



Ripley Central School

"Home of the Eagles"

Learn today. Lead tomorrow!

9/15/2023

Dear RCS Families,

One of my primary objectives for this school year is to improve our attendance rate. In the previous year, we encountered a persistent issue with chronic absenteeism, which stood at 26%. This alarming statistic signifies that 26% of our students missed more than 10% of the instructional time provided last year. While I recognize that various factors contributed to this elevated rate of absences, it's crucial to acknowledge that there is an associated learning cost when students are not present in school.

I want to emphasize the importance of keeping your child at home if they are unwell or have a fever. The health and well-being of our students is paramount, and we appreciate your cooperation in this regard. However, it's equally important to ensure that your child attends school regularly when they are in good health. To assist you in determining when it is appropriate to keep your child at home our school nurse, Mrs. Knight, will be distributing a guidance document for parents. This resource may answer any questions you have may about when to keep your child home due to health concerns. If you have any further inquiries or require clarification on student health matters, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Knight.

The school has provided the health office with a dedicated cell phone that parents can use for texting. For reporting absences due to illness, we kindly request that you either call the school or send a text message to the nurse at the following number: **716-581-3658**.

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) has scheduled its first meeting of the school year for Tuesday, September 19th, at 5:30pm in the cafeteria. At RCS, our PTO plays a vital role in organizing engaging events for families, fostering a strong sense of community. This upcoming meeting is an excellent opportunity for parents who are interested in becoming actively involved with the PTO here at RCS. We extend a warm invitation to all parents and guardians, and we strongly encourage your attendance.

By joining us at this meeting, you'll have the chance to contribute to our school's vibrant and supportive community. Your participation and ideas are highly valued as we work together to enhance the RCS experience for our students and families.

Yours in education,

Mr. Micah Oldham

RCS Principal

716-736-2631

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Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 19

PTO Meeting

5:30pm

Wednesday, September 22

School Picture Day

Wednesday, September 27

Mum Pickup

2:30-4:30pm

Thursday, September 28

Girl Scout Recruiting Event

5:00pm

Friday, October 6

Emergency Drill Day

Dismiss 10 minutes early

Monday, October 9

School Closed

Friday, October 20

Early Dismissal at 11am

"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." ~ Maya Angelou

Connect with Heart

Understanding and feeling what others are experiencing.

*This month, we're focusing on empathy and challenging students to make sure that everyone they interact with feels seen, heard, and valued. **We are partnering with you to grow and develop empathy in your student at home.***

As a family, use these activities to reflect on and better understand the needs of others.



1 ENGAGE: Celebrate Differences

Generate a list of each family member's favorite things, such as their favorite ice cream flavor or favorite thing to do. Identify any similar answers and celebrate those things you have in common. Discuss how those similarities might impact your family and your relationships. Identify and celebrate each other's differences. How might those differences impact your family? How do your differences make you strong? Use this example as a reminder for your child—and your family—to celebrate our unique differences. We are better TOGETHER!



2 EMPOWER: Build a Family Social Contract

Schedule time to have a family meeting and develop a family Social Contract together. Ask everyone to answer these questions:

- How do we want to treat each other?
- How do we want to treat each other when there is conflict?

Write down any words you identify as a family (respect, kind, honest) and ask each member to commit to the contract by signing it.



3 EXCEL: Find the Light. Be the Light.

As a family, brainstorm a list of 3-5 individuals you typically encounter during the day who may not receive many notes or words of affirmation or appreciation. Consider people who make your day brighter or provide a needed service, like your mail carrier, the cashier at your local store, or a neighbor. Ask each person in your family to write a note thanking that person for "Being a Light."

Conversation Starters

- ♥ What can you do to show people you care about them? How does listening to others help them know you care?
- ♥ What can you do or say to show that you are listening to others?
- ♥ Describe what it means to "make someone's day."