

RJEMS MONTHLY



To inform, entertain, and advocate for the student body.

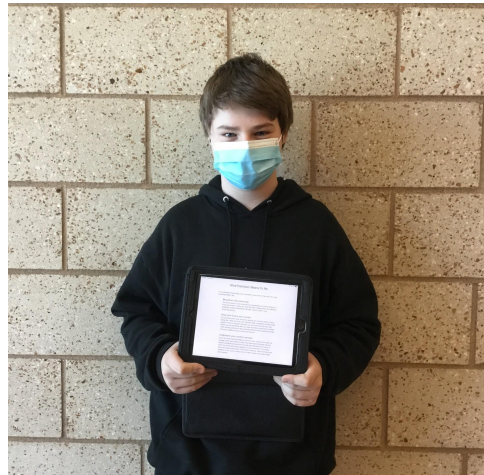
Patriot's Pen Essay Winner

By Genna Huisinga

"To me, Patriotism is about listening to your country's history. Often the bad things teach us the most in history. Patriotism should motivate people to vote, to help others, to attend gatherings, to pick up trash, (if you see any), and to help people in need. At the end of the day, Patriotism is about being the best you can be and helping your country and your fellow countrymen do the same!"

This is a piece taken from Jaden Lehmborg's Patriot's Pen essay. Jaden won the local and district VFW competitions, and his essay moved on to the state competition. If you want to read more of his essay, you can view the entire paper by clicking the link to the right.

Jaden is 13 years old as of February 11th. The prize (\$125 for state) and extra credit in History and Language Arts inspired him to create this piece along with many others. In total, 165,400 students entered the contest, which makes Jaden's accomplishment even more impressive. He likes writing but only about certain subjects like history and sports. When asked what he wanted people to take away from his essay, he said, "To be your best and serve your country." His only regret is not being descriptive enough in his essay. His advice for people entering their own essays is to do your research and don't let yourself be undereducated.



Jaden Lehmborg with his excellent essay.

When I asked Jaden if he thought he would make it to state, he said, "No way!" I guess the lesson to be learned is we have more influence than we think. Don't forget to congratulate Jaden yourself!

View Jaden's Essay using the link below.

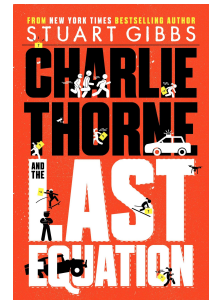
[Patriot's Pen Essay contest winner.](#)

Book of the Month

By Jack Sonder



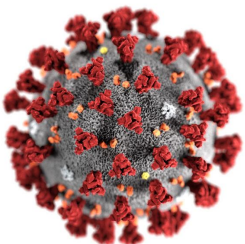
This month's book of the month is *Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation* by Stuart Gibbs.



This page-turning novel is a must read. The protagonist is a 12 year old girl named Charlie Thorne who is a genius. Charlie is enlisted by the CIA to find Einstein's last equation, Pandorabüchse, or Pandora's box, which in the wrong hands could be disastrous. But there is one problem, a diabolical group called The Furies wants to find it first.

COVID-19 Updates- As of February 25th

By Katie Chung



Cases in US- 28,477,804

Deaths in US- 510,465

Cases in Itasca- 3,113

Deaths in Itasca- 47

Source: The New York Times

Student Submissions

6th grader Georgea King won the Indian Education program's poetry contest! View Georgea's poem about the seven grandfather teachings by clicking this

[link!](#)

7th grader Christian Schafer created a presentation about the landing of Mars rover Perseverance. Check it out using this [link.](#)

What's Inside?

In this first publication of the RJEMS Monthly, you will find:

- Tips for learning at home
- Student artwork
- An interview with a teacher
- An update on student competitions
- A meme contest
- A section of fun and games



Five Ways to Be Productive During Home Learning

By Ryan Martinson

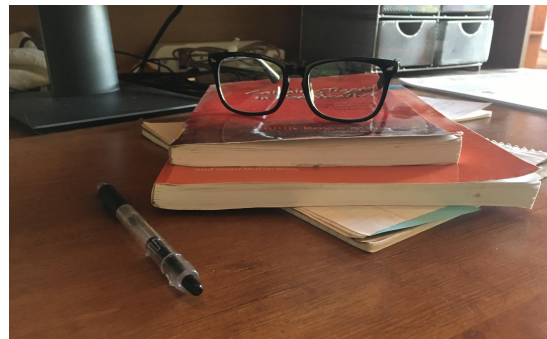
1) Get out of bed and find a spot in your house to dedicate just for school. Working in bed can make it harder to sleep at night because your brain decides that your bed is a workspace.

2). Focus on one thing at a time. The human brain can't thoroughly perform two tasks at once. Tasks like breathing and pumping blood are not included in this research (obviously). Focusing on one thing at a time can decrease the time you spend on something. For example, doing your homework while watching Netflix can increase the time you spend on work. Finishing your math homework without distractions would take less time.

3) Get dressed and shower. Getting dressed for the day can improve your productivity. If you're in your pajamas, you're more likely to want to lay back in bed.

4) Reduce distractions. It is nearly impossible to stay one hundred percent focused on schoolwork when your phone screen keeps lighting up with notifications. Putting your phone in another room makes it less likely for you to go on your phone instead of doing homework.

5). Sit in a room with natural light. This helps you receive your daily amount of vitamin D. Natural lights can help you recover from the loss of energy. During distance learning, I think we all are losing energy. Sitting in the light can also help you recover from oversleeping.



EXTRA TIPS: changing up your designated workspace once in a while can keep you from getting bored. Another tip for learning at home, make sure your workspace is large and you can spread out your work.

Meet the Teachers

By Ryan Martinson

Have you ever wondered why the RJEMS staff choose to teach? Or If they have a favorite sports team? The main purpose of this section is to share the answers to these questions and more. The first teacher we will be interviewing is Mrs. Grotjohn, who is one of our band teachers. This will be Mrs. Grotjohn's 25th year teaching! The first question we asked was what her favorite food is. She answered with pizza and bacon. Growing up she played softball and now watches the Minnesota Twins play the sport she loved. A couple of her hobbies include cooking and running. Did you know that Mrs. Grotjohn ran every day for 501 days (she had to pause because of an injury)? When asked why she wanted to become a teacher, she stated, "I guess I always had great teachers growing up, and they were my role models." Mrs. Grotjohn attended the University of Minnesota, Morris. Did you know that her whole family is left-handed?

Mrs. Grotjohn's advice for the middle schoolers reading this: Try to stay organized and set goals for yourself. Long term and short term goals. Also, be open to new things and new ideas. When she was younger she wished someone told her that it is ok to branch out.

Do you have other questions that we didn't answer in this article?
Tell us in this google form! [Meet the Teachers Questions](#)



Mrs. Grotjohn preparing to conduct her band students.

School Announcements

By Katie Chung

Scholastic Book Fair : March 10-17 in the library

Upcoming Dress Up Days Include:

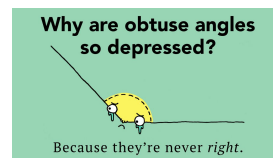
- Homecoming

Tell us your ideas for Dress Up Days in the form below, and maybe you'll see your idea on the list in future releases. [Dress Up Days Form](#)

Mathcounts

By Jack Sonder

Jack Sonder, Preston Spawn, and Logan Hoffman competed in the first round of AOPS's Mathcounts tournament and made it to the next round. They will be competing in the Chapter round on February 25th.



AoPS
Art of Problem Solving



Speech & Debate

By Emily Ericson

The Speech and Debate team has had two meets so far this season; the first meet was hosted by Cass Lake-Bena, and the second was hosted by the Rockridge schools. Preparing their speeches for over a month, six Grand Rapids middle school students competed in the first meet of the junior varsity season, which took place on February 8th. Despite only having a small group of competitors, Grand Rapids still placed third out of 13 teams. The scores for this meet can be found to the right. The second meet, hosted by Rockridge schools, took place on February 16th. There were 12 competitors from Grand Rapids in this meet who competed in eight of the thirteen categories. Grand Rapids won the meet, placing 1st out of 11 teams. The scores for this meet will also be shown to the right. The team has done well so far, and has two junior varsity meets left, which will wrap up their season.



Speech and Debate students after their Rockridge tournament.

Cass Lake-Bena meet scores:

Evan Linnell- Creative Expression- 2nd place
Kelsie Zimmer/ Aryanna Daydodge- Drama Duo- 3rd place
Mason Adler- Extemporaneous Reading- 2nd place
Molly Magnuson- Extemporaneous Speaking- 2nd place
Kaitlyn Olson- Great Speech- 3rd

Rockridge meet scores:

Evan Linnell- Creative Expression- 1st place
Sam Dick- Creative Expression- Honorable Mention
Madelyn Hanson- Extemporaneous Reading- 1st place
Jack Sonder- Extemporaneous Reading- Honorable Mention
Molly Magnuson- Extemporaneous Speaking- 2nd place
Randall Belanger- Informative Speaking- Honorable Mention
Emily Ericson- Informative Speaking- Honorable Mention
Paul Serbyn- Original Oratory- 2nd place
Senya Piekarski- Poetry Reading- Honorable Mention
Aubrey Scharpf- Poetry Reading- Honorable Mention
Lily Stark- Prose Reading- Honorable Mention
Logan Hoffman- Storytelling- 3rd place

Duct-Tape Art

By Natalie Neary

The seventh and eighth graders who are enrolled in the Indian Education program at RJEMS, had the opportunity to make "Duct-Tape Art." Similar to the famous Ojibwa artist Gordon Coon, their art is an animal of their choosing created with several varieties of colored Duct-Tape and a piece of paper. Gordon's heritage is Ojibwa and Ottawa from the Lake Superior Chippewa Band of Michigan and Wisconsin. He is a member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe of northern Wisconsin. Now he lives in Minneapolis Minnesota.

Gordon is a self taught artist. He uses all kinds of mediums like linoleum block prints, pen and ink, paint, wood, and stone. He also makes sculptures from time to time. Gordon's main art style is more on the contemporary side. Each piece of artwork has its own unique way of telling traditional Native American stories.



Samples of student artwork hanging in the RJEMS hallway.

7th Grade Narrative Writing

By Kaitlyn Olson

Have you ever wondered what life was like before modern technology? I am not just talking about phones or computers and the like. I am talking of refrigerators, electric ovens, and hand held calculators, many things that have changed our lives for the better. The Middle Ages were a time without many of these luxuries. In January, students in Mrs. Copp's class wrote a paper describing what life in the Middle Ages was reminiscent of. Some students were recently interviewed about this assignment. They learned about the medieval hierarchy, identity in the Middle Ages, and medieval life (among other things) through the writing of this paper. One of the first questions both interviewees

were asked was if they enjoyed writing this paper. Both answered yes; Cadence Payment's response was as follows, "I like writing about medieval stuff because I can learn more about the medieval ages through that." More details would have been added to both papers if there had been more time; specifically, Kate Wheelock would have added details on the characters' personality in the story. She also said if she were to give advice to anyone on writing a report such as this, "Remember to tie in the lessons [learned in class]."

[Cadence Payment's Writing](#)
[Hayden Jackson's Writing](#)
[Nora Wick's Writing](#)
[Kate Wheelock's Writing](#)



THE FUN SECTION!

Just have fun!



Dad Joke of the Month

"Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself? It was two tired."



R F S G B C Y Y N Y T Z S J A I I V J R Z S Q K
K J N F K G G G R K J D L I W Y J B B B Q S G U
C A D N W Q F H Q F B T Q O K X W P R X G E Y H
E U T Y L X G I Q W N R Q O Z A Q E E U V C I X
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D L A C I D U M K W K A I E O J U A Z U H G G
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X U N J S N H D N G P C Z Q G U I R E H C A E T
Y A L M D O B M E M D T O W G O A M C O W E K Q
R R J F J T K J E G U B W Z N Q M H T E N D R J
E I O V V S B N O T O C H Q W K E R K X O T F E
V A E T D O P L I O I Y D C O A N E N C I R O M
V H T D S G N O K Z U C D S D V R B M J Z L L J
T H P O J I K S P Y U W V X S D P Y B Y D W D B
Y Q H Z V Y H Y H P A R G O E G F B B A P U E A
F G N I T I R W S T U D E N T S L I U E W M R D
I S L A I Z K H S I L G N E N B G N I D A E R Q

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8					6			7
5					8	1		
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	1	3	4					6
9		5						
4			3					9
		2			7	4		

Science	Education	Backpack	Art
Desk	Geography	History	Recess
Books	Pencil	Writing	Reading
English	Arithmetic	Schedule	Classes
Homework	Folder	Notebook	Students
Teacher			

Weird but True

Some cats are allergic to people.

Apple pie isn't from America.

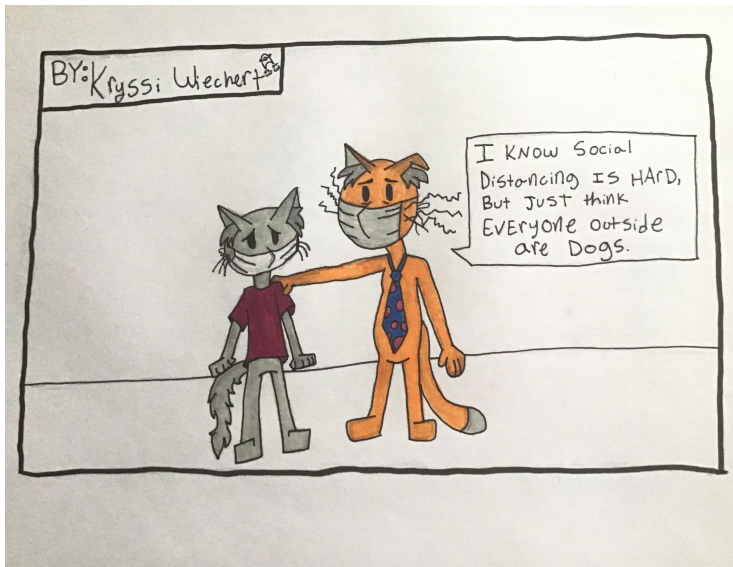
The unicorn is the national animal of Scotland

M&M stands for Mars and Murrie.

Fear of the number 13 is called triskaidekapho

Made by Jack Sonder

Caption This!



The editors at RJEMS MONTHLY encourage you to send us a photo of this meme, but completed. The best meme-r will earn an optional interview and spot in the next edition. What is Marge Simpson holding? Why is it neat? Tell us in the form below. May the best meme win!

[Meme Competition Form](#)

Newspaper Staff

(in order from left to right)

Natalie Neary
Genna Huisinga
Katie Chung
Kaitlyn Olson
Ryan Martinson
Emily Ericson
Jack Sonder



The reluctantly photographed newspaper staff.

Special thanks to our external contributors!

Would you like to see your work published in the RJEMS Monthly newspaper? Find a QR code hanging in the school hallway or submit your work using this link!

[Newspaper Submission Form](#)

