

August Parent Newsletter 2018

This newsletter is in English, Spanish and Polish (All versions are available on our website at <http://www.rhodesk12.il.us>)

Welcome to the August edition of the Rhodes Parent Newsletter!

We are so happy to have our students back in the hallways of Rhodes School! The school year is off to an amazing start despite some changes to Rhodes that are still ongoing. Our summer construction project is wrapping up this week, so all of the classrooms will be ready to be used by students sometime next week. The construction delay did impact a few classrooms, but thankfully we had open classrooms that we could use, so the students education was not impacted. We look forward to our new 6th grade Math and Science classrooms, 7th/8th grade Science classroom, our Art room and other small classrooms and offices being fully functional within a week!

Our focus this year for our staff and students is Growth Mindset. This idea that with practice, perseverance and effort, we all have an unlimited potential to learn and grow is a basic, but often ignored, idea. We are stressing to our students this year that we don't want them to be afraid of making mistakes, because making those mistakes allows us to grow and trains us to continue to fight and battle when things get tough! We hear about this mindset in successful people all the time (Michael Jordan famously getting cut from the Varsity team in High School, Albert Einstein not being able to read until he was 7), and it is time that we all start to apply it to our lives. I have heard countless teachers say the words "Growth Mindset" already this year when faced with challenges or frustrations that have come from our construction project or other challenges this year. It is great to hear, and it is a mindset that all of us are practicing every day. We encourage you to read more about this topic if you haven't already, and to stress it with your children.

Thank you to everyone who came to Open Houses this week! We hope it was a great opportunity for you to learn more about your child's teachers and what they will be learning every day. Parent participation is so important, so thank you for continuing to invest in your child's education. Please share any feedback with me when you can!

Next week all of our students will be hearing 30 minute presentations from Victor Pacini, who has visited Rhodes the last several years as part of our commitment to following Erin's Law, which requires schools to implement an age-appropriate sexual assault and abuse awareness and prevention curriculum for grades pre-K through 12. Victor Pacini, a survivor of sexual abuse, author and motivational speaker, will be assisting Rhodes in implementing this mandate. Mr. Pacini's program is developmentally appropriate, interactive, and aligned with learning standards. The focus of his presentation is to teach children basic skills to keep them safe from dangerous or abusive situations. The concepts that will be discussed are:

- Distinguishing safe from unsafe touches
- Safety rules at home and school

- Saying “NO”
- Safe/Unsafe Secrets
- It’s not the child’s fault if someone touches him or her
- Telling a trusted adult

If you prefer that your child opt-out of this prevention education session, please email me at bmccconnell@rhodes.k12.il.us and let me know.

Three more quick items:

- Please remember that school starts at 8:00 am. This is the second year we have started at this time, and this year we are pushing to have instruction start promptly at 8:00. It is so important that your child arrive to school on time, so make sure they are getting up a few minutes earlier than in years past so they do not miss instruction!
- We have a parent drop-off zone in the front of school on Fullerton Avenue for any parents who drive their kids to school. PLEASE do not drop your children off in the back parking lot. The side alley and back drive are for buses and staff parking only, and can be very dangerous for students and parents to be driving in. Please drop them off in the front of school outside door 1.
- Community Note of the Week: The Veteran’s Park District is offering several outstanding athletic, dance and art programs for school-aged children. For example, there is a Tap Dance class for 6-9 year olds, Art classes and Basketball camps for various ages. Call (708) 343-5270 for more information!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I will be sending out newsletters more often this year so that I can share news all of the wonderful events happening at Rhodes!

Brian McConnell, Principal

Rhodes School

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#RhodesKidsCan
#RhodesPride