

“There is nothing wrong with teenagers that reasoning with them won’t aggravate.”
Unknown

Grey Matters

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Today, April 9, marks the end of the 3rd term. It is important to remember that successes do not come always come easy, and all of our students should be proud of their efforts. I think everyone, staff and students alike, are ready for vacation next week.

When we return, we will have less than 9 weeks of school with transition activities beginning for 6th to 7th graders, 7th to 8th graders, and 8th to 9th graders. It is a busy and exciting time for everyone at RJG.

We are pleased to announce the launch of the [RJ Grey Homework Central](http://mail.ab.mec.edu/~hporten/) website (<http://mail.ab.mec.edu/~hporten/>). From this site you can access homework, test, or project information for each teacher in the school. All you need to know is what team your child is on.

HW Central pages contain links to one of the following: teacher created webpages, Schoolnotes.com pages, or a test/project page created by the HW Central staff.

While every effort will be made to keep these pages updated, please remember that this website is meant to supplement and enhance written or oral information given in class by the teacher. It is not meant to replace information given directly to students in class. Students are still expected to listen carefully to directions and copy instructions and assignments accurately from the board

You will recall that on February 7th, parents/guardians had an opportunity to come and listen to a panel discussion, summarizing the results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2006.

New data was highlighted pertaining to Internet Safety, and I wanted to mention that as a district, we are looking at ways to incorporate more information about internet safety into the curriculum for the upcoming year with training and information for teachers as well.

Wellness behaviors pertaining to stress management, healthy eating, and sleeping patterns indicates that these issues continue to be major concerns for families, students and educators alike. It is good timing that we will be discussing Stress Management for RJG students at our final parent/guardian forum on April 23rd as it's clearly an important issue.

Finally, the YRBS also provided information regarding students' alcohol and drug use, tobacco use, and other at-risk behaviors. While I was extremely pleased that results pertaining to trends in alcohol, illegal drugs and tobacco use have declined dramatically, these are issues that periodically come up in school and must be addressed with sensitivity to the confidential needs of the students coupled with a strong focus on school safety.

As a school we take the responsibility of our students' health and well being very seriously. From casual conversations to curricular planning, from the classroom to school wide events, RJG staff and administrators are consistently emphasizing good decision making and good citizenship. While students may sometimes make unhealthy and/or inappropriate choices, our interventions are designed to address the behavior without losing sight of the developmental needs of the individual student.

I encourage you to read the results of the YRBS, website <http://ab.mec.edu/wellness/activities.shtml> and reach out to community organizations such as the Community Alliance for Youth (CAFY) as a way of educating yourselves about relevant student issues. As always, school administrators and counselors are available to answer questions and to respond to any concerns you may have.

Have a great week and enjoy the upcoming Spring Break!

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<http://ab.mec.edu/rjweb/index.html>