

Rootstown Elementary News

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Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Principal

www.rootstown.sparcc.org

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Rootstown Schools, in collaboration with the community, will provide a quality education in a safe environment for students to become productive, life-long learners.

Dear Parents:

On behalf of the Rootstown Elementary School staff, I would like to welcome our students and parents to the 2017-18 school year. It was great seeing you during Open House on August 24th for grades 1-5 and August 30th for kindergarten. The year promises to be filled with many opportunities for our students to grow academically and socially through varied instructional techniques and programs. It is our goal each year to plan instruction and programs to meet the needs of all types of learners.

As we begin the year, I would like to share changes to the building and staff:

- The building received new Chromebooks from our PTA. These will be used on the mobile cart in the first and second grade hallway and in fifth grade. Thank you to the PTA for their generosity!
- Students will see some differences this year with state testing. Third grade will take the 3rd grade ELA test in October this year (October 24th and 25th) rather than November. The state does not require 4th graders to take the Social Studies AIR Test this year. Third graders will continue to test in April and May with another ELA test and a Math test. Fifth graders will have an AIR ELA/Math and Science in April/May and fourth grade will still test in April/May with ELA/Math. More details will be communicated at a later time.
- New Kindergarten baseline testing procedures at the beginning of the year were developed to inform educational decisions for each child.
- There will be changes to the procedures for Principal's Math Club this year. Details will be communicated at a later time.
- Please note the new truancy laws established for schools according to HB 410 described in this letter.
- Please join me in welcoming the following staff members to Rootstown Elementary:
 - Ms. Heiskell- Intervention Specialist
 - Ms. Reese-Intervention Specialist
 - Mrs. Dasco-Educational Aide
 - Mrs. Stanton-Educational Aide (coming from the HS)
 - Mrs. Hunt-Educational Aide (coming from the HS)
 - Mrs. Campbell-Educational Aide
 - Ms. Spence-Director of Special Services for the District
 - Ms. Saborse-School Psychologist (MCESC)
 - Ms. Pack-OT (MCESC)
 - Ms. Irwin-PT (MCESC)

While we had many changes to the building and staff, we will continue to acknowledge students that display the various Rover PRIDE behavior expectations with a PRIDE ticket. Students will be rewarded in the classroom and the bus for demonstrating their Rover PRIDE. Lastly, our monthly character trait and counselor lesson will reflect our PRIDE theme.

I am looking forward to a great school year. Please contact me with any questions or concerns during the school year.

Go Rovers!

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeffrey Turner

Principal

turner@roversk12.org

Acceptable Use Policy for use of Technology and Electronic Media

The Acceptable Use Policy for use of technology and electronics was sent home on September 1st. Please review the contents and sign and return it to your child's teacher.

Student Handbook Reminders

On the first day of school, your child received the student handbook regarding expected behavior at school. Please review the handbook with your child and sign and return the last page to your child's teacher. As we are experiencing warmer weather this time of the year, please make sure your child is following the dress code policy. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

TRUANCY HB 410: Please note the changes to the attendance procedures.

In conjunction with the Portage County Juvenile Court, schools may refer a student to Juvenile Court once a student has met the definition of a Habitual or Chronic truant as defined by the Ohio Revised Code.

A student is considered "habitually truant" when one of the following occurs: absent 30 or more consecutive hours without a legitimate excuse, 42 or more hours in one month without a legitimate excuse or 72 or more hours in one year without a legitimate excuse. A student is considered "excessively absent" when one of the following occurs: absent 38 or more hours in one school month with or without a legitimate excuse, absent 65 or more hours in one school year with or without a legitimate excuse.

We can only accept 10 notes from home. Beginning with the 11th, a doctor's note must be presented or it will count as an unexcused absence.

*Unexcused absences are determined by the school's attendance policy located in the student handbook.

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE

Parents must contact the school at 330-325-7971 by 9:00 a.m. and provide an explanation. When no contact with the school is provided, the absence will be unexcused and the student will be considered truant. If the absence of a student appears to be questionable or excessive, the school staff will try to help parents improve their child's attendance. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain missed assignments. It is possible that certain kinds of schoolwork such as labs or skill-practice sessions cannot be made up and, as a result,

may impact a student's grade. If the absence is unauthorized by the principal, a student may not make up the work.

Notes to School

Notes to school are available on the website for your convenience at www.rootstown.sparcc.org. Otherwise, when you send a note to school, please include your child's full name and teacher. If you have more than one child, please write a separate note for each child. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Parent Pick-Up Procedures

Please remember that in order to enter or pick up your child, you **MUST** have an official placard with your child's name on it. If you do not have a placard, you will need to wait until the end of dismissal and enter the building at approximately 3:00 p.m.

- You must display this placard in the front windshield of your vehicle (passenger side) to enter the loop area at the south entrance of the elementary parking lot. Mr. Rodstrom will greet all cars at the back corner of the Middle School and radio Ms. Mulhollen in the computer lab. Your child will be sent outside through the 4th and 5th grade alcove. Teaching staff will greet them there and assist with getting the children loaded into the correct car.
- Please do not arrive for dismissal before 2:45 p.m. Cars may follow the loop to the loading zone after Mr. Rodstrom greets you at the back of the Middle School.
- Placards are transferable to other individuals you designate to use them, but please do so cautiously and sparingly. Please notify the building secretary any time during the year if you lose any one of your cards, so that a new one can be issued (**leave it in your glove box for future use**).
- **Parents do not enter the building to sign their child out in the gym.**
If you need your child before the end of the day, you must arrive to the main office before 2:30 p.m. Otherwise, you will need to either follow the dismissal procedures above or wait until 3:00 p.m. to enter the building.
- Please be patient during the first month of school as we work through these procedures.



Transportation Information

Every year, parents will need to inform their teacher of transportation arrangements after school. If bussing needs to be changed, please fill out a blue Bus Change Form. This can be picked up at the school office or the bus garage.

Due to limited seating on the school buses, bus passes will not be permitted for play dates. Please make other arrangements. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Message from Mrs. Ray, School Counselor

Dear Families:

Welcome back to all students and families! I hope that you all had a wonderful and relaxing summer vacation.

As part of my role in the building, I visit every classroom once a month for a guidance lesson and am available to meet with students individually to ensure academic and emotional success. In addition, I will be offering several small group experiences throughout the year. If you would like your child to meet with me or participate in any of the small group experiences, please contact me at 330.325.2011 or at ray@roversk12.org. I am here to support our students and their families in having a successful year. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me!

Red Flags Program

This year, our district will continue implementing the “Red Flags” program. This program provides a framework of knowledge for students, staff, and parents on what positive mental health is, and how to work towards achieving it. The first step in combatting any serious, debilitating, or deadly disorder is to take steps to prevent it. That means understanding what it looks like, what to do about it, and how to avoid getting sick in the first place. Red Flags is not just a program for schools. It is a proactive way of looking at mental health as a component of overall health and recognizing that mental health is an essential aspect of educational success. All students in 5th grade will participate in the program this year. Look for more information coming home throughout the year!

Weekly Social Skills

In order to better serve our students and help them to learn and master various social skills, Mrs. Thrasher and I have created weekly skills to emphasize. Each week in every homeroom, students will review and practice a specific skill of the week. This skill will be highlighted on the announcements as well as in the classroom. Each month will focus on a Rover PRIDE characteristic and the skills will further enhance these themes. Our year begins with practicing greetings as we focus on kindness for the month of September!

Back to School Sleep Schedules

As we begin a new school year, we begin the process of beginning our “back to school” routines. One of the most difficult routines to regulate is the sleep schedule of our students. This is also one of the most important routines related to student success. Sleep helps with brain production, memory integration, and overall physical and mental regulation. Proper sleep leads to good brain health allowing for student success. Consequences from lack of sleep include: Limiting your ability to learn, listen, concentrate and solve problems. It can also lead to aggressive or inappropriate behavior such as yelling, impatience, crying, or sadness. The table below lists the

recommended hours of sleep needed by age. As parents you know your child’s needs best and should only use this information as a guide. Some ways to ensure your child is receiving the proper amount of sleep include:

- Creating nightly rituals such as a scheduled play time, time for homework, and time for bed.
- Restrict all electronics, television, and heavy meals an hour before bed.
- When creating a bedtime routine consider including activities such as bath time, reading, talking with family, or coloring.

Establishing a strong bedtime routine will allow for your child to perform to his or her best ability in school. Although the regulating the back to school sleep schedule is difficult, it is one that is important to the success and happiness of students and families!

Age	Recommended	May be appropriate	Not recommended
Preschoolers <i>3-5 years</i>	10 to 13 hours	8 to 9 hours 14 hours	Less than 8 hours More than 14 hours
School-aged Children <i>6-13 years</i>	9 to 11 hours	7 to 8 hours 12 hours	Less than 7 hours More than 12 hours

Adapted from *National Sleep Foundation, 2015.*



Message from Susan Baldwin, District RN

Once again, we will be hosting Health Heroes in our district to administer the flu vaccine on September 20th. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends everyone 6 months and older to receive the flu vaccine; especially those with who have certain long term health issues such as asthma, heart disease and neurological disorders. The CDC states there were 101 flu-associated deaths in children this past year, the first increase since 2014-2015 flu season. Although the vaccination status of those children is not yet available, past trends show 80-85% of those who died did not receive the vaccination. Studies show the vaccination reduces the number of deaths from flu-like symptoms. Consent forms will be sent home in the near future and will also be available on the district website.

As a reminder, ALL medications that need to be administered at school must be brought to school by a parent/guardian with the proper form completed and signed. Medications should NEVER come to school with a student. Over the counter medications need to be accompanied by the Non-Prescription Medication Administration form, and prescription medications will be administered upon receipt of the Prescription Medication Administration form, with a physician’s signature. Both of these forms can be found on the district website under the “Nurse” tab.

Additionally, all medications, including cough drops, creams, pain relievers, etc., must be brought to school in their original, unopened container. Medications received in unlabeled containers or bags will not be accepted or administered and will be disposed.

If you have any questions regarding medication administration, please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook for more information, or you may call the clinic at 330-325-4141.

Thank you for keeping our students healthy and safe!

Guidelines from the Nurse:

Should I keep my child home or send him or her to school?

Do not send your child to school if any of the following symptoms or conditions were present in the last 24 hours. You may be asked to take your child home if your child:

- **Has a fever of 100 degrees or higher.** Your child may return to school when the temperature has been normal (98.6) for 24 hours.
- **Has been vomiting and/or diarrhea.** If your child has two or more episodes during the previous evening or night, they may not attend school. Call your child's doctor if symptoms continue for more than 48 hours, your child has a fever or his/her condition worsens.
- **Has a rash.** All rashes must be diagnosed and/or treated by a physician for your child to remain in school.
- **Has bacterial infection.** Your child may return to school after taking prescribed antibiotics for 24 hours.
- **Has live lice.**
- **Has symptoms** that prevent him or her from participating in school, such as :
 - Excessive tiredness, pale, difficult to wake, confused or irritable, lack of appetite
 - Productive coughing, sneezing
 - Continuous coughing
 - Headache, body aches, earache
 - Sore throat

A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep throat even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children are headache and upset stomach. Contact your pediatrician as your child needs a special test to determine if it is strep throat.

Keep your child home until his or her fever has been gone for 24 hours without medication. Colds can be contagious for at least 48 hours. Returning to school too soon may slow the recovery process and expose others unnecessarily to illness.

If you are unsure about whether or not to send your child to school, please contact the school nurse with any questions.

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News from the Elementary Library

Mrs. Polack would like to welcome everyone back. I hope to make reading fun and continue teaching your child digital literacy skills. Please make a note that students will only meet in the computer lab for library during the month of October this year. So, students that have the Monday/Friday library rotation for the week will have regular library both days the rest of the year.

A reminder that library books need to be returned each week. If your child is not done, then the book can be renewed. Have your child make a habit of putting his/her library books in their book bags when they are not reading. Also be careful to keep drinks in a separate compartment from library books. Also, overdue notices go home at least once a month in either an email or paper form. Please take care of lost books ASAP.

Volunteers are welcome to help out in the library. Come help out during your child's class. Heads up that volunteers will be needed for the library book fair in February. Please contact Mrs. Polack about setting up times. I am also looking for about ten 55 oz. plastic pretzel containers.

Looking for homework or project help at home? **INFOhio** to the rescue. Check Out the following resources: **BookFlix**, **Early World of Learning**, **Explora**, and **Science Online** for reading and research. Look up library books suitable for Accelerated Reading in **CAT, Jr.**, the elementary online catalog. Your child will be bringing home information on how to access INFOhio at home, or visit Mrs. Polack's teacher page. Mrs. Polack can be reached at 330-325-7971.

The Elementary School saves the following:

- Akron Children's Hospital (Pop tabs collection)
- Acme Receipts (Community Cashback Program)
Program runs from August 10, 2017 to December 30, 2017
- Box Tops for Education
- Empty Computer Ink Cartridges and Cell Phones
- Giant Eagle (register at Giant Eagle – our ID#0927)
www.gianteagle.com/about/apples-for-students
or 1-800-474-4777
- Target Stores (ID#84909)

Reporting Absences

Good attendance patterns are established early in life. We expect our students to be in school every day to take advantage of the learning opportunities. If your child must miss school, PLEASE call the school at **330-325-7971**. Please report your child off before 9:30 a.m. When your child returns

to class, please write a note giving the reason for the absence.

If your child is tardy, he/she must stop in the office to sign in and get a pass to class. Please work on helping your child to be prompt.

Each of these procedures is required for the safety of our students and to comply with the National Missing Children's Act. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Arrival Procedures

- For the safety of all of our students, all visitors must be buzzed in by the secretary during school hours at the main entrance to the building.
- The school day is 8:20 a.m.-3:00 p.m. All students must be in their homeroom by 8:20 a.m. or they will be marked tardy.
- If you need to pick up your child during the school day, please send a note to your child's teacher. Please be prepared to show *identification* when signing your child out of the building. Children are not released from classrooms without office clearance.
- For your child's safety, we ask that you do not allow your child to walk the halls after school hours without an adult.

Important Dates:

September 22 - No School for students
September 25-28 - Fire Safety Week
September 30 - Interims Distributed
October 9 - (Pre-K, K-2 only) School Pictures
October 10 - (PreK, 3-5 only) School Pictures
October 13-NEOEA Day-No School
October 19 - RACE FOR EDUCATION
October 19 and 24 -Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:30 p.m.
October 26-RACE FOR EDUCATION Rain Date
October 27 - Fall Parties - 2:00 p.m.
November 10- First Nine-Week Report Cards go home
November 22 - 24 - Thanksgiving Break