Bridgman Public Schools

F.C. Reed Middle School
10254 California Rd.
Bridgman, MI 49106
Phone: 269-465-5410
Fax: 269-466-0393

F.C. Reed Middle School
2026 - 2027 Board of Education Report

November 2026

Academics:

Congratulations to our newest class of RMS Students of the Month! The following students were nominated and recognized by staff for consistently demonstrating the RMS core expectations of being respectful, responsible, honest, and safe: Elleanor Holmes (Grade 7), Kenya Martinez (Grade 5), Mason Emens (Grade 5), Mackenzie Pagel (Grade 5), and Grace Needles (Grade 8). We are proud to recognize these students for their positive contributions to our school community and for serving as role models for their peers.

F.C. Reed Middle School continues to rank among Michigan's highest-performing public middle schools! In the latest *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, RMS climbed to #76 in Michigan, up from #78 last year:



Our overall performance score also increased from 90.73 to 91.24 out of 100, earning RMS the 2027 Best Middle Schools designation and placing our school among the top 4% of Michigan's 2,021 public middle schools. While rankings represent only one measure of school success, this recognition reflects the collective efforts of our students, staff, and families, as well as our continued commitment to academic excellence and Whole Child development.

RMS hosted its Fall 2026 Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 3 and 5, with 61% of families (149 of 244) participating, a 7-percentage-point decrease from the 2025–2026 school year. Grade 5 demonstrated the strongest engagement, with 48 of 57 families (84%) attending, an increase of 9 percentage points from last year. Grade 6 recorded participation from 35 of 54 families (65%), a 17-point decrease, while Grade 7 saw 40 of 67 families (60%) attend, a slight increase of 1 percentage point. Grade 8 experienced the largest participation challenge, with 26 of 65 families (40%) attending, a 16-point decrease from the previous year. Although overall participation declined slightly, conferences provided valuable opportunities to celebrate student progress, address academic concerns, and strengthen school-home partnerships. Moving forward, RMS will evaluate opportunities to improve family participation, particularly in Grades 6–8. For example, the RMS Building Leadership Team recently discussed if it would be helpful to conduct conferences at the end of Q1 like Bridgman High School.

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Behavior:

F.C. Reed Middle School continues to maintain a positive student behavior environment as we progress through the second quarter of the 2026–2027 school year. Following an increase in October, November data suggests an encouraging downward trend. RMS averaged 0.40 behavior logs per in-session day in August, 0.90 in September, and 1.86 in October, approaching our established benchmark of concern at 2.00 incidents per day. Through November 16, however, our daily average has decreased to 0.61 incidents, a 67.2% reduction from October. We will continue monitoring these trends to determine whether this improvement is sustained.

Through November 16, RMS has recorded 72 formal behavior discipline logs. Grade 7 accounts for the largest proportion (62.5%), followed by Grade 6 (15.3%), Grade 5 (12.5%), and Grade 8 (9.7%). Male students account for 94.4% of incidents. The most common behavior subtypes include insubordination and issues involving substitute teachers (12 incidents each), followed by disrespect, disruption of the educational process, and horseplay (nine each). The RMS Building Leadership Team is reviewing these trends to develop additional behavior and classroom management strategies.

Classrooms account for 53 of the 72 documented incidents (73.6%), followed by school transportation (eight), hallways (four), school grounds (three), bathrooms (two), and the cafeteria and common areas (one each). Incidents are relatively distributed throughout the week, with Thursdays and Fridays accounting for 23.6% each, followed by Tuesdays (20.8%) and Mondays (18.1%). Wednesdays are our best day with only 13.9% of incidents. The highest concentrations occur around 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM, with 11 and 12 incidents, respectively.

In response to October's elevated behavior trends, RMS administration has implemented targeted interventions, particularly for seventh-grade students with recurring concerns. Strategies include increased parent communication, individualized behavior monitoring, restorative conferences, behavior trackers and reward systems, and alternative placements during substitute-led instruction. Administration is also reviewing substitute teacher feedback procedures to improve communication, consistency, and opportunities for student redirection. While November's improvement is promising, our continued emphasis on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), restorative practices, and individualized interventions remains essential to maintaining a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment.

The RMS Multidisciplinary Threat Assessment Team has reviewed two cases in 2026 - 2027.

See below for full details:

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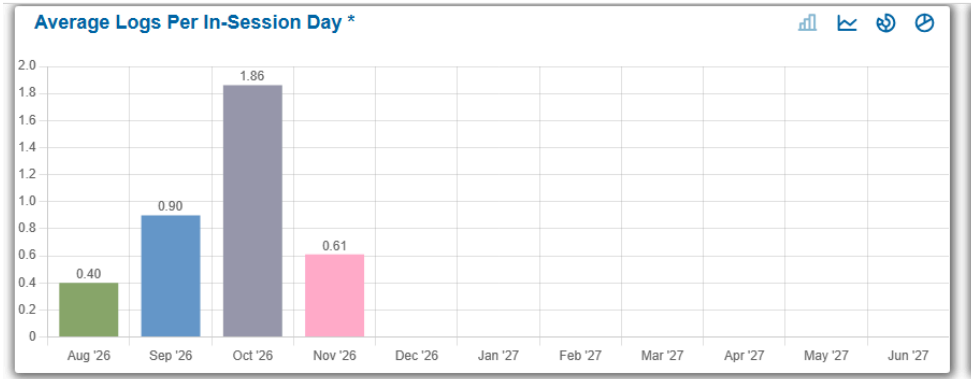

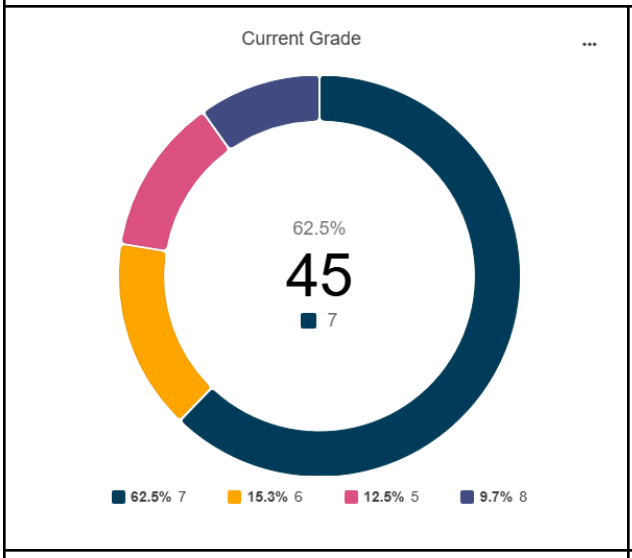

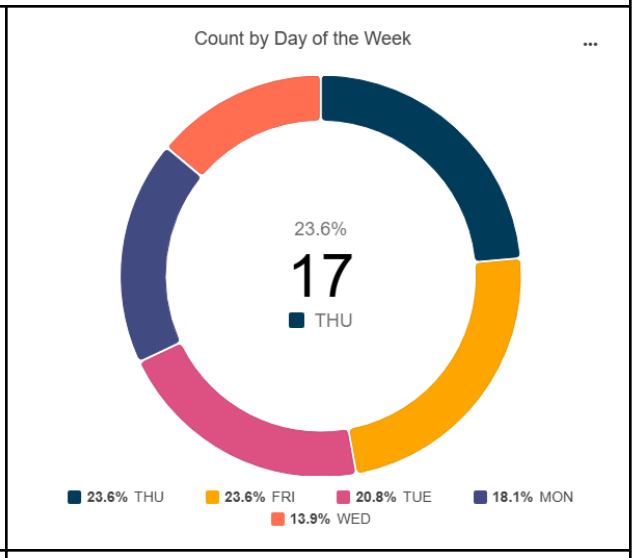

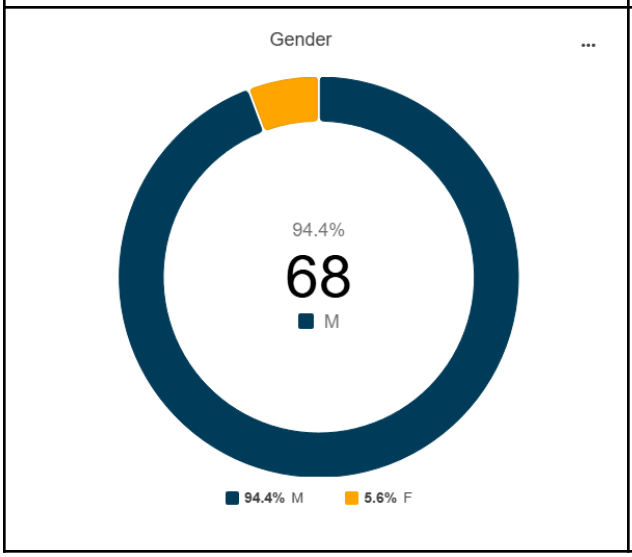

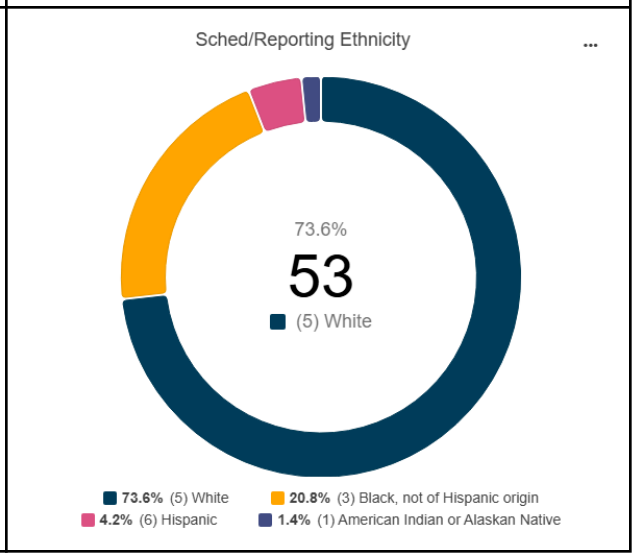

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Mental Health:

Over the past month, RMS School Counselor Sarah Altieri has continued delivering CharacterStrong social-emotional learning (SEL) lessons to students in Grades 5–8, emphasizing personal growth, healthy relationships, academic success, and future readiness. Fifth and sixth grade students explored practical strategies for time management, organization, effective studying, and test preparation, while also learning how to navigate changing friendships and maintain positive peer relationships.

Seventh and eighth grade students focused on identifying their personal values, strengths, and interests and exploring how these connect to future opportunities in high school and potential career pathways. Collectively, these lessons reinforce our commitment to a Whole Child approach by helping students develop the social-emotional skills, self-awareness, and executive functioning strategies necessary for success both inside and outside the classroom.

We also invested in a lot of professional learning during the end of October and start of November. RMS School Social Worker Angie Cooper attended the Michigan School Social Workers Conference (October 28 - October 30), while RMS School Counselor Sarah Altieri participated in the Michigan School Counselor Conference (November 15 - November 16). These professional learning opportunities provided opportunities to explore emerging best practices in school-based mental health services, student advocacy, social-emotional learning, and comprehensive student support systems. The conferences also offered valuable opportunities to collaborate with colleagues from across Michigan and build our professional network of mental health partners. We appreciate Angie and Sarah's continued commitment to professional growth and their efforts to ensure RMS students have access to responsive, developmentally appropriate mental health and counseling services.

Student Voice Report:

RMS continues to prioritize student voice by actively seeking feedback and involving students in conversations about school improvement. Recently, Superintendent Mr. Reed conducted a student focus group to hear directly from students about their experiences, perspectives, and ideas for strengthening our school community. You can click here to view a summary of those findings. Immediate follow-up has already resulted from these focus group. For example, the athletic department ordered additional uniforms from a wider variety of sizes to ensure all student athletes feel comfortable and confident when representing the middle school in competition.

Additional student feedback collected via the RMS Student Voice Feedback survey throughout the month has included suggestions for establishing a Ski Club (This used to exist but ended when Mrs. Jones retired). Students have also recommended adding Dino Nuggets and Bosco

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Sticks (already on the menu, they just want them more often!) to the lunch menu and asked for greater flexibility to customize meals with preferred condiments. Students also communicated that restroom soap dispensers are not consistently stocked. The administration is reviewing these ideas, sharing them with the appropriate district decision makers and supervisors, and letting students know that their voices were heard when action is possible.

While supervising lunch/recess, I am also discussing with students ways to refresh and improve the RMS Playground. Current ideas include cleaning up the Boy Scout Project Garden on the front lawn, replacing the climbing wall for a swing set, removing two basketball hoops on the cement basketball court to add mini soccer nets, relocating the outdoor gaga ball pit to the playground, and including a posted, measured trail for students who want to jog at lunch. Each of these items are relatively low cost, high yield changes we could make to the space.

Extracurricular Activities:

The RMS BeeBots Robotics Team is preparing for its regional competition on Saturday, November 21, 2026, at Lakeshore High School!

This week the group was able to visit Adam Schaller's solar farm in Baroda as part of their research:



Throughout the season, students have strengthened their skills in robotics, engineering, coding, problem-solving, and teamwork. Beyond robotics, the team has been researching biodiversity and environmental sustainability, developing an innovative project proposal that explores

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integrating pollinator-friendly beehives with solar farms to support healthier ecosystems. This interdisciplinary project challenges students to apply STEM concepts to real-world environmental issues. We are excited to see our BeeBots represent F.C. Reed Middle School and wish them the best of luck! I will share competition results following Saturday's event.

The RMS Student Council also was able to collect 13 boxes of non-perishable food donations for the BES Food Pantry during their recent fall food drive:



F.C. Reed Middle School continues to offer a wide variety of extracurricular opportunities for students during the 2026–2027 school year, providing meaningful experiences that promote student engagement, leadership, creativity, and a stronger sense of belonging beyond the classroom. Several Appendix C clubs and activities are currently active, including the BPS Drama Club (Ammerman), RMS Yearbook Club (Korson), RMS Student Council (Milligan), RMS Garden Club (Smiertelny), RMS Chess Club (Smiertelny), RMS Kagan Coaches (M. Foxworthy and K. Yauchstetter), Band Practice Club (Reppart), RMS Sideline Cheer (Doyle), and RMS Choir Club (Ammerman).

Athletics:

RMS Boys Basketball and Sideline Cheerleading are in full swing! Currently, 91.7% of our student-athletes (33 of 36) are academically eligible for competition, reflecting our continued emphasis on maintaining high academic expectations while encouraging participation in extracurricular activities. RMS administrators and coaches continue to monitor academic

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performance and work collaboratively with students and teachers to address eligibility concerns, reinforce student accountability, and promote success both in the classroom and on the court.

We also received a wonderful example of sportsmanship and character from a recent road game against South Haven. A South Haven parent took the time to contact RMS and recognize Liam Companion (#24) for his conduct during the competition. Receiving unsolicited positive feedback from an opposing team's parent is especially meaningful and reinforces the importance of teaching our student-athletes that character, respect, and sportsmanship matter just as much as athletic performance. We are proud of Liam for representing RMS and Bridgman Public Schools in such a positive manner:

Dear Athletic Director Erik,

I wanted to take a moment to recognize one of your 7th grade boys basketball players for something I witnessed at the game against South Haven on Monday, November 9, 2026.

Throughout the game, I noticed him showing kindness and great sportsmanship toward the opposing team. He took the time to help players from the other team up when they fell and offered high fives and encouragement along the way.

It may seem like a small gesture to some, but it really stood out to me. In a competitive environment where winning can sometimes become the main focus, it was refreshing to see a young athlete who understood that respect, kindness, and sportsmanship are just as important as the game itself.

He represented his team and school so well, not just as a basketball player, but as a teammate and a young man with great character. These are the moments that remind us what school athletics should really be about.

I hope you will pass along my compliments to him and his coaches. He deserves to know that his actions were noticed and appreciated.

Thank you for encouraging and developing young athletes who demonstrate these kinds of values.

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RMS Weekly Bulletin:

November 16, 2026 Edition

November 9, 2026 Edition

November 2, 2026 Edition

October 26, 2026 Edition