

For the very first time, Ripperdan Community Day Middle School spent the entire day off campus; traveling throughout Madera and visiting three local libraries. Visiting a library can encourage reading and exploration in children, and studies have shown that reading can aid in brain development in young children. Ripperdan prioritizes reading, reading comprehension, and increasing our student's ability to conduct research of their own. Having the ability to search, find, collect, analyse, interpret and evaluate information is relevant to all class subjects being taught at RCDS. We know that an ability to research will shape our students' futures, as it will not only teach them new things, but help them to adapt and to evolve throughout their educational experience. On this trip, students focused on the previous achievements of our country's African Americans, in preparation for upcoming Black History Month projects. Students also researched astrophotography as part of their upcoming science unit on the sun, earth, and moon.

We believe it is important to read to our students, no matter their age, and to encourage them to read and visit local libraries. The field trip to Madera Community College Library, Madera Rancho Library, and the Madera County Public Library brought our students huge steps forward in expanding their academic confidence and advancing their college and career readiness.

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