RUPPEL ACADEMIE FRANCAISE

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to Ruppel! We've welcomed quite a few new families to Ruppel this year, and our school is thriving. It was nice to see everyone at the Back-to-School event last week.

If you are not getting regular emails and text messages from me, something is not accurate in our data system, so contact Mrs. Grayson in the front office at tonjanyka.grayson@jpschools.org.

Join the Ruppel Family Google Classroom: On a desktop, use your child's log-in to access Google. Go to the Google Classroom app and select the + sign to join a class. Enter the join code: dwbemx3

If using a phone, first download the Google Classroom app. Then enter the join code.

GRADES & BENCHMARKS: Students in grades K-8th will start benchmark testing the week of September 29. Kindergarten through 3rd graders will start ELA and math benchmarks on October 20.

Interim reports will go home on September 10 and are due signed by Friday, September 12. Report cards will be sent home on October 22 and the signed envelope must be returned by Friday, October 24.

BOOK FAIR is schedule for the week of September 16-19**.**

GOOGLE CLASSROOM & STUDENT PROGRESS CENTER: Remember that teachers post assignments to Google Classroom daily, which should be the resource for students who are absent for any reason. **Parents should check both Google Classroom and Student Progress Center (SPC) regularly**. The SPC letter was in the VIP folder and returning families use the same log-in as in previous years. If a parent does not have access to SPC, please email Ms. Miller at emily.miller1@jpschools.org.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS: Students are starting to get grades, and interim reports will be issued soon. It is important to remember that true learning and success is a productive struggle, and even strong students get bad grades sometimes. There is no need to be alarmed if a typically A/B student gets occasional C/D/F's on assignments. Additionally, the academic challenges change as students progress through school and so too will a student's general performance. **There are two things that parents should look for when viewing grades in Student Progress Center (SPC) that would be a reason to contact a teacher immediately if the teacher has not already reached out**:

1) A PATTERN of missed homework or classwork indicating that a child is not routinely participating in class properly.

2) A PATTERN of low test grades (D/F).

There will be an opportunity for **virtual parent conferences during the week of September 15**, and if a student's academic performance is a concern, the teachers will priority schedule conferences with those families before opening up the schedule to others**.**

STUDY GUIDES: Students are to learn and prepare to be assessed on the concepts taught. Assessments are varied and include objective and subjective responses at various levels of thinking. **We will not send home study guides that directly mirror the questions that will be on an assessment as memorization is not a true reflection of student learning**. However, a teacher may send home a list of lessons, topics, and/or skills that will be assessed to help students prepare. It is the responsibility of students, particularly in upper elementary and middle school, to write in the agenda and to know what a teacher will be assessing by participating in lessons daily.

CHILD CARE SCHEDULE CHANGE: Please note that there will be **no Child Care on Friday, October 3** due to Gretna Fest. The building will be closed immediately following 2:20 p.m. dismissal. Additionally, **Child Care will end at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 24** in preparation for Trunk-R-Treat.

TEACHER CONTACT & SCHOOL CALENDAR: Please refer to the Ruppel website for the teacher contact list; however, note that the website is currently under construction but will be functional soon. Additionally, the school year calendar was included in the VIP folder on Orientation Night and is posted in the Ruppel Families Google Classroom. Please keep the calendar handy and refer to it often as reminders will not be included in each newsletter.

VOLUNTEER/DONATION OPPORTUNITY: As you know, we take pride in creating a warm and inviting learning environment for students. If you'd like to help us decorate for the fall and winter holidays, please click this link to donate either a pumpkin or poinsettia for the front steps. Sign up at this link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4BACA828A5FC1-58184743-holiday

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SAINTS SHIRT DAY: On Friday, September 5, students may wear a Saints shirt, black shirt, gold shirt, or other New Orleans themed shirt in place of the uniform shirt with uniform skirt, pants, or shorts. This is NOT a dress down day.

TRUNK-R-TREAT on OCTOBER 24: This is one of our most popular family events of the year! Please see the flyer attached for all of the details regarding the entrance fee and how to purchase. We need cakes or other sweets for our cake walk. Please see the flyer for details about donating. Be sure to adhere to purchasing deadlines as stated on the flyer. This event is not open to the general public, only Ruppel families and friends.

SPIRIT WEEK & RED RIBBON: We are hosting spirit week October 27-31, and the theme is "Level Up Kindness!" During the week we will highlight school safety and healthy lifestyle topics with kindness as the primary focus. To add to the fun, we will offer four days of themed dress down options for $1.00 each day. A flyer with additional details will be sent home in October.

The week of October 28 is also Red Ribbon Week, so we will have a "Scare Away Drugs" costume dress down on Friday, October 31. The PK class will host a trick-R-treat event that day as well, so all students will get candy. Please see the flyer for costume dress down guidelines. There is no charge to dress in costume or other fall-themed attire on October 31.

LASER TAG: PTO is hosting a laser tag night on Thursday, October 9. Employees will NOT be on hand to supervise, so all Ruppel students must be accompanied by parent. A flyer will be sent home soon.

PEER RELATIONSHIPS: Throughout October, we focus on a variety of student health and safety issues with a particular focus on kindness. It is important that we all work in cooperation to communicate a consistent message regarding the treatment of others. Childhood years are often difficult, as children are learning to navigate social structures in a variety of settings. Children will encounter different types of frustrations with peers, including simple annoyances, personality differences, and sometimes even outright mean or hurtful behavior. At Ruppel, we work hard to teach students how to handle these situations in a positive and productive manner. The most important way to prevent conflict is by teaching and encouraging kindness and respect, as well as learning to forgive because we all need forgiveness at times.

The majority of peer conflict that we observe daily is the result of mutual unkindness. However, children often do not yet have a mature enough perspective to understand their role in a situation. Children often only communicate grievances that specifically impact them, as they are still learning to observe the world and all its complexities during their development process.

Please reinforce with your child that it is **never** okay to return unkindness with more unkindness when at school. This is never a productive or positive solution and will usually exacerbate the situation. When at school, your child is surrounded by a support system of adults who can help them navigate frustrations. Students do not need to resort to hurting others physically or emotionally as retaliation to hurtful behavior.

For positive conflict resolutions strategies and examples, see the attached Tip Sheet. The strategies and ideas shared on the tip sheet are reinforced by Mrs. Eakin when she meets with classes.

POLICY REMINDERS

CHILD CARE: We offer child care after school as a service to help families. However, we ask that families are courteous and conscientious when utilizing these services so as not to take advantage of our amazing evening child care and maintenance staff. These are a few policies to remember:

- Students are checked into child care at 2:25 at which point families are responsible for charges incurred. Child care opens at 2:30 p.m. for parents to check-out.
- Once arriving at school, the parent should exit the car immediately to check out the child. Parents should not linger in the vehicle once on campus.
- Parents must actually sign-out the child.
- Payments must be made on time or the late fee will be applied. Habitual failure to pay the child care fees promptly requiring multiple notices to be sent home will result in removal from child care for the entire school year.

CARPOOL: Carpool is generally going very well, and I appreciate the cooperation of families. Please remember the following:

- The most common reason for delays in the carpool line is failure to have the child's carpool tag. Make sure any person sent to get a child has the tag as well. Extra tags can be requested from the front office by emailing tonjanyka.grayson@jpschools.org
- Please pull all the way forward until just behind the car in front while waiting in the carpool line. Do not leave gaps between cars except when leaving room to pass at an intersection or driveway.
- The morning line starts on the other side of the neutral ground at 9th Street. **Even if a family thinks there is no one in line in front of the building, the family should still go to the other side of the neutral ground to make the U-Turn as other families are following the policy and end up waiting**.
- Please make sure your child is ready to get out of the car quickly in the morning. (Unbuckled, fully dressed, bags ready) Student are not to exit the car with food for breakfast.

BUS: Students should be waiting at the stop, not in another vehicle, for the bus ten minutes prior to the expected arrival in the morning, and parents should be waiting ten minutes prior to the expected afternoon arrival.

- **Bus drivers are not allowed to wait**, and the driver should not be blamed if a student or parent is not at the stop during this entire window.
- First-eighth graders may be dropped off without a parent present, so if this is a concern, the person meeting at the stop must be on time.
- We have fully staffed bus routes at this time, and the demands on these bus drivers is immense. It is important that everyone is cooperative and respectful of these drivers who offer such an important service.

- **TARDY TO SCHOOL:** We have too many students walking into the building after 7:20 a.m. Not only is this a disruption to the learning environment, it puts a child at a disadvantage when starting the school day. Arriving to the classroom after 7:20 a.m. impacts a child's eligibility for PBIS rewards including the BINGO Party raffle each month. Students are eligible for such celebrations when they consistently demonstrate RAMS Pride (Respectful, Accountable, Motivated, Safe), and entering class after it is started is opposite of those expectations. Our carline moves smoothly starting at 6:50 a.m., so there is an opportunity for every child to be in class on time if he/she arrives to the carpool line in a timely manner. We encourage all families to be in the carpool line no later than 7:15 a.m. to ensure that a student has time to get to class by 7:20 a.m.

- **DRESS CODE REMINDER**: The policy states that only stud earrings are allowed. If students are wearing earrings of any kind that hang below the ear lobe, they will be asked to removed them and place them in the bookbag. If a student habitually violates this policy, additional consequences will be issued.