

Rogers High School Parent Update

Dear Rogers High School Parents and Guardians,

As we head into the holiday break, we want to thank you for your incredible partnership. The foundation for student success—strong social connections and consistent academic growth—is built at home and reinforced in our classrooms.

This month, our staff has been asked to build on success and revisit five key areas that directly impact your students' test scores and overall well-being. We are proud of the progress we have made together in strengthening the 'Royal Foundations.'

Academic Excellence: Leveraging the Phone-Free Focus

Data consistently shows that the removal of cell phones has resulted in higher student engagement and improved test scores across multiple subjects. Now that we have students' full attention, we are ensuring our instruction is worthy of that focus.

We have asked our teachers to move beyond simple compliance to differentiate instruction and gamify content. By replacing the distraction of personal screens with engaging, competitive academic practice, we can maximize concentration and reinforce the joy of learning. We are transforming focused attention into mastery.

Behavior Excellence: Amplifying Specific Praise

The Royal Pride is visible across the building, with nearly 500 positive referrals recorded. We know that public praise is a powerful tool for reinforcing positive behavior and encouraging social connection.

We have asked our staff to focus on shifting from general affirmations ("good job") to specific praise that recognizes effort, grit, and resilience. By highlighting *how* students overcome challenges, we build a growth mindset and reinforce the belief that hard work, not just natural talent, leads to achievement.

Excellence in Attendance: Refining the Doorway Routine

Chronic attendance issues have decreased significantly this semester—a huge cultural win for the Rogers community! To solidify this momentum, we are clarifying our standards for punctuality to ensure consistent data and equitable expectations for every class, every day.

We are committed to a progressive discipline model that emphasizes both accountability and support. Year over year, tardiness is down over 40%! Our response to excessive tardiness is designed to help students learn the habit of punctuality required for college and career success. The chart below provides a visual representation of the threshold, response, and nature of the response.

Tardies Threshold	Response / Consequence	Focus
4+ Tardies	Verbal Warning outlining next steps	Instructional/Preventive
8+ Tardies	Detention	Time-based Accountability
12+ Tardies	Detention	Time-based Accountability
16+ Tardies	Loss of Pass Privileges (Re-earned after a clean week)	Behavior Tracking/Privilege Loss
20+ Tardies	Restitution: Assigned a cleaning project during WIN time	Restorative/Effort-based
24+ Tardies	1 Hour ISS with Research and Reflection Assignment	Exclusionary/Reflective

Mindful Tech: Maintaining the Unified Front

Consistency is key to a calm learning environment. Our tech policy is working because our staff has committed to maintaining a "unified front."

We are reinforcing the routine of students placing phones in the sleeves immediately upon entry. This consistency in every classroom protects the learning environment for *all* students and ensures that the tech policy remains predictable and easy to follow.

Personal Wellness: Setting Boundaries

As we navigate the demands of the holiday season, the risk of burnout for students and staff increases.

We are encouraging staff (and you, as parents) to distinguish between "Glass Balls" (family, health, sleep—things that shatter if dropped) and "Plastic Balls" (checking email late at night, grading every small worksheet—things that can bounce). Our staff is setting physical boundaries, such as leaving their work laptops at school, to model and protect personal wellness and ensure they return refreshed and ready to serve their students.

Thank you once again for your dedication to your students' success. We wish you and your family a restful and joyful holiday season.

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