

ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Research shows that the single most important factor contributing to student achievement is school attendance. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school also misses a day of learning. It can be difficult to catch up. Absent students miss out on core content, important class discussions, raised questions, explanations and much, much more.

Reasons for Parents and/or Guardians to excuse absences are outlined in RCW 28A.225.010:

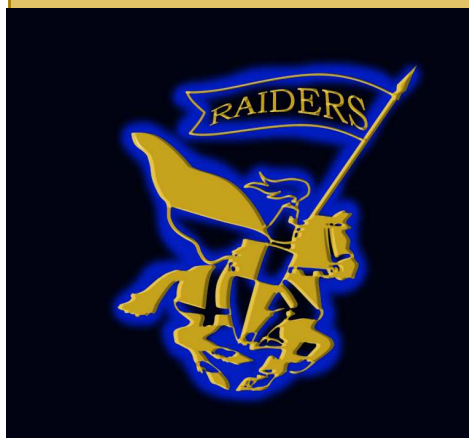
Unplanned: when a child's personal illness or injury, or the illness and/or death of a family member prevents the child from attending school. The school should be notified by phone **(596-3411)** or in writing, within 48 hours of your child's absence. The absence is recorded as unexcused if notification does not occur from home.

Planned: when a parent or guardian notifies the school about a planned absence for a doctor or dental appointment, religious activity, special event, or a family trip.

All other absences from school are considered unexcused.

Please help us encourage your child to attend school regularly. If a pattern of excessive absences occurs, it is our obligation to file a truancy petition with the court system. District policy mandates that we are required to file a Becca Bill (Truancy Petition) if your child misses twenty days (excused and/or unexcused) in one year OR has seven unexcused (7) days in a month.

NOVEMBER 2009



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ 11/04 - Late Start - Classes start at 8:45 a.m.
Parent Club Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ 11/10 - Veterans Day Assembly - 10:15 a.m.
- ◆ 11/11- No School... Veteran's Day
- ◆ 11/13 - Early Release - 11:47 a.m. dismissal
~ End of 1st Quarter
- ◆ 11/24 - Site Council Meeting - 4:30 p.m.
in RMS library
- ◆ 11/25 – Spirit Day: Recognition Assembly 9:35 a.m.
- ◆ November 26 - 27 - No School

SCHOOL ZONES

Please remember to adhere to the speed limits in our school zones. On these dark, rainy days it is even more important to drive slowly. Please watch for students crossing the road on bikes and on foot. In parking lots, keep an eye out for employees and children both. Thanks for driving safely.



SEASONAL FLU

Attendance is critical for school success; however there are times when student health takes precedence over school. Public health officials have provided the following reminders to protect you and your family:

- ~ Keep children who are sick at home. Please don't send a child to school with a fever. Public health recommends that flu symptoms should subside and the patient must be fever free for 24 hours *without medication* before they return to school.
- ~ Remind your child to wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- ~ Show your child how to cough into the inside of the elbow or use a tissue to prevent the spread of germs.

If you have flu questions, please contact your healthcare provider. Up to date information is also available at <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health> or call 360-709-3080 for the Thurston County Public Health & Social Service Department.

REEVES MIDDLE SCHOOL

2200 Quince Street NE
Olympia, WA 98506

Phone #: (360) 596-3400
Fax #: (360) 596-3401

School Hours

7:45 a.m. - 2:17 p.m.

Office Hours:

7:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Aaron Davis

Principal

Gordon Chamberlain

Vice-Principal

Barb Amidon

Counselor



Please call in your student's absence by 8:30 each morning at 596-3403.

The voice messaging system is an effective tool when you call late in the evening or early in the morning before school begins.

Requests for assignments must be made by 8:30.

STUDENT ATTIRE

Student clothing needs to be appropriate for the school setting. Bare midriffs, low necklines, short shorts, tank tops, or "short" shirts are not allowed. Skirts and shorts must be at least fingertip length when the arms are held to the side, and shoulders must be covered. Thank you for your help with this issue.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN

It's getting to be that time of year when weather or other emergencies can force school delays and closures. One way to receive the most up-to-date news from around the Olympia School District, including school schedule delays or closures, is by signing up as a Friend of the Olympia School District. You'll receive monthly newsletters to your email along with information that you need right away. It only takes a minute to sign up. Go to the front page of the District Website at <http://osd.wednet.edu> and subscribe to the Friends of the Olympia School District.

HEALTH ROOM

Our health room is still waiting for many parents to turn in student vaccination records. Occasional outbreaks of chicken pox in other districts has highlighted the importance of having your child's immunization records up to date. If there was a vaccine-preventable outbreak at school, health officials may require kids without updated records to stay home until the outbreak passes.



TARDIES ALERT

Parents, we need your help! Many students are arriving to school after the bell rings to start our day. Remember that RMS officially starts at 7:45 AM. Getting to school tardy or arriving to class late may seem inconsequential to students, and even some parents. However, it is difficult to learn if the child is not in the class. The first five minutes are an important transition time as the teacher explains the day's lesson and goes over the expectations. Please insist that your child is on time and ready to learn.

EARLY ARRIVALS

Just a reminder to our early birds that our school doors do not open until the start of our school day— 7:15 AM. Please do not drop your child off early. We have some shivering students that are waiting outside until the doors are unlocked. There is no direct supervision until the building is open.

The exceptions are for our jazz band and our choir groups that meet at 7 AM. Students in these programs will be allowed in to report to their classes with their instructors.

R.I.O.T. (REEVES INSPIRING OUTGOING TEENS)

RIOT is a voluntary community service and assembly committee which meets periodically during lunch times to plan assemblies and RMS community wide events. Anyone is welcome to join.

This fall, R.I.O.T. is preparing for and hosting the Annual Veteran's Day Assembly on November 10th. RIOT students will create a giant US Flag which features the names of Veterans and they will speak at the assembly. Following a patriotic assembly honoring local Veterans, the R.I.O.T. students will host a reception for those Veterans who are able to stay and talk about their service to our country.

The next activity R.I.O.T. will be planning during lunches is the first Recognition Assembly scheduled for November 25th. Planning the annual Canned Food Drive will also begin soon.

Meeting days are announced during the morning bulletin. Reminder: any RMS student is welcome to volunteer for R.I.O.T.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Parents have 24 hour access to their students' academic records through **Family Access**. There is no reason to wait for progress reports if you have a home computer. Please contact our office if you need more details.
- Cell phones, cameras, i-pods and other electronic devices are not allowed at school. These devices must be turned off and stored in lockers for the entire school day if they are on the campus.
- **Our Site Based Council meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month.**

HOMWORK REQUEST GUIDELINES:

All homework requests must be called into the office by 8:30 a.m. You are welcome to leave a message on our attendance line, 596-3411, or on our main line, 596-3400. Homework requests received after 8:30 a.m. can be picked up the following day.

When you expect your child to be absent only one day, please have them call a friend in their classes to find out their assignment or check the teacher's websites for assignments. We will be happy to get homework for 2 or more days of absences.

When requesting homework make sure your child has textbooks at home to work from. Please bring your child's locker number and combination if you will need books from their locker.

Homework requests that have been called in before 8:30 a.m. can be picked up in the office between 2:30 -3:00 p.m. the same day. Remember our office closes at 3:15 p.m.

2009/10 SCIENCE FAIR

It's time to start planning for the *3rd Annual Reeves Middle School Science Fair!* **The Science Fair will be April 22, 2010 from 6-7:30PM.** The Science Dept. would like to pass along some pointers to make this a successful project adventure for you and your child:

The main source of information and organization for the science fair will be from the website:

Science Buddies: <http://www.sciencebuddies.org/>. We encourage you to use the site as a resource in developing your child's project.

- ◆ Team projects are allowed for the Fair. Please discuss with your child if they intend to work with a partner and that the work required should be equitable at all times.
- ◆ The Science teachers have a timeline for each phase of the project so that the project does not become a last minute effort but instead a steady and manageable series of due dates. Each teacher will customize the time line to meet the needs of their classes.
- ◆ With the exception of data collection and putting the project board together, much of the written portion of the project will be completed at school and saved in their school accounts. However, please expect some portions of the project to be completed as homework.
- ◆ Display boards will be for sale at the Reeves Middle School Student Store, in February, at a good price. A number of display boards were left over from last year. They can be easily converted for a new project display and will be made available for free; first come first serve. Information about the display board purchases will be made available through RMS Newsletter and website.
- ◆ We will be needing help with judging the fair. There will be a judge's meeting prior to the Fair. We expect over two hundred projects and your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Another notice will go out about the Science Fair in March.

Don't hesitate to contact us with comments, questions, or concerns.

Thank you for your support,

RMS Science Dept.