

May Parent Newsletter

Welcome to the May edition of the Rhodes Parent Newsletter, our final one of the 2016-17 school year.

As this school year winds down, it is normal for all of us to reflect on the year and take stock of the successful moments that occurred this year while also contemplating some of the unsuccessful moments and analyzing how we can improve as a school in the future. We are always looking for feedback from our teachers and parents so that we can have as much information as possible in an effort to make Rhodes a school we can all be proud of. If you have any positive comments, or items that have concerned you, I encourage you to email me or stop by and share your thoughts with me. Thank you.

The Three Sides to a Student

At Rhodes, we firmly believe that we have several responsibilities in regards to educating your students.

There is the *academic side*, which we have continued to analyze and improve. This past year we implemented the Lucy Calkins writing series with our students, and we have seen our students make huge improvements in the area of writing. We are so proud of the dedication our students and staff have shown in this area! Next year we are introducing a new proven math curriculum, with K-5 implementing Go Math and 6-8 implementing Eureka Math. Both of these programs were piloted in various grade levels last year, and research has shown that they are both perfectly aligned to the Common Core State Standards and will lead to student success. Finally, next year we will be looking at our Reading series and what changes, if any, need to be made in that area. We have started using Mystery Science across several grade levels as a way to introduce science experiments and themes to our students.

We also believe that we are responsible for *introducing our students to experiences* they might not otherwise have access to. Just this year alone various grade levels have gone on field trips with our students to the following places: the Naperville Settlement (3rd), the Lincoln Park Zoo (1st and 4th), the Volo Bog State Natural Area (4th), the Shedd Aquarium (K), the Botanical Garden (2nd), Argonne Lab (8th), various theatres in the area, the Chicago Field Museum (5th), Cernan Earth and Space Center Planetarium (6th), Legoland (1st and 2nd), Wonder Works Children's Museum (PK), the Art Institute (4th), the Chicago History Museum (3rd), Museum of Science and Industry (6th), the Holocaust Museum (8th), Brookfield Zoo (6th), Kline Creek Farm (5th), Northern Illinois University (7th), and various trips to East and West Leyden for events. That is an amazing list, and we are proud that our students are able to take advantage of all that Chicago has to offer and learn from those experiences!

Finally, we stress the importance of *social/emotional learning* with our students. So much of our students success, or sadly, lack of success, depends on how present they are in the classroom. Not just physically present, but emotionally present. When students feel heard, appreciated and respected by their peers and teachers, then we feel they are more likely to achieve success in the classroom. For the last few years we have focused on the idea of Rhodes Respect and teaching what that means to our students. These are not just words to us. We send our teachers lesson plans and activities for them to do with their students that focus on various forms of respect; weekly we acknowledge students who have shown and been rewarded for showing respect; we have quarterly rewards for students who meet our behavioral expectations; and we have a Check and Succeed mentoring program that works with students who we feel would benefit from that extra support. However, I am not naive, and I know that there are still examples of times where our students have not shown respect to their peers or staff. This summer we are meeting to adjust and revamp portions of our Rhodes Respect program in an attempt to improve how we teach these skills to our students. We ask that you as parents do the same by modeling what respect is, and working with them to teach them how to respect others in their lives. Here is a link to some information that we feel will assist you with that goal this summer:

<http://www.casel.org/in-the-home/>

If you have any questions please contact either one of our social workers, Mrs. Peterman or Ms. Vazquez. Thank you!

Summer School

Our summer school will run this year from June 5th-June 30th. If you received one of our parent permission forms but have not returned it yet, please do so ASAP. Also, information was sent home about various clubs that we are offering this year, including a sports camp, a sign language camp, an art camp and a STEM camp. We are thankful that we are able to offer these opportunities to our students.

Also, on June 16th, East Leyden is holding the Leyden Student Summit. This is an opportunity to explore and learn about different creative fields through activities and workshops guided by Leyden students who are experts in that field. The workshop options include: 3D Printing, Digital Electronics, Robotics, Medical Careers, Culinary Arts, Coding, Fashion Design, Art, Digital Video, Stop Motion Video and more. This is for all 4th-8th grade students, and will take place at East Leyden on June 16th from 9:00-2:30 pm. There is a \$10 registration fee that will be due at the door. Please sign up at: <http://tiny.cc.leydenss> .

Nurse

Please remember to pick up all student medications from the nurse's office, as they will be discarded after the last day of school.

If your child needs medication next year, please bring completed and signed paperwork to school prior to the first day of the new school year. Remember to sign the parent section at the bottom of form. Obtain a doctor's signature with prescribed medication information.

All medications must be brought to school in original the container by the parent or guardian and should be brought in prior to the first day of school. I will be in the office August 7-11,2017

Students with medical conditions (asthma, allergies, and seizure conditions) need to meet with the nurse prior to the first day of school and action plans must be filled out by a doctor and turned into the health office for all medical conditions. I will be available August 7-11, 2017 during the hours of 8am -3pm.

The required forms will be mailed out to families. If you did not receive the forms, they can be obtained in school office.

Illinois State Law requires a comprehensive physical exam for all students entering preschool, Kindergarten, sixth grade and entering from other countries. An eye exam is required for all children entering kindergarten, children entering a school for the first time. A dental exam is required for all kindergarten, second grade and sixth grade students.

Please turn in all required medical exam forms before first day of school.

Any sixth, seventh or eighth grade student participating in sports need a sports physical yearly. It must be signed by a doctor before they can try out for any sport.

The Loyola Pediatric Mobile Health Unit will be at our school **June 19 from 10:30-2:00** for physical exams and sports physicals. Care is at no cost to you , and you will need a parent/guardian consent and vaccine records. Forms will be sent home with students that require physicals for the next school year. Forms are also available in school office. Appointments must be made so please call the health office at 708-453-6813 x17 or the main office. Children ages 8 and under need to be accompanied by a parent or adult family member.

Graduation

Congratulations to our 8th grade graduates! We are very proud of everything that you have accomplished, and we hope that you make us proud with your accomplishments as you move forward into high school and beyond. Please keep in touch, and visit as often as you can!

Important dates:

5/22	Noon Dismissal for all students
5/22	Graduation at 7:30; Last day of school for 8th grade students
5/25	Last Day of School for K-7th grade students; End of the Year Carnival and Picnic
6/5	Summer School starts

PARCC Testing results

PARCC results should arrive to school this summer. We will share these results with you in the fall of the 2017-18 school year.

Spring MAP results

MAP results will be sent home with your child's report card next week. Please take the time to review the report with your child. We are very excited to share and celebrate the growth our students made this year!

Breakfast After the Bell

Rhodes School discourages meal charges, but understands there are instances when a student may need assistance with meal funds; therefore, the following guidelines for meal charges and collections apply.

1. Parent's have the responsibility to provide a meal from home, provide money for their student to obtain a meal, and/or are encouraged to apply for Federal Meal Assistance through the Free and Reduced Meal Program. Applications are available to all households and can be obtained in the school office.
2. Students in need of a meal are given a charge ticket. The meal includes a sandwich, milk and fruit. They are expected to pay back the charge lunch in a timely manner.
3. If applicable, students are informed at point of service when their meal account is in need of funds. Payment reminders are mailed home on a monthly basis to the students who have charged lunches and/or a negative balance of \$10.00 or more on their account.
4. We encourage all parents/students to have their accounts in good standing by school year end.
5. A la Carte food may not be charged, and students with a negative account balance may not purchase a la carte food.
6. Students are expected to pay for lunch or bring a lunch from home until the household (only if they have applied) receives written notification of status of Meal Assistance application.
- 7.

Extracurricular Activities

The seventh grade boys volleyball team had a wonderful season. They finished the regular season 10 - 0 and were the division champions. After 2 playoff wins, the boys faced Lincoln Middle School in the championship game. After 3 hard fought sets, the boys unfortunately came up a little short of winning the championship and finishing with a perfect record. The boys did an amazing job of playing together as a team and picking each other up during difficult times. We wish them all the best next year as they try to win that elusive championship