



# ROLLING HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Home of the Bengal Tigers

## July 2021 Parent Bulletin

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello, Bengals! I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and enjoying these glorious, almost normal, days of summer. Hopefully the contents of this bulletin won't turn you away from subsequent bulletins. This one tends to be packed with reminders and rules so you can understand how RHMS works and then get back to enjoying your summer. Future bulletins aren't typically as long, so please continue to read them!

Though it may seem that vacation hasn't even started yet, I know it'll be just days before the stores bring out their school supplies! If you want to catch the summer sales, we do have our supply lists posted on our [website](#).

I want to make sure you have your calendars marked for a few important dates before the first day of school. The first is **Bengal Day**, and it's on **Thursday, August 5 from 8:00 to 2:00**. For those of you new to RHMS, Bengal Day is the day you'll get your child's schedule, chromebooks, PE uniforms, etc. Because chromebooks are new for us, we're going to give those out on Bengal Day and hold off on textbooks until school has started. If a student needs to check out a textbook, they can do so at any time throughout the school year. Bengal Day is an open house type of approach, so you can come anytime between the hours of 8:00 and 2:00. I will say, however, that if past patterns repeat themselves, it's always busiest from 8:00-10:00. If you can come later, you'll probably have less of a line. I promise, we'll have a schedule for every student! The kids are excited, though, and can't wait to get there to find out their schedules and whether or not their friends are in their classes. If you come early, lines might be a little longer, but you should still be able to get through in an hour at most. We will have a variety of items for sale, too, like PE uniforms, sweats, and yearbooks, so parents have asked me to remind families to bring a checkbook. Some items are sold by Friends of Rolling Hills, our parent club, and some are sold by the school, so it might be helpful to bring your checkbook instead of one single check. Kids also get excited thinking they've found a way to hack our system and find out teachers before Bengal Day. Though this may in fact be true, I do want to share that we're rearranging schedules right up until the 1st day of school, so if they check online but do not actually pick up their schedules, know that some changes may occur.

While I have your attention, I also want to make note of our chromebook policy. We learned from Covid that it's helpful to allow students to check out a chromebook if needed. That being said, the restrictions we have in place are only for when the device is connected to the school wifi. If they are using the device on your home wifi or any other wifi, there are no blocks in place unless you've done so through your home internet provider. If you have concerns about how best to put restrictions on your home wifi, contact your internet provider. Much of students' work will be computer based, so it's still important for parents to understand the school wifi is the only wifi with restrictions on websites, etc. This information is detailed in the paperwork that comes home to you, but not everyone reads all those papers carefully, so I'm trying to call special attention to it here.

The other important date is our **Back to School Night**, which is when you have the opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn about the curriculum they'll be studying in each class. This night is held BEFORE school starts for **7th and 8th graders**, as we've heard great reviews from parents who have enjoyed being the ones who get to have the first impression and they've liked being able to calm their children from the "night before the first day of school" jitters. The event is on **Monday, August 9 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**. You will follow your child's schedule, visiting each class for about 10 minutes. If you get here late, you will have missed the opportunity to learn about your child's first few periods of classes. The night is meant to be for parents to

**Debbie Bowers, Principal**

**Jen Hansen and Bill Bartholome, Assistant Principals**

learn about their child's curriculum, so please plan accordingly for childcare. The 6th grade teachers will send out a short introductory video on August 9, but they'll meet you in person on Thursday, August 26 at 6:00. They want to have a few grades in the system to talk you through how it all works in 6th grade. More information on both dates will be coming via email, but we at least wanted you to calendar the event for planning purposes.

Finally, I want to remind parents of students entering 7th grade that they need to submit proof of TDAP immunization in order to pick up your schedule on Bengal Day and to start school on time. Students **WILL NOT** be given a schedule/allowed to attend school until the proof of immunization has been submitted. If you have any questions about this, please contact our health clerk at ext. 3030. If proof is not submitted by July 24, we cannot guarantee your child will have a schedule ready for Bengal Day. If you have it with you, please drop it by our office or email a copy to me (dbowers@buckeyeusd.org).

Now that you have a few important dates on your calendar, sit back, relax, and enjoy the fun that is summer vacation, especially after the year plus we've all endured! Enjoy every moment with your children; before you know it, they'll be running off to college. We thank you in advance for sharing your children with us; they are truly the most rewarding part of our jobs and we can't wait to see their bright smiling faces on the first day of school (my favorite day of the year!), Wednesday, August 11, which is an early release day with a 1:10 dismissal.

Now, back to your regularly scheduled program of summer activities. Enjoy!

## HOW CAN I STAY INFORMED? LET ME COUNT THE WAYS...

### 1. SCHOOL WEBPAGE (<https://www.buckeyeusd.org/rhms>)

|                            |                        |                           |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bell Schedules             | ESchools Access Center | Online Payments           |
| Bulletins (Student/Parent) | GATE Info              | Sports Info and Schedules |
| Calendar (School year)     | Handbook               | Supply (suggested) List   |
| Calendar (Student Events)  | Homework Access        | Transportation Info       |
| CJSF Info and Forms        | Menus Breakfast/Lunch  | Tutoring Info             |
| Dress Code                 | Online Book Resources  |                           |

### 2. MONTHLY PARENT BULLETIN

Bulletins are sent electronically each month via email on the first of the month. Please make sure you enter your email address on your child's Emergency Card in order to receive the bulletins. If you do not receive them in your inbox, please check your spam folder. If not there, please contact us.

### 3. WEEKLY STUDENT BULLETIN

The student bulletins are a single page of important information for the week that is sent via email each Friday. Though the bulletin is meant for students, parents have found them very helpful.

### 4. FACEBOOK

This is a fun way for us to share photos from day to day activities and other events. [RHMS Facebook](#)

### 5. BLACKBOARD CONNECT

These emails contain important information and, in the case of an emergency, will be our primary means of disseminating information. You want to be sure we have your current and main email on file. Please don't be alarmed if, during an emergency, the call is from someone other than our staff. We delegate that task during an emergency so we can focus our attention on the kids.

## NOTICES

|                       |  |                   |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>  | 7:00 am – 3:30 pm                        |                   |
| <b>LIBRARY HOURS:</b> | MON/TUES/THURS/FRI                       | 7:00 am – 3:30 pm |
|                       | WED                                      | 7:00 am – 1:30 pm |
| <b>STUDENT HOURS</b>  | MON/TUES/THURS/FRI                       | 7:50 am – 2:04 pm |
|                       | WEDS - EARLY RELEASE DAYS                | 7:50 am – 1:10 pm |
|                       | MINIMUM DAYS*                            | 7:50 am – Noon    |
|                       | *9/27, 9/28, 9/29, 9/30, 10/1, 1/28, 6/6 |                   |

**SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL** meets once a month throughout the year at 2:30 pm monthly on Tuesdays (dates to be announced) starting in September. The Committee develops, reviews, and assesses a Single Plan for Student Achievement. The Committee is also responsible for approving a school improvement budget and any one-time monies allotted to the school. If interested, see the Parent Volunteer form in the 1<sup>st</sup> Day Packet you will receive on Bengal Day.

**2021/2022 CALENDAR** is available on our school website [here](#)

## EVENTS

**WELCOME BENGAL DAY:** We will be hosting a *Welcome Bengal Day* on Thursday, August 5, between the hours of 8:00 am and 2:00 pm that will allow students to pick up their schedules, chromebooks and to purchase Life Fitness uniforms before the start of the new school year. You may come any time between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. **If you are unable to attend, your child's schedule will be available on ESchools the evening of Monday, August 9, or you can pick up in front of the school office at Back-to-School Night or on the first day of school in the front office. Please note, that books will not be distributed at Bengal Day this year in order to focus on chromebooks. If your child needs to check out a textbook for one or more classes, they may do so in the library any time after school starts.**

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT** for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade is on Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Please note that this is the Monday BEFORE school starts and is intended for parents only. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will send out a brief introductory video on August 9<sup>th</sup>, but an in-person Back to School Night for 6<sup>th</sup> grade only will be on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. More info will come via email as the dates get closer but we at least wanted you to calendar the dates.

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:** The first day of the 2021/2022 school year is Wednesday, August 11, 2021. School starts promptly at 7:50 am every day. Since the first day is an early release day, students are dismissed at 1:10 pm. Every day except Wednesdays, dismissal is 2:04 pm.

## SCHOOL RULES AND POLICIES

**LATE ARRIVALS TO SCHOOL:** Students arriving to school after 7:50 am, for any reason, need to sign in at the office and obtain a pass to class.

**CHECKING YOUR STUDENT OUT EARLY:** Student safety is our number one concern and, as a result, students may only be checked out early by an adult whose name is listed on the student's emergency card. An identification card must be shown since we will not know every adult listed on the emergency card. Though we know this is an inconvenience at times, we want to ensure your child's safety and thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please allow enough time to follow this procedure as it will not be waived because people are in a hurry.

To expedite this process, please send your child with a note stating the time he/she is to be released from class; your child should give it to a secretary before school starts. The secretary will issue a pass for the time stated. Your child gives the pass to his/her teacher at the beginning of the period from which he/she is to be released and your child will be released to go to the office. ***If this procedure is not followed, please allow an additional 15 minutes to check your child out of class.***

**ABSENCES:** If your child is absent, please call the school at 933-9290, extension 4, first thing in the morning. If you do not contact us, we will require a note from home to explain the absence. If your child comes in tardy due to illness or a doctor's appointment, we will need a note from the doctor or a parent, or it will be considered an unexcused tardy. The School Attendance Review Board (SARB) states a student is considered truant from school when absent without a valid excuse more than three days or tardy in excess of 30 minutes on each of more than three days in one school year. You will receive an automated phone call when your child is absent and no call has been made to the school. Please make every effort to have your child attend for at least some portion of the day if you must schedule an appointment during school hours. **Please know that students are considered to be chronic absentees if they are absent more than 10% of the school year to date, whether absences are excused or unexcused.**

**HOW TO GET HOMEWORK WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT:** To get homework when your child is absent, please go to our school website under [staff](#). Each teacher has a link for their website with the homework on this page. Please email teachers directly for handout requests. Please allow 24 hours for teachers to put your child's work together. If you email before 7:30 am, teachers may be able to have work available after 2:30 pm on that same day.

**FORGOTTEN ITEMS (INCLUDING PE CLOTHES, HOMEWORK AND LUNCHES):** In an effort to ensure that classroom instruction is not interrupted, we do **NOT** deliver forgotten items to students. **We do, however, offer a one-time delivery pass to each student each year. The pass will reiterate our no delivery policy and remind students to come to the office to check for items.** Items are placed in bins in the front office for students to come and get in between classes. Thank you for your understanding and for reminding your child to check in the office if he/she ever forgets something at home.

**MESSAGES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY:** Please communicate to your child **BEFORE** school any necessary information regarding his/her day or pick up information. If it's a true emergency, we will interrupt class to deliver information.

### **CELL PHONE AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

Students may carry cell phones and other electronic devices. Students may use them only before and after school. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be out of sight (including headphones or ear buds) and turned off as soon as the first bell of the day rings and must remain off and out of sight until the last bell rings (this includes lunch time). The school will not be responsible for any lost, damaged, stolen or confiscated electronic devices. Use of a cell phone or electronic device in the classroom may be permitted on a limited basis when directed by a teacher. If a student is not following this policy, he/she will receive disciplinary consequences and loss of merits, and the electronic device will be confiscated and returned only to a parent. Please do not contact your child via cell phone during the school day.

**INDEPENDENT STUDY CONTRACTS:** The state of California requires that Independent Study Contracts may only be set up for students who will be out of school for five (5) or more CONSECUTIVE days. Please note you must give the school a minimum notice of five (5) school days to take out a contract! We thank you for planning ahead. **Please note that contracts cannot be taken out due to illness, and interdistrict students do not qualify for contracts.**

### **GRADING AND REPORT CARDS:**

- The primary purpose of grades and report cards is to clearly communicate a student's areas of strength and areas needing improvement each trimester based on the district's grade level standards. The goal is for students to meet each grade level standard by the end of the school year. Teachers use a variety of assessments to determine whether a student is meeting standards.
- Students in grades 6-8 shall receive a report card with a letter grade.
- Progress reports are distributed approximately during the 7<sup>th</sup> week of each trimester and serve as an indicator for how a student is progressing. The distribution of report cards and progress reports ensures parents have a sense of their child's performance approximately every 6 to 7 weeks. Parents are encouraged to check grades regularly via the Home Access Center (HAC) and contact their child's teachers if they have any questions.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL DRESS CODE POLICY**

"The Governing Board expects that students will present themselves in an orderly manner which will not disrupt the educational program at school. Their appearance should be neat, clean, and acceptable to the general society and in keeping with the activity at school. The Governing Board considers this to be a judgment area of the site administrator or the school (BP 5132)." The dress code also applies to activities after school (e.g., dances, sports) and off campus (e.g., field trips, away sports).

The school administration recognizes that fashion trends may keep it from being easy for students to find appropriate clothing; however, it is important to maintain a proper learning environment. Parents/Guardians and students are requested to take the proper steps to ensure their school wardrobe meets the standards of the dress code.

Students at Rolling Hills are "showing up for work"; therefore, they should make every attempt to dress for school and not the pool. The following guidelines are intended to define appropriate student attire and personal grooming for students at school. The appropriateness of the clothing will be determined by the

normal wear of the clothes; that is, they will be judged not just by the way the clothes fit when the student is standing still, but also by the way they fit as the student participates in the regular activities of the school day (e.g., walking, sitting, moving around, etc.). The dress code is meant to inspire pride and confidence for success as students grow toward entry into a 21st-century professional work environment.

- Inappropriate shirts include the following: halter tops, backless tops, mesh or see-through sheer tops without a shirt underneath, and low cut tank tops (including the neck and arm areas of the tank top). Shirts must not expose the midriff.
- Shorts must have a 3" inseam; skirts need to extend to mid-thigh.
- No undergarments should be visible.
- Pants should be worn at the waist without "sagging."
- Anything with language not conducive to a safe and positive learning environment, including unauthorized group affiliations, drug/alcohol/tobacco or sexual references, images of or reference to weapons, or otherwise Supreme Court deemed offensive content is prohibited (Tinker v. Des Moines 1969).
- Chains of any kind (such as wallet chains) and clothing or jewelry with protrusions that could be considered dangerous or unsafe are not allowed.
- Hats may be worn but must be removed when inside any building. Hats must be worn with the brim in the front.
- Holes, rips, or tears in pants should not expose skin above mid-thigh.
- Pajama type pants/shorts and slippers are not allowed. (Exceptions will be made on designated "spirit days.")
- Shoes with wheels are not allowed. Backless sandals and flip flops are allowed except during PE. (Proper athletic shoes need to be worn at all times during PE.)
- Gang-related attire (including accessories such as hats and bandanas) is strictly prohibited and subject to the interpretation of the administration.

The appropriateness of clothing in question per this dress code will be left to the discretion of the Rolling Hill's administration and staff. Students out of dress code may be asked to change into different clothes (school issued or extra clothes on hand) and will receive disciplinary consequences for repeat offenses. Students may be asked to call home for a change of clothing; these students will wait in the office until parents bring the alternate clothing.

## **PREREQUISITES FOR CURRENT 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS TO TAKE SPANISH AS A 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADER IN 2020/2021**

This is for advanced planning purposes. We don't want parents to be surprised by criteria in March, so here it is:

Please note that current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students must meet the following prerequisites to take Spanish 1A in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade:

- A grade of B+ or higher in Language Arts for all three trimesters
- Good attendance record

Applications for Spanish 1A will be distributed in the spring (March/April) to only those students who have met these prerequisites from Language Arts teachers. Please note space is limited and applications are taken on a first come, first served basis and are date stamped. If your child would like to take Spanish, but did not meet these requirements, we will establish a waiting list. If there is room available, we will add students as space allows.

Spanish IA is a year-long course that covers the equivalent of the first semester of high school Spanish. Spanish IB, which is taken in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, is equal to the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of High School Spanish. In other words, by taking Spanish IA in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Spanish IB in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students have completed the first year of high school Spanish. Please note that because this is a high school class, students should expect approximately 15 to 20 minutes of homework nightly. Though entry into Spanish II as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader is not guaranteed, it is highly probable for students who are successful in Spanish 1A/B.

Taking Spanish in middle school requires a two-year commitment. Students enrolled in Spanish 1A in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade will automatically be placed in Spanish 1B as an eighth grader.

## **NURSE'S NEWS**

**IMPORTANT 2021/22 STATE TDAP, VARICELLA AND MMR IMMUNIZATION POLICY: IF WE DO NOT HAVE PROOF THAT YOUR CHILD HAS HAD A CURRENT TDAP SHOT (7 YEARS OLD OR LATER) AS WELL AS 2 VARICELLA AND A 2<sup>ND</sup> MMR SHOT, YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO START SCHOOL ON AUGUST 11, 2021.**

\*Please note this Tdap vaccine is different from the pertussis vaccine that children get as infants and at kindergarten entry. Tdap is a booster shot specifically designed for pre-teens, teens, and adults. It boosts the waning protection from the doses of DTAP that children received when they were younger.

**MEDICATION AT SCHOOL:** It is our District Policy, that no child is allowed to take **ANY** medications at school without a form on file **signed by the doctor and parent**. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. These forms are available in the school office or on our school website for your convenience. (We also accept medications, dosage, and instructions on your doctor's signed prescription form.) All medications must be brought to the office in its **original** container. This policy is to protect all students, and your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

# SCHOOL SPIRIT TASTES GREAT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Friends Of Rolling Hills. Come in to the Chipotle at **4520 Post St Ste 294** in El Dorado Hills on **Monday, August 9th** between **4:00pm** and **8:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to Friends Of Rolling Hills.

## NEW! ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP

Use code 3PYN6DW before checkout in 'promo' field. Orders placed on Chipotle.com or through the Chipotle app for pickup using this unique code will be counted towards the fundraiser.



All online orders must be placed for pickup at the same time/location of the fundraiser. Delivery cannot be counted at this time. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.