

Change is Inevitable, but Growth is Intentional.

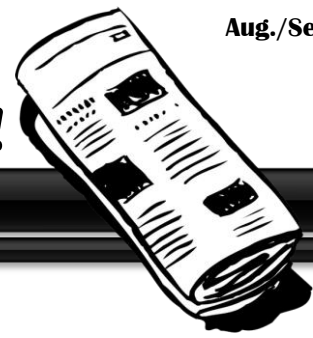


Redland Middle: Officially a “B” school

By: E. R. Williams

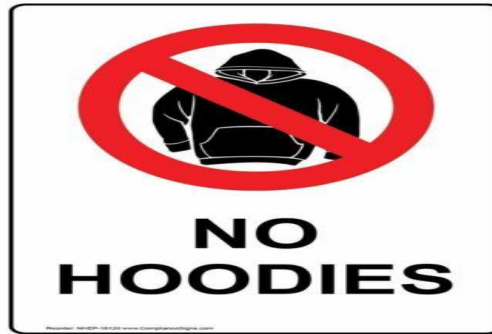
For 180 days school is in session. During which time students are expected to retain and obtain new information for a 21st Century Education. Teachers are expected to help students close learning gaps that occurred over the summer, fill in gaps that were not filled in from previous years, teach new content for the current year and get students ready for State testing. Sounds like a lot, right? Well, here at Redland we did just that. This past school year Redland received its first “B” grade in 17 years. Principal Louis had this to say, “I am proud to announce that we accomplished our goal of Bridging the Gap to Success! With all of our hard work and dedication, we fulfilled the mission to Rise Above “C” Level in one year and can proudly say that we made history. We saw tremendous growth at Redland Middle School this year. Now the goal is to deal with all of the change that is coming as a result of the new standards, assessments and grading system with an emphasis on being intentional in our growth.”

Extra Extra Read All About It!



NO HOODIE ZONE at Redland Middle

By: Dianaelsy Gil and Alex Mendoza



Have you ever thought about why Miami-Dade County Schools (MDCPS) recently banned hoodies from many school campuses? MDCPS made this concluding decision for students' safety and well-being; not only for gun violence but for any type of school-based violence occurring in the country. "The choice that they took to ban hoodies in schools was not necessary" stated 7th-grade student Jazlynn San Pedro. "Schools should not care about the type of jackets we wear. They should be caring about how we are going to improve our education". The district decided to implement the "No Hoodie" Policy in early June 2022. The reason for this policy is to make it easier to identify students on school grounds during emergencies. "I think because there is so much violence occurring in schools, Miami-Dade wanted to figure out a starting point. Maybe even help bring more Awareness to these types of situations" says middle school teacher, Ms. Williams. According to Williams and MDCPS, the consequences a student will face for refusing to stop wearing or refusing to take it off a hoodies are left up to each individual administrative teams. Most schools, like our fair Redland Middle, give students a warning first. Letting them know that hoodies are now prohibited from being worn during school hours. If hoodies are worn, they will be confiscated by school personnel. "Parents are encouraged to pick up their students' belongings (Hoodies) and are also reminded that we are now a "NO Hoodie School" stated Assistant Principal Mrs. Sanchez. "I believe the district has brought more alertness to parents and students and taking the No Hoodies stance seriously as well as reinforcing the consequences".

In addition to schools preparing students for their educational future, they also want students to be prepared for life in general. Believe it or not the first thing a person notices about you is the way you look and dress. "You don't wear a hoodie in the White House. You don't wear a hoodie in a bank either. So starting now to dress for success isn't a bad thing." stated Redland Middle's principal Mr. Louis. Although some students disagree with the no hoodie policy and its guidelines, there are some good aspects to having this new policy at school. According to 8th grader Patricia C., "I think that the school is doing an exquisite job at keeping the students safe by enforcing that hoodies be removed. What if there was a serious emergency, it would be easier to recognize who the Redland students are and who does not belong here". Students at Redland Middle and other schools should remember that the rules the school make are not meant to make students uncomfortable and feel worthless. These rules are meant for our well-being and believe it or not our safety. The biggest fear nowadays is sending your child to school and them never coming home again. "I want students to remember the ultimate goal of being in school. It's to learn and prepare for the future. Expressing yourself through the clothes and accessories you wear is nice and all but it's not the main reason for why you come to school." says Assistant Principal Sanchez.

Skittles: Could they be causing Cancer?

By: Aliyah Burkhart

C3



On July 14, a lawsuit was filed against Mars, the company largely responsible for most of the candy America loves including Skittles. The lawsuit claimed the button-shaped candies contain toxic levels of **Titanium Dioxide** and are unfit for human consumption. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has expressed concern over the use of this product, as it is not possible to rule out its potential to cause chromosomal damage, or genotoxicity but in the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continues to deem it safe for human consumption. If you have been paying attention to nutrition headlines lately, you may have noticed a recent lawsuit that claimed Skittles-the colorful candies of taste the rainbow, were unfit for human consumption because of the presence of a known toxin called **Titanium Dioxide**. Most types of skittles are considered vegan, but not all. While skittles classic fruits, skittles sour, skittles tropical and wild berry skittles are currently suitable for vegans, some special editions such as the ones in a blue skittles contain animal products derivatives. To get the scare out the way first, there are no plans to ban the sale of skittles in the U.S. the candy meets food safety regulations put in places by the U.S. Food and Drugs Administration (FDA).

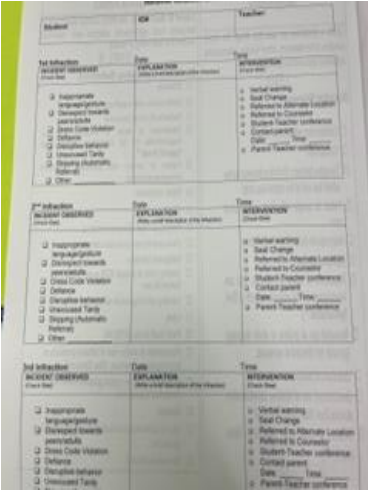


Photo courtesy of <http://www.flickr.com>

Infraction Sheets: How they work

By: John Avilez & E.R. Williams

Infraction sheet? What are Infraction sheets? How can they lead to referrals? These are some of the questions students here at Redland Middle should be asking. Everyone knows what a referral/scam is, but Infraction sheets are a new component our school is implementing in their discipline plan. Here's how it works. Infraction sheets are used for Level 1 and 2 behavior disruptions which range from skipping class to vandalism of school property. Teachers/administrators record the violations you have done. Your parents/guardians are contacted and made aware of your actions every time. The consequences for these violations vary depending on what you do/did. When the third Infraction is recorded a referral is written and more serious consequences are given which could be outdoor suspension or even expulsion. The best way to avoid Infraction sheets and referrals is just do what's right. Getting in trouble all the time shouldn't always be your go option.



Redland Middle's In-house Infraction Sheet for discipline purposes

Masks Mandates for 2022-2023 School year

By: Patricia Conesamastrapa

D4



Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the use of masks has been mandatory for the entire population. One of the major reasons for the mask was to make sure the spread of Covid-19 was at a minimum and taking into account those that were not sick. Once the Covid-19 vaccines were approved by the FDA, masks went from being mandatory to being optional. Schools followed this same suit by giving teachers, parents and students the option to wear or not wear masks in the building. In schools we see how there are groups that are divided on the issue. Maria, a 12-year old student said, “We have worn masks for so long now we have become accustomed to wearing them. I feel like it’s apart of me and when I take it off, I feel strange.” ESOL teacher, Ms. Gonzalez commented, “Students should think about the health and safety of their family and themselves. If they get sick easily, they should wear face masks. But it’s a choice they should make with their families not just because other students aren’t wearing masks.” Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) continues to monitor the local conditions concerning COVID-19 and will continue implementing strategies to minimize the spread of communicable diseases while maintaining a safe learning environment. (dadeschools.net)

<http://www.dadeschools.net>



Too Much Screen time

by: Anari Louiseize & Ashley Luna-Santana

Did you know that too much screen time can not only affect your eyes but your entire life? “Screen time” is the amount of time you spend on a device. Spending too much time on a device can cause all sorts of problems. Can too much screen time affect your eyes? Can too much screen time affect your life? The answer to both is a resounding “YES!” What I mean by that is that when you watch a device for extended periods of time it can affect your eyesight by giving you side effects such as mental fogs, memory problems, back problems, chronic neck problems, and lower energy levels. No wonder students are always so tired at school. Still don’t believe me? Well let’s say you’re at home and it’s the weekend but instead of going outside you decide to watch your phone for a few minutes, but it has been more than a few minutes and when you decide to take a break your neck and back hurt because you have been sitting in the same position for the last few hours. Your eyes are also dry and irritated that’s because you’ve spent too many hours staring at a device. It has been recommended that teenagers spend a maximum of 2 hours looking at a device. What are the side effects of too much screen time? Physical strain to your eyes and body, sleep deprivation, Increased risk of obesity, chronic health conditions, and delayed learning in young children- just to name a few. Some things you can do to take care of your eyes are make sure the brightness of the device and room are just right, keep a good distance from the device, use 20/20 rule which is when you take a break every 20 minutes, get eyes examined regularly, and reduce the glare of the device.

By: Khloe Martinez & Jayden Munoz

E5



Have you been listening to music recently? If so, who is your favorite artist? And what's your favorite song by that artist? Plenty of artists have come out with new albums and songs such as "NBA YoungBoy", "Pop Smoke" and "Lil Baby". We have interviewed several teachers and students about their favorite artist, and favorite song by that artist.

- "My favorite artist is Summer Walker and my favorite song by her is playing games. This is my favorite song because people keep hurting my feelings". – Julissa V.
- "My favorite artist is Bad Bunny and my favorite song by him is Si Estuviesemos Juntos. That is my favorite song because I like the lyrics, the rhythm, and I enjoy listening to it" stated Ms. Barrios Alg.1/Geo teacher. "Un Verano sin ti". What does this mean? Well, it means "A Summer Without You". This album released on May 6, 2022, with 23 songs featuring different artists such as, Rauw Alejandro, Chencho Corleone, Tony Dize and more. We asked Ms. Barrios (alg.1/geo teacher) her opinions on the album and stated "I do like the album but at first I didn't like it that much till I listened to it more often. The first songs I did like were "Ojitos lindos" and "Ensename bailar"
- "My favorite artist is NBA YoungBoy and my favorite song by YoungBoy is Nevada. This is my favorite song because this is the best song he has released." Sylvester E.
- My favorite artist is Whitney Houston and my favorite song by her is Greatest Love Of All. This is my favorite song because it is inspirational" 7th grade Science teacher Ms. Matthews.
- Willie W said "My favorite artist is Rod Wave and my favorite song by him is Green Light. This is my favorite song because of what the song says, and the beat is good".



Bad Bunny album cover

Everyone's favorite artist has released her seventh solo album. Mrs. Beyoncé Knowles-Carter unveiled "**Renaissance**" this past summer, six years after her last album "**Lemonade**". Renaissance gives its listeners some of everything from "sonic territory with a self-assured blend of New Orleans bounce, '70s disco-pop, gospel, funk, and techno", Insider report Callie Ahlgrim stated. Mrs. Knowles, herself described her album as "a beautiful journey of exploration" and "a place to scream, release, and feel freedom." If you are a diehard Beyoncé fan, this album will not disappoint you.



Photo courtesy of
<http://www.npr.org>

School Uniforms.... Always Mandatory

By: Larry Carroll

F6



Should public school students have to wear uniforms? School uniforms are becoming more of a trend across the world because it is important for school officials to be able to recognize students that belong and those that do not. Even though most students see school uniforms has a terrible thing it doesn't to be. School uniforms actually can have a positive impact on a students' psychological welfare. "Students are always against the uniform policy, because they feel like they can't express their personal identity." said Principal Louis. But uniforms shouldn't limit your personality or personal style. If you follow the guidelines for uniforms, you can still show your style. Uniforms are supposed to be a positive thing because they give the school a professional look. "School uniforms could also improve attendance and discipline because you don't have to stress over what to wear." said Ms. Sanchez, Assistant Principal.

When school districts don't have a clear understanding of what they expect their students to wear and not wear to school then you have students walking around with sagging pants, inappropriate images on their clothing, or articles of clothing that shouldn't be worn to school. That look gives the school a bad reputation. The goal of school is to focus on your education, not fashion. Our school uniform consist of white, royal blue and gold polo shirts with navy blue and khaki pants or shorts. Jackets and sweaters now have to have no hoodies. These type of sweaters and jackets will be taken until your parents come to get them.

Not wearing uniforms is considered a violation and results in an Infraction sheet which can lead to a referral. When the focus is taken off of what you are wearing, it can improve grades, reduces tardiness, and suspensions. Wearing uniforms is not, on its own, likely to improve learning but it's a start.



Formal colors for Uniforms for Redland Middle can be found in the Main Office

The Roar



Photo courtesy of <http://www.californiaavocado.com>

No Football in Middle schools? Why?

By: Christopher Macias

Do you think football should be offered in Middle Schools? There are many reasons for why football is not being offered in middle school. Here are a few:

- Male Athletes are more aggressive, which can cause severe injuries
- Middle school sports budgets cannot fund a full football program like high schools can
- Middle schools don't have the coaching staff for a full football program

One alternative to having football is flag football. If you are interested in playing flag football, see Coach Alicea.

Avocados: Fruit or Vegetable?

By: Rashiya Ishmael

Most people wonder if avocados are a fruit or a vegetable. Some say it's a fruit and some say it's a vegetable, but what's the actual answer?

Are avocados considered fruits or vegetables?

An avocado is classified as a fruit and a vegetable in different states or countries because according to Yummy Mummy Kitchen "Avocados are fruits however they are often classified as vegetables for nutritional and culinary purposes." Avocados are also classified as vegetables by the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture).

While avocados are not the first thing you think of as a fruit botanically (relating to plants) they are a fruit and even when considered as such they provide nutrition found in many vegetables.

Avocados are classified as fruits because they are a large berry with a single seed. Even though it is not sweet like most fruits it falls under the definition of a fruit which if you did not know is the sweet and fleshy product a tree or another plant that contains seeds and can be eaten.



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