



ROLLING HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Home of the Bengal Tigers

July 2019 Parent Bulletin

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello, Bengals! I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and enjoying the glorious days of summer. 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](#).

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!

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 1 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, books, PE uniforms, etc. It 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 and books 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. We will have a variety of items for sale, too, like PE uniforms, sweats, yearbooks, so parents have asked me to remind families to bring a checkbook. Some items are sold by Friends 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.

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. We hold this night BEFORE school starts, 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 5 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 learn about their child's curriculum, so please plan accordingly for childcare.

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 and enjoy the fun that is summer vacation. 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 7**, 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

OFFICE HOURS: 7:00 am – 3:30 pm

LIBRARY HOURS: MON/TUES/THURS/FRI 7:00 am – 3:30 pm
WED 7:00 am – 1:30 pm

STUDENT HOURS 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
*9/23, 9/24, 9/25, 9/26, 9/27, 1/24, 5/29

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, please contact Cindy Peterson at cpeterson@buckeyeusd.org or see the Parent Volunteer form in the 1st Day Packet you will receive on Bengal Day.

2019/2020 CALENDAR is available on our school website [here](#).

EVENTS

WELCOME BENGAL DAY: We will be hosting a *Welcome Bengal Day* on Thursday, August 1, between the hours of 8:00 am and 2:00 pm that will allow students to pick up their schedules and books 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 5, 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.**

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT will be held on Monday, August 5, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Please note that this date is before the first day of school and is intended for parents only, so please plan childcare accordingly. You will receive a schedule to follow on Bengal Day, and a copy will also be available on Back-to-School night outside the front office.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: The first day of the 2019/2020 school year is Wednesday, August 7, 2019. 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 7th 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 be in "business casual" clothing for their work day. 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 6TH GRADERS TO TAKE SPANISH AS A 7TH 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 6th grade students must meet the following prerequisites to take Spanish 1A in the 7th 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 you 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 8th grade, is equal to the 2nd semester of High School Spanish. In other words, by taking Spanish IA in the 7th grade and Spanish IB in the 8th 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 9th 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 7th grade will automatically be placed in Spanish 1B as an eighth grader.

NURSE'S NEWS

IMPORTANT 2019/20 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 2ND MMR SHOT, YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO START SCHOOL ON AUGUST 7, 2019.

*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: By District Policy, no child is allowed to take **ANY** medications at school without a form **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.) PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MEDICATION WITH YOUR CHLD IN HIS/HER LUNCH. This policy is to protect all students, and your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Please bring the medication to the office in its **original** container.