

Visible Thinking at Reuther Middle School

Over the past three years Reuther Middle School has transitioned into a Culture of Thinking School. Cultures of Thinking is an environment where thinking is valued, visible, and actively promoted on a daily basis. It is only by making students thinking visible that we can begin to understand both what and how our students are learning. By using thinking routines we are able to make thinking more visible and foster a better thinking and learning environment.

Why a Culture of Thinking?

The mission of Reuther Middle School is to ensure learning for ALL students. In order to teach effectively and achieve our mission, teachers need to recognize the needs of today's learners:

Critical Thinking	Effective Communication	Identify Understanding
Collaboration	Curiosity	Evaluate Evidence
Solve Problems	Make Decisions	Analyze Information

"Children grow into the intellectual life around them."
- Lev Vygotsky

CULTURAL FORCES THAT SHAPE OUR CLASSROOM

THE 8 CULTURAL FORCES TEACHERS FOCUS ON THAT SUPPORT A RICH LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Language

Using language of thinking that provides students with the vocabulary for describing and reflecting on thinking.

Time

Allocating time for thinking by providing time for exploring topics more in depth as well as time to formulate thoughtful responses.

Expectations

Setting an agenda of understanding and conveying clear expectations. Focusing on the value for thinking and learning as outcomes as opposed to mere completion of "work."

Modeling

Modeling of who we are as thinkers and learners so that the process of our thinking is discussed, shared, and made visible.

Interactions

Showing a respect for and valuing of one another's contributions of ideas and thinking in a spirit of ongoing collaborative inquiry.

Opportunities

Providing purposeful activities that require students to engage in thinking and the development of understanding as part of their ongoing experience of the classroom.

Environment

Making thinking visible by displaying the process of thinking and development of ideas. Arranging the space to facilitate thoughtful interactions.

Routines

Scaffolding students' thinking in the moment as well as providing tools and patterns of thinking that can be used independently.



Welcome to Reuther Middle School



Cheryl A. Gambaro, Principal
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Reuther Ensures Learning for ALL Students!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Cheryl A. Gambaro

Welcome to Reuther Middle School! Everyone at Reuther is so very proud of the learning environment that we have created. Our highly qualified staff are practitioners of best practice educational strategies that are proven to enhance student learning. Collaboration among colleagues and opportunities for all staff to engage in professional development are part of our normal work environment.

We have created a Culture of Thinking which values and challenges our student's thinking. We believe in addressing the whole child and creating lifelong learning opportunities. We encourage students to participate in our Goal Achievement Program (GAP). The GAP allows all students the opportunity to earn points in four important areas: academics, citizenship, extracurricular activities, and community service. We are proud to say that Reuther students participated in over 1000 hours of community service last year.

Our mission is to create a culture of thinking where students learn through authentic, intellectual activities. Students learn to solve problems, make decisions, evaluate evidence, develop curiosity, and identify new understanding. Why use best practice? We use routines and strategies as tools that provide structure for students to collectively as well as individually initiate, explore, discuss, document, and manage their thinking.

Please enjoy reading this brochure. It cannot possibly include all the wonderful things that happen at our school, but it certainly gives you a good idea of what an extraordinary place Reuther Middle School is!

Reuther Athletics Program

Seventh and eighth grade students are eligible to participate in athletics. There are four different seasons throughout the year that offer a variety of sports.

FALL: Lightweight & Heavyweight Football, Girls Basketball, Girls Cheerleading

WINTER I: Boys Basketball, Girls Cheerleading

WINTER II: Wrestling, Girls Volleyball

SPRING: Boys & Girls Track

Athletics are a great way for your child to get involved in school. Nearly one-third of all Reuther students are involved in athletics every year. Athletics also offer a great way to stay physically fit and make new friends!

Crusader Code

Be Responsible

Be Respectful

Be Safe

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. What is the total enrollment at Reuther Middle School?
A. Approximately 650 students.
- Q. What is the average class size?
A. Approximately 30 students.
- Q. Do you offer any advanced classes?
A. We offer advanced language arts and math in the 6th-8th grades (Advanced ELA and Math brochures available).
- Q. How do you help the incoming 6th grade students transition to middle school?
A. In the spring, Brooklands, Hamlin, and Hampton 5th grade students are invited for a presentation and tour of Reuther Middle School. If your child does not attend one of those schools, they are welcome to come and be a part of that day's presentation. Also, in the spring parents are invited to a 6th grade orientation in the evening. During August, parents attend a summer registration at which time students are invited to a welcome orientation as well as being allowed time to walk through the building, find their classrooms, and practice their locker combinations. All new students, at any time during the year, are welcome to come to Reuther to speak with a counselor and have a tour.

A new student orientation is also offered for all grade levels during Registration.

- Q. Are world languages offered at the middle school?
A. Yes, 7th grade students participate in a required language exploratory class which includes French, Spanish, German and Chinese. In 8th grade, students can elect to take a full year of any of these languages. This full year course is the equivalent of the first year of high school language course and counts as high school credit.
- Q. Do you have academic support programs in place?
A. We have several academic support programs in place in Reuther, including our Learning Center, Math Labs, Strategic Reading, after school Homework Help, working lunches, and one-on-one paraprofessional support.
- Q. My child plays an instrument. Do you have a music program?
A. We offer band and choir in the 6th-8th grade. Band includes percussion, woodwinds, brass, and band competitions.
- Q. Do you offer extracurricular activities?
A. We have after school clubs such as Science Olympiad, Automotive Design, Math Club, Rachel's Challenge, Ski Club, Yearbook Club, and Intramurals. We also have a very active Student Council.

Learning Center

The Reuther Learning Center program provides learning support for students who need additional help in their academic classes. Students are scheduled into the Learning Center for one period a day to receive focused support in math and/or reading, through the use of our SuccessMaker software program, one-on-one academic support and small group support. SuccessMaker focuses on individual targeted areas of difficulty from past years, while the individual one-on-one/group instruction focuses more on current concepts through reinforcing the lessons, test review and homework support. Organization and planner use is also addressed during this period. Additionally our AIMSweb progress monitoring tool is used to determine instructional needs of students so that areas of difficulty can be identified and individualized lessons created. Rochester Community Schools is one of the few districts that offers this level of support for general education students because our mission is to ensure learning for ALL students.



Scheduled Assessments

The following standardized tests are administered at the middle school level:
~ 6th , 7th and 8th grades M-Step Assessments

District level Common Assessments are given in the academic areas throughout the school year. New students who enter after the start of the school year will be administered tests for math and language arts for placement purposes.

Staff Accomplishments

- 2014 Middle School Principal of the Year
- Published in Principal Leadership
- Received MEEMIC & Pino Ins. Company Excellence in Education Awards
- Presented various Reuther programs at state conferences
- Modeled Intervention program for other school districts
- Consulted for State Core Curriculum Math Literacy units
- Published in “Supporting Students in the Time of Common Core State Standards”
- Staff trained in MI-Class literacy strategies
- Staff trained in Visible Thinking Routines



Points of Pride

Academic Points of Pride

- Educator Excellence Award Winners
- Highly Qualified and Caring Staff
- High Grades on the Michigan Report Card
- Excellent State Assessment Scores in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
- Placed in the top12 schools in the Michigan Math League Competition
- Extensive Honor Roll Participants
- Advanced Math and Language Arts Courses



Student Accomplishments

- National Geographic Geography Bee state qualifier
- Howard Scripps Spelling Bee winners
- Local and State PTSA “Reflections” winners
- Participated in the 8th Grade Women’s History Month Essay Contest sponsored by American Association of University Women
- Presidential Physical Fitness Awards
- National Physical Fitness winners
- Automotive Design Competitors
- Robotics Competition Winners
- Science Olympiad Winners
- Michigan Math League Winners
- Band Festival—Division 1 winners
- Choral Festival—Excellent Ratings
- MSBOA All State Band Participants
- Scholastic Art Competition
- District Art Show Participants



**GIVE TO THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE AND THE BEST
WILL COME BACK TO YOU! Madeline Bridge**

Technology Enhances Learning

Students and parents of Reuther Middle School have access to a wide variety of technological tools that enhance and facilitate the learning process as well as provide a communication link between home and school. These tools include:

- Three computer labs
- Media Center with computer lab
- Classroom I-Pads
- Wireless laptop carts
- Classroom computer stations
- Classroom SmartBoards
- Classroom Response Systems
- E-Books
- Playaways—books in digital format
- Online Databases-Grolier, eLibrary, SIRS Discoverer, Info Trac
- Gale Virtual Reference Library and Michigan Electronic Library
- Reuther Book Blog
- Twelve Sphero 2.0 balls—creates an exciting learning foundation in programming
- Four makey makey kits—Turn everyday objects into touchpads and combine them with the internet
- littleBits workshop set— library of electronic modules that snap together with magnets so you can invent anything!
- **Document cameras**
- **Flip cameras**
- **News Broadcast Equipment**
- **Data projectors**
- **Wireless School-Wide Network**
- **Google Apps for Education school district**
- **myRCS—a parent resource for grades, attendance, student data, etc.**
- **EasyBib—an online research tool utilized in grades 6-12**
- **Moodle—blended learning platform**
- **Teacher websites**
- **School Messenger, an electronic email communication tool**
- **Web 2.0 teacher communication tools such as EdModo and Remind101**

School Activities

Getting your child involved in school is easy at Reuther. We offer many programs and activities that enhance education!

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors In April Program • Court-In-School • Guest Speakers - including Civil War Presentation, Native American Presentation • Career Exploration • Student Council • Choir and Band Concerts • Pep Band • Annual Talent Show • Community Service Projects • Homework Help • Peer Tutoring • Intramurals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science Olympiad • Automotive Design Challenge • Math Club • Math Competitions • Ski Club • Rachel's Challenge-Chain Links Club • School Dances • Annual Field Trips • MakerSpace in media center • Morning News Broadcast Team • March Reading Month • Read-A-Latte (5th Grade Program) |
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Parent Involvement

Reuther Middle School offers many ways to be involved in your child's education and school activities, some of which are listed below:

- Check their planner, ask about homework, and stay connected with teachers.

**Parents should ask their student,
"LET ME SEE YOUR HOMEWORK"
instead of
"DO YOU HAVE HOMEWORK?"**

- Parents can be a part of our Culture of Thinking by going to our website and trying one of our 9 apps for parents.
- PTSA offers a variety of activities to support your middle school student such as honor roll recognition, fundraisers, Authors in April program, Ice Cream Social, 8th Grade Farewell, Newsletter & Student Directory Publications, Rachel's Challenge, Office & Media Support, the Reflections Contest, and Staff Appreciation Luncheons.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Night • Parent-Teacher Conferences • Community Service Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands Alive Open House Awards Night • Field Trips
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Every day is a great day to be a Crusader!