

Friday, August 1st, 2025

Welcome Back to School, Ranch Heights Bruins!

The Back-to-School letter includes helpful information to help navigate the start of the school year. If you have any additional questions, please call the office.

# New Family Orientation - Thursday, August 7th 6:00 - 7:00 PM (RH Gym)

Families new to the Ranch are invited to attend an informational meeting to help them navigate the beginning of the year. You will also learn much more about your school. We are here to serve and help you as you begin your journey at the Ranch.

# Meet the Teacher - Tuesday, August 12th 4:00 - 6:00 PM

What is Meet the Teacher? Meet the Teacher is when you and your child(ren) meet their teachers, bring school supplies, fill out important information, and learn about your child(ren)'s classroom. Meet the Teacher is a come-and-go event.

# <u>First Day of School - Thursday, August 14th</u> Learning Begins at 8:50 AM and Ends at 3:40 PM Doors Open at 8:35 AM

# Watch D.O.G.S./M.O.M.S. Kick-Off & Ice Cream Social - Tuesday, August 26th 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) and Watch M.O.M.S. (Moms of Marvelous Students) are volunteer opportunities. Volunteers can sign up to help our school for an entire day at our Kick-Off Ice-Cream Social event in August. Volunteers will tutor, play on the playground, check the perimeter, help with arrival and dismissal, and so much more!

# <u>Open House - Thursday, September 4th</u>

#### 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Open House is a special time to experience what your child(ren) will learn throughout the school year. You will learn about classroom procedures, homework expectations, and upcoming events. There will be a time in the gym to visit with the principals and learn about your school!

# When will we find out who our child's teacher is? Monday, August 11th, 4:00 PM

Teachers will send out a Welcome Note through Remind - they will let you know their names and invite you to Meet the Teacher night. Please make sure your correct number is listed in PowerSchool. The main number listed is the one that will receive the Remind message. Remind is a messaging system our district uses. Please search for the Remind app and download it to prepare for this message. Please see "Remind" below to find out how to add additional numbers to Remind.

### **NEW Attendance Secretary**

We are excited to welcome Stacey Tesavis to the Ranch as our attendance secretary/registrar. She can help you as you have needs or questions throughout the year.

### **Ranch Heights Construction Complete!**

Although there are still some final touches being completed, our building is ready for school to start! Our teachers and staff are currently working on setting up classrooms and look forward to the upcoming school year.

Families and students will experience:

- New West Wing
  - Storm Shelter
  - PreK and Kindergarten classrooms
  - Art Class
  - Music Class
  - Staff Parking Lot
- New Library
  - o Located in the Renovated Kindergarten Pod
- New Office, Nurse, and Counseling Areas
  - Located in Renovated PreK Pod
- New Special Education Classrooms, ATLAS, and Sensory Room
- Additional Classroom for Every Grade Level
- New Paint and Carpet in all the Hallways and the Cafeteria
- New Bus Parking Lot
- All Parking Lots Resurfaced

#### **WEBSITE: RH.BPS-OK.ORG**

Please visit the website often for updates on Lunch Menus, Calendars, Newsfeeds, etc.

#### Remind

The school-wide Remind is the primary way our school communicates with our families. PowerSchool and Remind are connected. Remind pulls the main phone number listed in PowerSchool and automatically rosters that number. Please make sure your phone number is current in PowerSchool. If you want your number added to the school-wide Remind, please use this link: <a href="https://www.remind.com/join/bpsrh">https://www.remind.com/join/bpsrh</a>.

**Teachers have their own Remind accounts.** Please ask them for the link to add other phone numbers to your child(ren)'s class.

### <u>PreK First Days</u>

We will begin school for our Pre-Kindergarten at **9:00 a.m. on the first two days of school**. **Parents of Pre-Kindergarten students can walk their child to their classroom on the <u>first day</u> of <b>school AFTER 9:00.** Hug your sweet child and depart quickly. We will take excellent care of your precious little one. <u>On the second day of school and thereafter, we will escort Pre-Kindergarten</u> to breakfast and/or classrooms.

#### Goodbyes at the Door

Beginning on the first day of school, Kindergarten through 5th-grade students will enter the building and go to breakfast or their classrooms independently. Please discuss this with your child before the first day of school, so they are informed and prepared to say goodbye at the car or front entrance. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding while keeping your child's school safe.

Parents will not be able to walk their children through the front doors.

#### Arrival

We will open the doors for students to enter at 8:35 each morning. Walkers, Park and Walkers, and Car Riders will only use the Front Doors (Front Porch) to enter the building. Bus Riders will enter the building through the Back Doors (Back Porch).

#### **Walkers**

Walkers should not arrive before 8:35 a.m. There is no outside supervision before then.

#### Park and Walk

Families, feel free to park your car in the parking lots and walk your child to the Front Porch/steps. Please remain with your child until doors open at 8:35 a.m. There is no outside supervision before then.

\*\*Please do not use the Far East parking lot for Park and Walk before 8:30 a.m.
This parking lot is for our staff.\*\*

#### Car Line

The Car Line begins at the "Car Line Begins Here" sign in front of the building. The yellow dotted lines mark the car lane. For the safety of our students and the efficiency of the Car Line drop-off:

- Students remain in their vehicles for drop-off until we begin unloading at 8:35
- Please do not pull around other vehicles
- For everyone's safety, please do not drop off your child on Woodland Road
- Woodland Road Loop is the only Car Line; no drop-off in the David Drive Loop
- Adults will unload students
- Please have students unbuckled, backpacks on, and ready to exit the vehicle

#### Bus

The bus line is located on the south side of the building off of David Drive. Students will unload at 8:35 a.m.

#### **Dismissal**

At the end of the first few days of school, it will take longer to get our students dismissed, so we appreciate your patience. We will get more efficient after we have had time to familiarize ourselves with the system.

#### Walkers, Meeters, and Park & Greet - Dismiss at 3:30

Families who are meeting their children should please stand on the grass lawn. Families should pick up their PK/K child from the teacher. They line up behind a labeled cone.

#### Back Porch PK/K Car Riders - Begin Loading at 3:15

ONLY PK/K students who do not have siblings in grades 1st-5th grades have the option to dismiss to the back porch car line at 3:15. Please talk to your teacher to determine if your student is eligible for this dismissal option. <u>Back Porch is not a Walker/Meeter option.</u>

#### Front Porch PK- Fifth Car Riders - Begin Loading at 3:35

The Car Line begins at the "Car Line Begins Here" sign, located on the front lawn. The yellow dotted line marks the car lane. For the safety of our students and the efficiency of the Car Line pick-up:

- Please remain in the vehicle at all times
- Please wait your turn in the car line and do not pull around other vehicles
- Please place the Car Tag in your window so names are seen clearly
- Please let anyone picking up your child know these safety expectations
- If there is no Car Tag, please give the first and last name of your rider to the staff member when requested
- One Car Tag per family provided by the school at Meet the Teacher; families can purchase additional Car Tags in the office for \$5.00

Car Riders will line up behind their cones on the front porch

- A staff member will call students to a number located on the pick-up line
- Car riders will wait at the assigned number as the driver pulls up
- A staff member will help load the child(ren)

• Please do not buckle in the car line; drivers may Park and Walk if the child cannot buckle on their own

#### **Attendance**

Students are not counted as excused or unexcused. They will count as present or absent. The state allows up to 17 absences per academic year. After that, students are considered chronically absent. Letters, phone calls, and/or home visits will occur on days 4, 7, 10, and 15. On day 17, the School Resource Officer will hand-deliver a letter that states the school has made a truancy referral to the district attorney's office. If there are medical or other extenuating circumstances, address these with the principal. Please speak to our attendance secretary if your child has recurring appointments, including but not limited to physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech therapy.

#### **Volunteers and Visitors**

Between 8:50 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., you **MUST** sign into Raptor/LobbyGuard using your Driver's License. You will not be allowed to enter the building unless you sign in to LobbyGuard. **Safety is of the utmost importance, and there will not be any exceptions.** 

#### Breakfast and Lunch

Attention ALL Families: **Breakfast and Lunch are FREE for ALL students:** Breakfast stops serving at 8:50 a.m. Students must be out of the cafeteria by 9:00 a.m. If your child(ren) eats breakfast, please have them at school by 8:35 a.m. All students will have breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. \*\*\*New this year: Parents are always welcome to eat lunch with their child(ren); however, third-party food deliveries are not permitted (ie, Door Dash).\*\*\*

## **Motivating Monday**

On Mondays, instead of a 40-minute specials time (music, art, PE, library), your child(ren) will have 60 minutes of rotating specials activities.

# <u>Upcoming Dates</u>

- New Family Orientation: Thursday, August 7th from 6:00 7:00
- Watch D.O.G.S./M.O.M.S. Ice-Cream Social Kick-Off Event: Thursday, August 26th from 6:00 7:00
- Labor Day No School: Monday, September 1st
- Open House: Thursday, September 4th from 5:30 7:00

### Leader In Me

This year, our district is proud to begin the Leader in Me Journey. In keeping with this, our school-wide theme focuses on helping our students find the leader in themselves. As our students, "Find the Leader in Me," our staff will, in turn, "Lead with Light." I am excited to visit with our families at the upcoming Open House on Thursday, September 4th. Please join us to find out more about the Leader in Me district initiative!

This is my tenth year as the principal at Ranch Heights Elementary. A humbling honor, it is my joy to serve you and your children.

Mrs. Chanda Myers
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