



ROLLING HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Home of the Bengal Tigers

September 2023 Parent Bulletin

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Bengals, and Happy September!

Being a New England girl, September is always one of my favorite months of the year, as it's the start of all my favorite things—school (at least where I'm from we didn't start until Labor Day!), football (go Pats!), and cold weather (bring it!). Here in CA, it's also the start of what I like to call the “settling in.” Routines are getting re-established and we're all figuring it out again. If your child still seems to be struggling, please do not hesitate to reach out to teachers or to me. Please note that parent conferences are scheduled for the last week of September; teachers will be contacting you if they'd like to get a conference scheduled. If you are not contacted and would like to schedule a conference, please reach out to your child's teachers.

We also seem to have adjusted to our expectations for making our Bengal den a safe place. The kids have been doing a fabulous job with their cell phones and it brings me such joy to see them communicating with each other face to face and playing games at lunch. It's been great! They're also getting used to the sitting thing. Please remind them that if they get there late and there is no seat left with their friends, they should let a yard duty know and they can move with a few of their friends to a table that has space.

In addition, I think we've figured out a solution for the students wanting to leave lunch to work with a teacher or go to the library. Of course, it's technology to the rescue! We are implementing an electronic hall pass so students don't have to see their teacher in order to get a pass from them, as one can be requested via their chromebook. We are hoping to launch this system on September 5. We anticipate some bumps along the way, but we also believe that it's time to replace traditional hall passes such as sign-out sheets, wooden blocks, passbooks, and lanyards, and toilet seats! This system, SmartPass, provides students, teachers, and administrators with an easy way to request a meeting with someone or to request a bathroom pass or a visit to the library. It also provides real-time access to critical information to administrators in case of emergencies such as fires, severe weather, or building intruders. I've also been in meetings with families when a teacher says something to the effect of “his absences are affecting his learning,” and the parent says, “But he's never absent.” We then go down the rabbit hole of realizing he leaves class quite a bit for the bathroom, the counselor, looking for a lost backpack, etc. When we drill down to those things, we're able to see that maybe he's struggling with the workload of the class, or maybe there are kids in the class that are bullying him. It gives us information to share with parents so we can make good decisions in the best interest of the student. It is not our intent to limit the time they are in the bathroom or how often they can go. Rather, if we start to see it become problematic, we might have a conversation with parents to be sure we're providing enough support to the student. Overall, the information will lead to more effective and informative

data, as well as ensuring students are where they should be—in the classroom learning. Students and staff will access SmartPass from their school-provided device. Very important to note that they will be using their school email and school issued device, so information is not stored past 8th grade. They are also HIPAA and SOPIPA compliant. For more information, please visit the SmartPass website www.smartpass.app.

We closed August with a fun morning rally with the students. The teachers gave a cringe-worthy performance, and the students had a blast. It's these fun times when I am thankful to work in such a high achieving school because we get to focus on learning AND having fun. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Now, bring on the football and cold weather!

NOTICES AND EVENTS

Checking out students: In order to expedite this process and get you on your way as quickly as possible, please send your child with a dismissal note indicating the time you would like your child checked out. Have them bring it directly to the office in the morning, and office staff will give them a pass to get out of class at the time indicated on your note. This is especially helpful when you try to check a student out at lunch or PE, as it's harder to get them to the office if the note wasn't brought to us in the morning.

Delivery of items: In order to minimize disruptions to class instruction, students will have a one time delivery pass for the year. After the pass is used, parents may deliver items to the office, and students should know that if they ever forget something to just stop in the office to pick it up. We will reiterate this with them when they use their one time delivery pass.

Absences:

1. What is considered an Excused Absence?

By law [EC § 48205], excused absences are: illness (fever 100° or more), persistent runny nose (not allergy related), vomiting, diarrhea, medical/dental appointments (doctor's note required for verification), death in the family, specific religious reasons, required appearance in court, and exclusion from school for contagious disease.

2. What can I do if my child needs to be out of school for a length of time?

If your child must be absent for three (3) or more days, you may request that your child is signed up for an Independent Study Agreement. Please note that teachers need at least one week's notice in order to prepare materials without interrupting their instructional time.

3. I called in to verify my child's absence; why am I still getting truancy letters?

Even excused absences can result in truancy notifications. Truancy letters are sent to all families who are in danger of being absent more than 10% of the school year. Obviously, earlier in the year that number could be only 3 absences. In order to teach our kids, we need them here!

DINE-OUT EVENT: Join us at Viscuso's Pizza and Draft House in El Dorado Hills on Wednesday, 9/20/23 from 2-9PM and they will donate 20% back to Rolling Hills! Make sure you bring the attached flyer or mention that you're supporting Rolling Hills when ordering.

Friends of Rolling Hills Meeting: The September FORH meeting will be held in the staff room on Thursday, September 21st at 12:45pm.

Volunteering: Interested in volunteering? Chaperoning a field trip? Fingerprints are mandatory and now convenient--please see attached flyer to get fingerprinted on 9/20/23 if interested in doing so.

Hands 4 Hope

Youth Making A Difference

Our primary objective is to enable youth to make a difference in their communities and offer meaningful community service projects combined with instruction and reflection, school-based clubs, and diverse leadership opportunities. At Hands4Hope, our mission is to inspire and empower youth in leadership and service. We give them a platform for their voice on issues affecting our community and provide them the opportunity to take action in their own way.

- Help youth gain awareness of and opportunity to explore areas of need in their communities
- Inspire compassion and the desire to take action
- Empower youth to create, develop, and implement projects that make an impact on their chosen causes
- Offer opportunities for leadership development
- Encourage youth to build relationships with other community-based agencies

Check out more information about Hands4Hope on our [website](#) and the [Rolling Hills Club page](#).

Information Meeting Wednesday, September 6th, 1:15-2pm in J1.

Library

The first few weeks of school are always so exciting! Meeting new students and showing them around our beautiful library space is a great way to start the year. All of our 6th graders have been to the library for a tour and orientation with their ELA classes, so they know how to use the library website and catalog, and how to request books. Our returning students are enjoying the new library setup - our fiction books are now divided into genres, which makes it easier for kids to find what they want to read.

If your children are having trouble accessing the library and/or finding books, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 933-9290 ext. 3040 or lleszinske@buckeyeusd.org.

Library Hours: The RHMS Library is open between the hours of 7:15-3:00pm (Wednesdays, until 2:15). Students may come to the library before and after school, or during the school day, if a teacher permits. During lunch most days, kids may obtain a library pass from yard duty, and visit the library after eating lunch

Textbooks: All textbooks are online, but if you prefer your student to have a print copy for home use, some textbooks are available in print form. Ask your child to stop by the library anytime to check out textbooks.

Chromebooks: If your child is experiencing trouble with a school chromebook, help is available in the library.

Battle of the Books: Registration for Battle of the Books (BoB) will be September 5-15. A link to register will be available on the library website. BoB is a fun program where students form teams, read a set of 10 books, and then compete to answer questions about the books. Teams will practice from late September through early March, and the competition will be in mid-March.

Library Assistants: Registration for Library Assistants will also be September 5-15 via a google form on the library website. Library Assistants is the student volunteer program for kids who want to help out in the library.

Questions?: If you have questions about the library, please contact me at lleszinske@buckeyeusd.org. The library website is available [here](#) and the code to join the library google classroom is **swnldzj**. Students who have trouble finding time to visit the library in person are encouraged to request a book via the [Book Request Form](#). Be sure and follow the library on Instagram [@rhmsreads](#).

CJSF News

Applications are available in Google Classroom. The [Trimester 3 Application](#) for 7th/8th graders only is due September 13th.

CJSF Meeting: September 19th during lunch. We have a guest speaker from Hands 4 Hope that will be talking about their program and community service opportunities.

Community Service: Although community service hours are **NOT** required to be a member of CJSF, they **ARE** required to participate in field trips and recognition events. Students only need 2 hours of service each trimester to qualify for the special events.

Here are some on-campus service opportunities: Campus Clean-Ups weekly on Wednesday after school from 1:15-1:45. Help keep our campus beautiful and earn service hours at the same time. No need to sign up in advance.

Students can also sign-up for [Recycling Crew](#) through Google Classroom. Recycling Pickup is done during Focus and earns them the hours they need by participating for the trimester.

Other opportunities will be posted in the CJSF Google Classroom (code=msgobrb). Students can also use community service hours from outside of school to fulfill this requirement. They need proof of hours by completing the [Service Verification Form](#).

Advisors: Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns to Amanda Burstiner (aburstiner@buckeyeusd.org) and Laura Leszinske (lleszinske@buckeyeusd.org)



Buckeye Union Food Service



What's Cooking?

New on our lunch menu this year is our house-made fried rice. We make it fresh with peas, carrots, eggs, soy sauce, garlic and ginger. It is served with our Orange Chicken and Pot Sticker entrees or can be served on its own as a vegetarian option.

This month we will be offering pluots from Free Spirit Farm in Winters, CA. Pluots are a fun and unique fruit and a new addition to our menu this year.

Arranged by Oak Meadow PTO

Mobile

Fingerprintin

Wednesday Sept. 20th

**12:30 for OM & BUMI
during the PTO meeting**

**1:30-4:30 for all Buckeye Union
School District Families**

Room G5

Cost: \$74 per person

*Your scan is valid for the entire time you are
a Buckeye Union family*



Cash

Check

Credit Card



Hands4Hope Youth Making A Difference
Rolling Hills Club 2023-24
INFORMATION MEETING



Wednesday Sept. 6th
1:15 - 2:00pm
Mrs. Roberts' Room J1



Pizza, FUN & raffles prizes
for students who attend!!



Want to make a difference in your community?
Help create an impactful service project for a
local cause that needs your help!
Make friends and have fun!
Earn community service hours.



Scan QR Code above to apply



Viscuso's Pizza & Draft House

2222 FRANCISCO DR
EL DORADO HILLS, CA
(916) 790-8725

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
2-9PM

DINE-IN | CARRY OUT | DELIVERY



20% OF THE PROCEEDS DONATED TO ROLLING HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL
WHEN YOU SHOW OR MENTION THIS FLYER!

THIRD-PARTY ORDERS NOT ELIGIBLE
ORDERS MUST BE CALLED IN AT (916) 790-8725



Creating Happy Families and Responsible Kids

Through this program, you will learn techniques that:

- ♥ Are simple and easy to learn
- ♥ Teach responsibility and character
- ♥ Lower your stress level
- ♥ Have immediate and positive effects
- ♥ Up the odds that, when the teenage years arrive, parenting can remain fun instead of frantic

Six Thursday Sessions // Oct. 5th – Nov. 9th // 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: Blue Oak Elementary School

Registration Fee: \$25 // Childcare Fee: \$20 per family

Childcare registration deadline is Wednesday, September 27th

Space is limited Register Today!

of

Please register me for the upcoming *Parenting the Love and Logic Way*[®] class!

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Yes, I need childcare. Number and ages of children: _____

Return registration and payment to your child's school. Checks payable to Buckeye USD.

For more information contact facilitator Carin Chumbley at cchumbley@buckeyeusd.org.

Childcare for Love and Logic is full

September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 No School Staff Development Day
4 No School Labor Day Holiday	5	6 Spirit Day: Wear Orange & Black Hands4Hope Meeting @ 1:15	7	8 6 th grade Welcome Party
11 Picture Make-up Day (Only for students who have not previously taken their picture)	12	13 Spirit Day: Wear Orange & Black CJSF Application Due	14	15
18	19 CJSF Meeting @ Lunch	20 Spirit Day: Wear Orange & Black Dine Out @ Viscuso's Hands 4 Hope Meeting @ 1:15	21 FORH Meeting @12:45	22 Wear a Tutu Fun Friday: Barbie Day
25 Minimum Day Parent/Teacher Conferences	26 Minimum Day Parent/Teacher Conferences	27 Spirit Day: Wear Orange & Black Minimum Day Parent/Teacher Conferences	28 Minimum Day Parent/Teacher Conferences	29 Minimum Day Parent/Teacher Conferences

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4 Spirit Day: Wear Orange & Black Hands 4 Hope Meeting @ 1:15	5	6
9	10	11 Spirit Day: Wear Orange & Black	12	13
16	17	18 Spirit Day: Wear Orange & Black Hands 4 Hope Meeting @ 1:15	19	20
23 Red Ribbon Week	24	25 Dine Out @ Rubios	26 Club Fair @ lunch Band Concert	27 Wear Halloween colors/school appropriate costume 7 th and 8 th Monster Bash
30	31			