

PARKING WOES

Dear Parents,

When dropping off and picking up your child at school, please be sensitive to our neighbors by not blocking their driveways. We also encourage all of our drivers to abide by posted speed limits in the neighborhood. Walking students are at risk when cars are speeding. Thank you for abiding by these requests to help us be a good neighbor.

UPDATE STUDENT INFORMATION

If you have a new address, home phone number, work phone number, or change in emergency contact information... please let the office know so we can update your child's file and on-line information.

ARE YOU 'TRUE BLUE'?

Each year families are required to resubmit their blue student registration forms. These forms are mandatory for yearly state audits as well as ensuring that Reeves staff have current contact information in case of student emergencies.

Currently, over 100 families have not turned in their **2009 Student Registration Forms**.

Be 'true blue' and turn them in to our front office today. Thank you!



OCTOBER 2009



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ October 6- Magazine Sale Ends
- ◆ October 7- Late Start - 8:47 A.M. Start Time
Parent Club Meeting - 6:30 P.M.
- ◆ October 7-9: Pacific Beach ALKI Trip
- ◆ October 12-15: Conferences - 11:47 A.M. Dismissal
- ◆ October 16- Picture Retakes & Group Pictures
- ◆ October 20- Site Council Meeting - 6:00 P.M.
- ◆ October 23- NO SCHOOL. Teacher in-service day.

Reeves Pick-up Procedures in case of an Emergency

The safety committee at RMS is working diligently to ensure that our students and staff are properly prepared for an emergency situation.

Our safety committee also reviews and updates our drill procedures. In the event that we evacuate the building and cannot return, we have a parent pick-up procedure in place. Parents will **enter** the west gate from Quince Street. Once the parent/guardian has their child they will **exit** through the east gate onto Jasper street. Arriving adults will not be allowed to drive in through our east exit gate. The gate leading to the back of the school will only be opened for Emergency Personnel vehicles.

When picking up your child after the building is evacuated it is crucial that you remain calm and help us properly check out each child to make sure every individual is accounted for. Once on the school grounds, parents and guardians must report to our check-out station outside the gym. Our staff will radio for your child to be escorted from our staging area to the check-out location. This process will take time as we check our records and escort your child. Please remember that students will only be released to those adults listed on our data base. **For the safety of every child, adults will not be allowed to bypass our check-out system. Also, all students should remain on school grounds until an adult arrives to pick him/her up.**

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. Pants need to be on the hips—no sagging. Thank you for your help with this issue.

PETS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Please remember that our students use our fields for physical education classes, lunch break, and sporting events. We adore the animals, unfortunately we cannot say the same for the little gifts that they leave behind. Thank you for keeping our grounds clean and our kids safe from potty pathogens by picking up after your animal and properly disposing of the waste.

For the safety of our students please refrain from walking pets on school grounds during school hours. We ask that all visitors sign in at our office so we know who is on the campus.

Call in absences & tardies

If your child is going to be absent or late to school please call our attendance line 596-3403 by 8:30 AM to inform the attendance secretary. Unexcused tardies require a call or note within 48 hours to change it to excused.

HEALTHY CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The staff at Reeves Middle School is committed to fostering a Caring Community in our school. All students have been taught to use the T.W.A. method to resolve their conflicts in a healthy way. They are learning to:

1. **TALK.** Use clear, direct communication to state how they think or feel about the situation.
2. **WALK AWAY.** If the situation isn't resolved and is escalating, they should walk away.
3. **ASK AN ADULT FOR HELP.**

So, ask your student, what does T.W.A. mean?

T.W.A.

OPPORTUNITY TIME

Opportunity time is designed to improve academic achievement, build better study habits, and help students make better choices. This 25 minute period in the morning allows students that have missing work, low skills in a subject, or failing grades to get extra teacher assistance. If any deficits exist, students are required to attend an Opportunity class. Students may also choose to pursue extra help from any of their teachers. Those students that have no missing work may choose from one of 5 stations to attend during this 25 minute period— library, computer lab, field, gym, or cafeteria.

BUS NOTES

ALL bus notes need to be taken care of before school or during lunch. **Please remember that we cannot take messages to go home with a friend over the phone.** For safety reasons we need a signed note from home to catch an alternate bus.

SITE COUNCIL REPS NEEDED

Please contact us if you have kids attending Reeves during the 2009-10 school year and you would like to join our site council. We would like to have representation from each of our elementary feeder schools. Our Site Based Council meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Reeves Education Foundation was created last fall allowing community members to donate tax deductible funds that will enhance student learning opportunities at RMS. Brochures are available in our office.
- Parents can access their students' record information any time, day or night, through a home computer! Skyward, the OSD student information software, provides guardian access through a feature called **Family Access**. Once your application is completed and turned in to the office, a login and password will be mailed to you.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Helpful Tips

Fall conferences are critical for all students, parents, and teachers. They provide an important opportunity to share information and initial achievements, as well as to create lines of communication and understanding between parents and teachers. If things are not going well, there is still time to help students adjust habits so they can bring grades up before the end of the quarter. Below you will see several tips for making the most of your conference.

Before you go:

- Ask your middle-schooler if she/he wants to go along. If not, is there anything she/he wants you to ask her/his teachers?
- Avoid surprises. Look over recent test grades, homework and projects. Use Family Access to check current grades.

When you get there:

- Get the whole picture. After you talk about grades and homework, ask how your child gets along with others.
- Pass along information about your child's special needs or family situation.
- If there are problems, work with the teachers to focus on solutions, not blame.
- Ask what you can do at home to help.

When you get home:

- Tell your child what you talked about.
- Together, work out answers to problems. Low test scores? Think about restricting TV, computer and phone. Make a list of assignments to go over nightly. Insist that the student planner comes home every night. Check that the binder is organized.
- Follow up with teachers to make sure there's progress. Keep your parent-teacher team active all year!

Please join us during conferences so you can help us recognize your child's hard work as well as understand where and how they could improve!

PROMPT ATTENDANCE— AN IMPORTANT LIFE SKILL

Prompt attendance is an important life skill that all student's should be practicing while in middle school. Being on time to class and having good attendance reflects a strong work ethic, which is valued by employers as well as your teachers. Attendance and passing grades have a strong correlation – you can't learn well if you are late to class or missing class on a regular basis. Middle school is an important transition period of development where poor habits learned here can transfer to the high school. High school grades are negatively impacted by tardies and absences. When you get to high school, four or more absences per semester can have a negative effect on the final grade in a class. Low grades impact such things as scholarships and participation in extracurricular activities such as drama, athletics, and drill team!

If you are concerned that your child is experiencing a great deal of stress due to test anxiety, bullying or other school related issues that are impacting his or her attendance, please contact our school counselor, Mrs. Amidon at 596-3404. She would be happy to meet with you and/or your child to help develop a course of action to reduce tardies and/or absences. Your child's success in school and in life is important to all of us here at RMS.

Changes to 2009-2010 School Calendar

If you have reviewed the 2009-2010 school calendar for our District (if you have not yet seen it, go to <http://osd.wednet.edu>), you will notice that from October through June, there will be a monthly one-hour late start for teacher collaboration. The one-hour late starts are October 7, November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3, May 5 and June 2. These dates replace three early release days that we have held over the past couple of years. On one-hour late start days, our bell schedule will be modified. Students may arrive on campus at 8:15 AM. School will start at 8:45 AM.

Teacher collaboration time offers our instructors a chance to work with each other to design lesson plans, discuss successful curriculum and develop interventions to help struggling students. Research indicates that regular, consistent teacher collaboration is a critical element to promote student learning. We also understand that late starts and early releases, regardless of the importance of the purpose, can be a hardship for our families and look forward to working with

REEVES PARENT CLUB

Reeves Parent Club meets at 6:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Reeves Library. Student Store operation, fundraising, volunteer coordination, staff appreciation and activity night staffing are just a few of the activities that Parent Club oversees. Please come and join this energetic group of involved staff and parents.

The Reeves Parent Club Student Store is now open for business every school day (before school and during both lunches) thanks to a wonderful group of parent volunteers who have made time in their busy schedules! Students can purchase spirit wear, school supplies as well as healthy snacks. Newly designed Reeves sweatshirts are now available at the store.

Recycle those empty toner and ink jet printer cartridges in the marked box in the office and the Reeves Parent Club will receive cash from "Cartridges for Kids." This company also accepts old cell phones, palm pilots and video games.

Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Soup Labels are also collected in the office... look for the well-marked boxes!!

~ Volunteer Opportunities

Staff Appreciation Committee

8th Grade Celebration Committee

Student Store Volunteer

Activity Night Volunteer

Questions concerning the Reeves Parent Club may be directed to:

Nanette Stewart at nanerzstew@comcast.net or Diana Crawford at djrcrawford@comcast.net.

CELL PHONE USE AT SCHOOL:

Cell phones have become an increasing disruption at school. **Our building policy states that no electronic devices are allowed at RMS.** We have modified this policy by allowing students to have their cell phones turned off and in their lockers during the school day. We understand that many parents want to have access to their children before and after school. Some of our students are abusing this privilege. The following are samples of disruptive and unsafe acts:

- Calling the classroom phone to disrupt the teacher
- Phones going off during work time
- Text messaging during class time... sometimes cheating on quizzes and exams
- Sending inappropriate images; occasionally sexually explicit
- Taking pictures of peers without permission and then posting on social networks such as MySpace and Facebook... this could be a form of harassment

At this time we use a progressive discipline approach when a student is using a cell phone during the school day. 1st offense: phone held by staff member until the end of the day. 2nd offense: parents contacted to pick up the phone. If students continue to abuse cell phone use at school, we may have to implement harsher penalties for non-