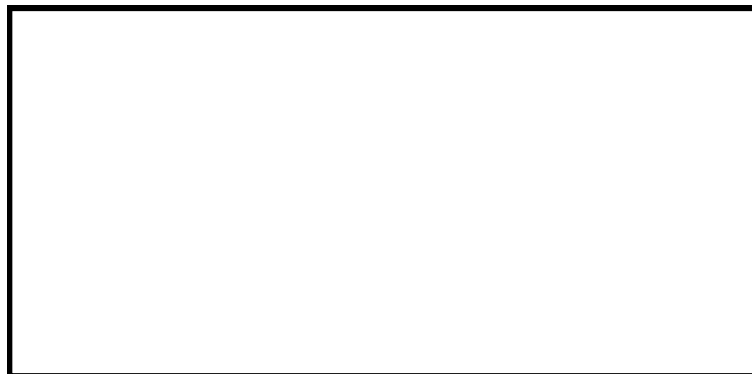
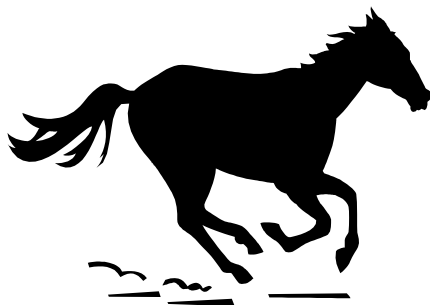
# Mustang Messenger

Redmond High School PTSA  
17272 NE 104th St.  
Redmond, WA 98052  
425-498-7130

---

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Redmond, WA  
Permit No. 13

---



## RHS Calendar of Upcoming Events

*(Dates subject to change, please be sure to check the PTSA website at [redmondhsptsa.org](http://redmondhsptsa.org) or  
the school website at [lwsd.org/rhs](http://lwsd.org/rhs))*

Saturday	Sept. 27	Mock Act Practice Test	Cafeteria	9:00am
Wednesday	Oct. 1	Amazing Hypnosis Show	PAC	7:00pm
Wednesday	Oct. 8	PTSA Board Meeting	Career Center	10:30am
Wednesday	Oct. 8	ACT Scores Back Session	Cafeteria	6:30pm
Thursday	Oct. 9	Comprehensive Counseling	Career Center	8:30am
Wednesday	Oct. 15	PSATs	TBA	
Friday	Oct. 17	Homecoming Football Game	RHS Field	7:00pm
Saturday	Oct. 18	Homecoming Dance	RHS Gym	9:00pm
Wednesday	Oct. 22	ACT vs. SAT Seminar	Library	7:00pm
Thursday	Oct. 30	Last Day of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter		
Friday	Oct. 31	No School, LEAP Day		
Wednesday	Nov. 12	PTSA Board Meeting	Career Center	10:30am
Wednesday	Nov. 12	Financial Aid Night	PAC	7:00pm