Greetings Parents and Guardians!

As we settle into the new school year, we continue to prioritize the foundational components of student success. We are transitioning from **Attendance Awareness Month** in September to focusing on **Substance Use Prevention Month** throughout October. Both topics require a strong partnership between home and school.

September Review: Consistent Attendance is Key

Thank you for your initial efforts to prioritize your students' daily attendance. Consistent attendance is key to a positive and productive learning environment. A student is considered to be consistently attending school if they are present for more than **90%** of school days.

As we communicated in September, addressing chronic absenteeism is our top priority. Last year, **22%** of our students were chronically absent (missing 10% or more of the school year). To actively work on improving this, we are committed to the following initiatives:

- **Improved Tracking:** We are refining how we track tardies and absences to better understand the root causes and provide **timely, individualized support**.
- **Clear Expectations:** We are clearly communicating our expectations to all staff and students.
- **Targeted Feedback:** We are providing more timely feedback, including weekly check-ins for students identified with concerning attendance patterns.

Your help in ensuring your student arrives at school and is on time for every class is essential to maximizing their opportunities for success.

October Focus: Substance Use Prevention

October is recognized nationally as **Substance Use Prevention Month**, a campaign aimed at raising awareness about substance use disorders and promoting prevention strategies. This is especially relevant in the high school setting, where young people face increased pressure and exposure to risks, particularly involving nicotine/vaping and other chemicals.

At Rogers High School, we are taking a **three-pronged approach** to build awareness and promote positive choices around substance and nicotine use among our community:

1. **Student Education:** We are implementing evidence-based curriculum in our health classes, fact sheets, and information on Schoology for prevention and coping strategies, and refusal skills needed to make healthy decisions. We are also offering a free leadership training to students this month for them to learn how to lead and promote positive choices. In addition, ISD 728 has a Chemical Health Counselor for students and parents to work with, consult or ask questions. Paul Fischer is available from 7:00 am until 2:15 pm at 763-381-4744 and Paul.Fischer@isd728.org

2. **Staff Training:** We are ensuring our teachers and support staff are trained to recognize the signs of substance use, understand the risks, and utilize appropriate protocols for intervention and support.

3. **Parent Partnership:** We will share resources and information with you throughout the month to empower you to have proactive and informed conversations at home. We believe open communication is the most effective tool in prevention.
    a. We will update this website once a week on Mondays with fact sheets.
    b. We will host a “Hidden In Plain Sight” educational display for parents on October 9, 2025 during Parent Teacher Conferences in Room C103.

We are committed to creating a supportive, drug-free environment where all students feel safe and empowered to reach their full potential.

If you have questions about either attendance or prevention resources, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or your student’s designated Assistant Principal.

We look forward to a successful and healthy October!

Sincerely,

Jason Paurus, Principal
Ryan Johnson, Assistant Principal A-Ga
Jill Engquist, Assistant Principal, Ge-Ma
Josh Stephan, Assistant Principal, Mc-Sp
Karlee Anderson, Administrative Intern, Sq-Z
Dan Ohlgren, Activities Director