

September 2025

R. K. Smith Middle School

We are committed to ensuring that all students are critical thinkers and life-long learners in order to make a positive impact on society.

A Message from the Principal

Mr. Harold W. Blood

Welcome to a brand-new school year at Raymond K. Smith Middle School! It's hard to believe we're already diving into September, and what an exciting start it's been! Whether you're a returning 7th or 8th grade family or joining us for the first time with a new 6th grader, we are so glad you're here. Thank you for trusting us to provide a high-quality education for your child and for your continued support at home. Together, we make a strong team—and that's especially meaningful this year.

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who were able to attend our Open House. It was wonderful to meet so many of you and see the positive energy flowing through our hallways. If you weren't able to attend, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers or any of our administrators. We want all families to feel connected and informed, and we're happy to answer any questions or help you find ways to support your child's learning at home.

Although we've only been in school a few weeks, after school activities are already in full swing! Our volleyball and football teams have been practicing hard, along with our cheerleaders and dance team. Volleyball games are already under way, and football games will be starting soon. In addition, student clubs will begin meeting in September. We encourage every student to try something new—join a club, cheer on their classmates, or step out of their comfort zone. Middle school is a perfect time to explore interests and build new friendships.

This year, our school-wide theme is "The Power of a Positive Team." We believe that positivity is contagious, and we're committed to creating a school environment where every student feels supported, encouraged, and empowered to grow. We can't wait to see how our students rise to the occasion and contribute to a strong, united community.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead—let's make it one to remember!

Warm regards,

Mr. Blood

**WELCOME
BACK TO SCHOOL**

Meet Our Administrative Team



Mr. Harold Blood, Principal
hblood@wearescpps.org

As the principal of R.K. Smith Middle School, it is my goal and duty to keep the “main thing, the main thing,” which is educating and preparing students to succeed academically, as well as socially, because success is intentional. Our driving principle is the motto that we stress: “Kids First.” I have been an educator for over 25 years. My education career in St. Charles Parish began in 1994 when I was hired as a para educator at the Court School that shared a campus with Eual J. Landry Middle School in Hahnville. I also coached football and track at Eual J. Landry. I attended Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. I received my B.A. in Elementary Education from Southern University at New Orleans. I taught sixth-grade math at Ethel Schoeffner Elementary in Destrehan for six years, from 1999 to 2006. During that time I also attained my M.ED., in Administration and Supervision from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux. In 2006 I was appointed as the assistant principal of Raymond K. Smith Middle School, and in 2009 I was promoted to principal of Raymond K. Smith Middle School.



**Ms. Jennifer Green,
Assistant Principal**

jgreen@wearescpps.org

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts:
1-8 Elementary Education;
Master of Arts in Education:
Curriculum and Instruction and
Educational Leadership



**Ms. Mindy Jones,
Assistant Principal**

mjones3@wearescpps.org

Qualifications: Bachelor of
Arts: 1-8 Elementary
Education; Master of Arts
in Education: Curriculum
and Instruction



**Ms. Letonya Coleman,
Dean of School Climate**

lc Coleman@wearescpps.org

Qualifications: Bachelor
of Science, Speech Pathology
& Audiology; Master of
Arts in Education/
Administration & Supervision

RKS Weekly Information Guide:

Your Go-To Resource for Student Success

The RKS Weekly Information Guide is a valuable tool designed to keep students and families informed about the upcoming week's activities, projects, assessments, and important deadlines. Updated every week, this guide helps you stay connected to what is going on in the classroom so you can support learning at home. Key highlights include:

- **Graded Assessments:** These are marked in yellow, so they stand out for easy reference.
- **Daily Classwork:** While not always highlighted on the guide, please be aware that daily assignments may be collected for a grade.
- **Teacher Contact Information:** Each teacher's email address is provided for quick communication in case you have any questions or concerns.

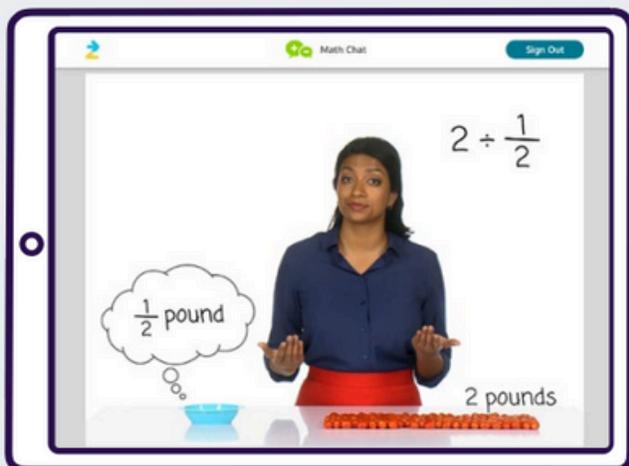
We encourage you to review the guide each week to stay ahead of assignments and ensure your child's success. If anything is unclear or you need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher via email or phone—our team is here to support you!

Follow these steps to access the Weekly Information Guide:

1. Visit the RKS website at rksmith.wearescpps.org
2. Click on "For Families"
3. Click on "Weekly Information Guides"
4. Select the guide you want to view (6th, 7th, or 8th grade)

Let's Help Your Child Love Learning Math

Our school is using Zearn Math to help your child make the most of their math learning this year.



Zearn Math is a nonprofit learning platform your child will use to complete online math lessons. In each lesson, your child will:

- ✓ Explore the important math ideas of their grade with an on-screen Zearn teacher
- ✓ Make sense of math with pictures and interactive models
- ✓ Solve math problems in lots of different activities, all with built-in math help

Research shows that students who complete Zearn Math lessons each week significantly increase their math scores.



The Nurse is In: Health & Wellness Tips

As we head into September, cold and flu season is just around the corner. To help keep our students, staff, and families healthy, I'd like to take a moment to remind you to not send your child to school if they are running a fever. A fever is usually a sign that the body is fighting an infection and your child needs time to rest and recover.

Students must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before returning to school. This helps prevent the spread of illness to others and gives your child time to heal.

Here are a few more tips to help keep everyone healthy this season:

1. Prioritize Sleep. Growing bodies and developing brains need plenty of rest. Aim for 8–10 hours of sleep each night, depending on age. A well-rested child is better equipped to fight off illness and stay focused in class.

2. Eat Nutritious Foods. A balanced diet filled with fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins helps strengthen the immune system. All students can receive a healthy breakfast each morning and a nutritious lunch at school for no charge.

3. Handwashing Is Key. Please remind your child to wash their hands regularly—especially before eating and after using the restroom. Using soap and water for at least 20 seconds is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs.

We all play a part in keeping our school community healthy and safe. Thank you for helping us take care of our students—your support truly makes a difference!

School Nurse: Aspen Jack

ajack@wearescpps.org

Nurse Para: Toni Scott

tscott3@wearescpps.org

RKS is a School of Distinction!



We are proud to announce that R. K. Smith Middle School is a 2024-2025 National Beta School of Distinction. The school earned this recognition by increasing their club's membership by at least 10% from last year.

National Beta School of Distinction is an honor for Beta clubs striving towards academic achievement, exemplary character, demonstrated leadership and service to others. With an ongoing quest to instill these qualities in more students, the National Beta School of Distinction Award is designed to reward those schools that show an increase in membership for the current school year. This year, only 2,946 Beta Clubs across the country received this award. Congratulations to all Beta Club members and sponsors!

The poster features a festive design with floral and star patterns. At the top, it says 'ST. CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS'. Below that, in large blue letters, is 'ELL: FAMILIES AND FRIENDS'. A banner across the middle reads 'JOIN US TO CELEBRATE: Heritage Night' in red and pink. A yellow speech bubble says 'SAVE THE DATE'. At the bottom, it provides the location: 'St. Charles Parish Public Schools Professional Learning Center, 12727 Hwy 90, Luling, LA 70070' and the date and time: 'Tuesday, September 16, 2025, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm'. A small circular logo at the bottom center shows a globe with a person.

Progress Reports Coming Home Sept. 12

Progress reports will be sent home on Friday, September 12. These reports are distributed around the middle of each quarter to give you a clear view of how your child is performing in each of their classes. Please take time to review the progress report carefully, sign it, and return it to school. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher for more information or support.

You don't have to wait for Progress Reports to see how your child is doing! Use PowerSchool to get the most up to date information on your student's grades. Download the app or visit stcharles.powerschool.com/public

Congrats to our Student of the Year candidates!

We are proud to announce the students who have met the initial criteria and are officially invited to apply for the Raymond K. Smith Middle School Student of the Year Awards Program. This prestigious program honors students who exemplify excellence in academic achievement, leadership, and citizenship. Being identified as a potential Student of the Year is already a significant accomplishment, and we are so proud of all of these students!

Darryl Bardell
Olivia Barker
Caison Berthelot
Dasia Brickhouse
Vincent Bruno
Jayden Caine
Luke Compton
Cara Cortez
Jillian DelPino
Dominick Dunn
Riley Emilien
Gerald Gullage

Jacob Joseph
Mysta Kenner
Kaylee Lang
Lance Lavigne
Landon Lirette
Owen Lorenzo
Olivia Lorenzo
Cylie Lorio
Ja'Zyri McLeod
Luna Mejia
Kamilah Melancon
Angel Melendez Morales

Lorelei Mitchell
Makely Murillo
Joaquin Naranjo
Jorge Rivas
Cassielle Weber
Jordyn White
Devrin Williams
Ginger Williams





Don't miss your opportunity to get invited to the
R. K. Smith Middle School

AttendANCE Party

September is Attendance Awareness Month!

Being at school matters — for your learning, your goals, and your future. This September, we're challenging ALL students to have **NO unexcused absences from Sept 3 – Oct 9.**

Why? Because showing up every day helps you:

- ✓ Stay on track
- ✓ Build strong habits
- ✓ Succeed in school

And there's a reward! Everyone with perfect attendance (**no unexcused absences**) from September 3 – October 9 will get an invite to our exclusive **AttendANCE Party** on Friday, October 10 from 1:45–3:00 PM in the gym.

This will also be a **dress-down day** for invited students!

Music • Dancing • Nachos • Popcorn • Drinks

Don't miss out — start the year strong.
Be here. Every day counts!

Tigers kick off their season in the Superdome

The RKS Tigers kicked off their season in style with an unforgettable game at the iconic New Orleans Superdome! It was an exciting opportunity to showcase the talent of our football team, cheerleaders, and dance team. From thrilling plays on the field to electrifying routines on the sidelines, it was a true celebration of teamwork and Tiger pride. The season is officially underway, and the energy is just getting started!

The schedule for the upcoming games is included below; B Games will kick off at 5:00 PM, with A Games beginning 15 minutes after the conclusion of the B Game. Get ready to cheer on the Tigers and show your school spirit! Go Tigers!

Please note that all event safety protocols will be followed, including the clear bag policy for entry. Additionally, any child who is not currently attending high school must be accompanied by an adult for admittance.



Thursday 9/11 Jamboree Hahnville 5pm
Thursday 9/18 vs JB Martin Hahnville 5pm*
Thursday 9/25 vs Cammon Hahnville 5pm*
Thursday 10/2 vs Hurst Hahnville 5pm*
Wednesday 10/8 vs JB Martin Hahnville 5pm
Thursday 10/16 vs Northwestern HHS 5pm*
Tuesday 10/21 vs Cammon Destrehan 5pm
Thursday 10/30 vs Hurst Destrehan 5pm
** Home Game*

Tiger Volleyball Serving Up an Exciting Season!

The RKS Tiger Volleyball team is ready for another exciting season of fast-paced action and teamwork! Check out the schedule included in the newsletter, and be sure to come out and support our athletes as they give it their all on the court. Your presence and cheers make all the difference—let's pack the stands and show the Tigers some love!

Wednesday 9/10-12 RISE Tournament
Monday 9/15* vs St. Joseph* 4:30pm
Monday 9/22 vs JB Martin* 5pm
Wednesday 9/24 vs Cammon* 5pm
Monday 9/29 vs Hurst* 5pm
Wednesday 10/1 @ JB Martin 5pm
Monday 10/6 @ Cammon 5pm
Thursday 10/9 vs Hurst (@ DHS) 5pm

*** Home Game**

Students in Mr. Johnson's art class are hard at work bringing their sweet creations to life! After designing their own bakery businesses—complete with logos and marketing materials—they're now using plaster to sculpt 3-D models of the treats they'll "sell." This project combines art with entrepreneurship, helping grow the creative thinkers and leaders of tomorrow. We can't wait to see the final display!

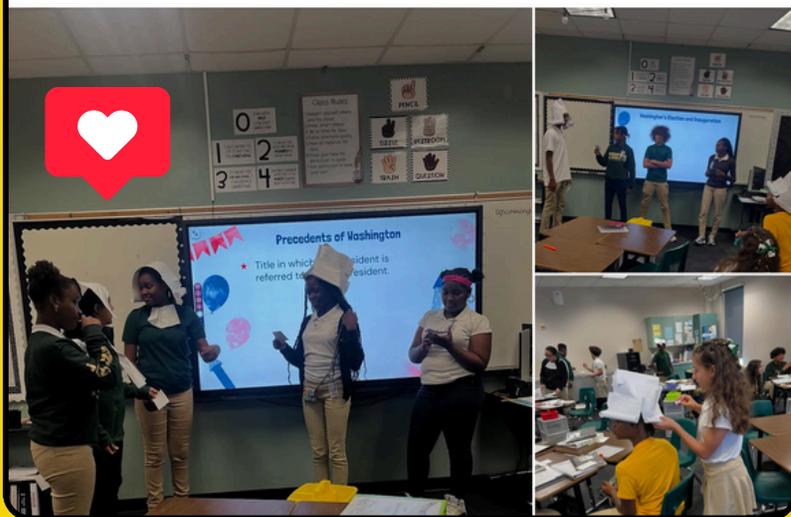


7th grade scientists visited the lab this week to explore physical and chemical changes.



Here's a look at what's happening on the RKS Facebook and Instagram pages! Stay up to date with what's going on by following us on social media!

Students in Ms. Kieffer's 7th grade social studies class created mini skits to teach classmates about the precedents George Washington set for our new nation. Some even got creative and made paper wigs to wear during their performance!



Our 6th graders had a blast in the library today—building marble roller coasters, solving puzzles, and getting creative with LEGOs! A great mix of fun and learning, with plenty of teamwork and imagination along the way



We loved welcoming our RKS families onto our campus to explore classrooms, meet teachers, and learn more about the amazing work our students are doing. Thank you to all the parents and guardians who joined us for Open House — your support helps make our school community stronger!



Who needs electricity when you've got paper, pencil, and passion for teaching and learning?! When the power went out, Dr. Gullage lit the way—literally—and turned the hallway into a math classroom.



September 2025 Middle School Menus

AVAILABLE DAILY

Every day at Lunch
Deli Sandwich

Mon/Weds/Fri Special
Fresh Hot Pizza

Tuesday's Special
(selection rotates weekly)

Chicken Sandwich
Totchos

Thursday's Special
Hamburger or
Cheeseburger

Monday, September 1



NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, September 2

Breakfast
Chicken Biscuit
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Mesquite Chicken
Loaded Mashed Potatoes
Steamed Corn
Apple Wedges

Wednesday, September 3

Breakfast
French Toast Sticks
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Beef Vegetable Soup
Grilled Cheese Sandwich
Garden Salad
Banana
Brownie

Thursday, September 4

Breakfast
Sausage Biscuit
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Beef Dippers
Macaroni & Cheese
Broccoli Florets
Baked Beans
Pineapple Tidbits

Friday, September 5

Breakfast
Waffle
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
BBQ Turkey
Potato Salad
Ranchero Beans
Jalapeno Cornbread
Orange Wedges

Monday, September 8

Breakfast
Grits w/Sausage
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Red Beans w/Steamed Rice
Seasoned Mustard Greens
Steamed Carrots
Cornbread
Peaches

Tuesday, September 9

Breakfast
Chicken Biscuit
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Nachos
Steamed Corn
Refried Beans
Taco Salad Cup
Apple Wedges

Wednesday, September 10

Breakfast
Cinnamon Roll
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Salisbury Steak
Mashed Potatoes
Broccoli
Dinner Roll
Banana

Thursday, September 11

Breakfast
Sausage Biscuit
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Turkey Stew
Steamed Rice
Candied Yams
Steamed Cabbage
Strawberry Cup

Friday, September 12

Breakfast
Fresh Donut
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Pastalaya
Green Beans
Garden Salad
Fresh Orange Wedges

Monday, September 15

Breakfast
Pancake on a Stick
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Popcorn Chicken
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Cal Blend Veggies
Cinnamon Apple Slices

Tuesday, September 16

Breakfast
Chicken Biscuit
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Jambalaya
Broccoli Florets
Steamed Carrots
WW Roll
Pineapple Tidbits

Wednesday, September 17



Thursday, September 18

Breakfast
Sausage Biscuit
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Fish Nuggets
Macaroni & Cheese
Green Beans
Cucumber & Tomato Salad
Pears

Friday, September 19

Breakfast
Pancake Sausage Bites
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
General Tso Chicken
Lo Mein Noodles
Edamame
Asian Salad
Orange Wedge



EVERY COMPLETE MEAL WE SERVE COMES WITH YOUR CHOICE OF LOW FAT OR NONFAT MILK!

Monday, September 22

Breakfast
Breakfast Pizza or Egg Bites
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Chicken Tenders
Waffles
Green Beans
Steamed Carrots
Sliced Peaches

Tuesday, September 23

Breakfast
Chicken Biscuit
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Orange Chicken
Fried Rice
Asian Chopped Salad
Edamame Beans
Mandarin Oranges

Wednesday, September 24

Breakfast
Cinnamon Roll
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Spaghetti & Meat sauce
Italian Salad
Broccoli Florets
Garlic Bread, Banana
Jello w/Topping

Thursday, September 25

Breakfast
Sausage Biscuit
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Turkey & Sausage Gumbo
Steamed Rice
Potato Salad
Cucumber/Tomato Salad
Pineapple Tidbits

Friday, September 26

Breakfast
Score
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Mini Corn Dogs
Tater Tots
Carrots w/Ranch
Orange Wedges

Monday, September 29

Breakfast
Confetti Pancakes
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Chicken Alfredo Pasta
Green Beans
Carrots
Applesauce

Tuesday, September 30

Breakfast
Chicken Biscuit
Cereal w/Graham Crackers
Yogurt w/Tiger Bites
Fruit or Juice Choice

Lunch
Sweet & Sour Meatballs
Loaded Mashed Potatoes
Steamed Corn
Apple Wedges



National Breakfast Month
National Chicken Month
National Mushroom Month
National Honey Month

National Papaya Month
National Potato Month
National Rice Month
Sourdough September

National Whole Grains Month
National Food Safety Education Month
Fruits & Veggies—More Matters Month
Hispanic Heritage Month | Sept. 15-Oct. 15
National Suicide Prevention Month

WELCOME TO LIVING THE 7 MINDSETS!

The 7 Mindsets program helps students develop the attitudes and perspectives needed for success and fulfillment. Based on decades of research into the habits of happy, accomplished people, it offers a proven path for academic achievement, strong relationships, and resilience. With over 15 years of real-world use, the program has empowered more than 5 million students, refining its approach to unlock each student's potential and create positive change.

Why Mindsets-Based Instruction?

Mindsets shape how we see the world, ourselves, and our potential. Instead of just teaching specific skills, mindsets-based teaching focuses on building positive attitudes that help students want to learn and improve for the rest of their lives. Research in areas like positive psychology, growth mindset, and emotional intelligence shows that believing in yourself can greatly improve emotional well-being, academic achievement, and life outcomes.

Mindsets-based teaching is powerful because it helps students become more motivated, resilient, and adaptable—traits that are important for lifelong learning and success. When students believe they can grow and improve, they are more likely to tackle challenges, keep going when things get tough, and look for opportunities to learn new skills.

The 7 Mindsets

As we progress with the program, we will provide you with more detailed information about each of the 7 Mindsets as well as tips & tricks and conversation starters you can use at home. In the meantime, here is a brief overview of the 7 Mindsets:

1. **Everything is Possible** inspires **hope**. It teaches students to dream big, embrace creativity, maintain a positive outlook, and learn and grow from mistakes.
2. **Passion First** ignites a **sense of purpose**. It helps students embrace their strengths and interests while leveraging their values, aspirations, and lived experiences to their advantage.
3. **We Are Connected** strengthens a **sense of belonging**. Students learn to embrace everyone, surround themselves with positive influences, and build meaningful relationships with others.
4. **100% Accountable** builds a **belief in oneself**. It teaches students to overcome limiting beliefs, prioritize their efforts, take ownership of their outcomes, and grow from every experience.
5. **Attitude of Gratitude** develops **thankfulness**. Through this mindset, students learn to appreciate their gifts, celebrate others, and find the positives in all circumstances to fuel growth.
6. **Live to Give** instills a **sense of significance**. Students learn to serve others, make choices that positively impact the world, and foster a collaborative and creative spirit.
7. **The Time is Now** sparks **engagement**. It encourages students to take initiative, position themselves for success, and take purposeful action toward their goals and dreams.

EMPOWERING MINDS

A FAMILY GUIDE TO THE 7 MINDSETS

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

The Everything is Possible Mindset focuses on the power of hope and reminds us that everyone has the potential to achieve great things. Each person has the ability to create a life full of happiness, success, and meaningful experiences. This mindset applies to every student, and by embracing it, we aim to unlock their full potential. Research shows that the Everything is Possible Mindset can improve academic performance. This mindset also leads to greater happiness, stronger friendships, and better emotional well-being.



PRACTICAL TIPS FOR YOUR FAMILY

- **Talk about the Future:** Research shows encouraging children to think about their future sparks positive growth. Talk about their dreams to build hope and expand their sense of what's possible!
- **Support Dreams, Don't Shut Them Down:** You might disagree with your child's dreams or goals because they seem unrealistic. What matters most is that they dream; discouraging them might stop them from setting future goals.
- **Share Your Dreams and Failures:** Talk about your dreams and times when things didn't go as planned with your child. This may show them it's okay to try, fail, and keep going.

MINDSET MATTERS

Here are ways we want to support your child:

- **Dream Big:** Dreaming big inspires your child to set ambitious goals and believe in their potential to achieve extraordinary things.
- **Embrace Creativity:** Embracing creativity encourages your child to find new ideas and ways to grow.
- **Think Positive:** Positive thinking helps your child build resilience and approach challenges with optimism, paving the way for greater success.
- **Act and Adjust:** Acting and adjusting teaches your child to take charge and keep moving forward, even when facing challenges.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use these questions to engage in a conversation with your child/children.

- What's something you did that seemed impossible at first? How did you make it happen?
- What's one new thing you want to try this week, even if it feels difficult?

Parent Notification
Compliance with Public Law 114-95, Section 1112(e)(1)(a)(i)-(ii)] and
Section 1112(e)(1)(B)(ii)]

To: All Parents or Guardians

From: R. K. Smith Middle School

Date: September 3, 2025

Subject: Notification to Parents of Teacher/Paraprofessional Qualifications

In accordance with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)/ PARENTS' RIGHT-TO-KNOW, this is a notification from R. K. Smith Middle School to every parent of a student in a Title I school that you have the right to request and receive in a timely manner: information regarding the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers and/or paraprofessionals.

The information regarding the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teacher/paraprofessional shall include the following:

1. If the teacher has met state certification/qualification criteria for the grade level and subject areas taught;
2. If the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which state certification/qualification criteria are waived;
3. The teacher is assigned to the field of discipline of the certification.
4. Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications [ESSA 1112(e)(1)(A)(i)-(ii)]

In addition to the above information, you will be notified if your student has been taught for **four or more consecutive weeks** by a teacher who does not meet the applicable state certification requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned. [ESSA 1112(e)(1)(B)(ii)]

Teachers may meet this requirement if the district is implementing its approved District Innovation teacher certification policy or if the teacher meets the State Certification assignment rules.

If you would like to receive any additional information about any of the above issues, please contact Harold Blood at (985) 331-1018.