

RHEEMARKS: August 29th

Dear Rheem Team Families,

I hope you were able to avoid the smokey skies a bit and get out to enjoy a part of the weekend. As we move further into fire season, we will continue implementing our [safety protocols](#) in response to declining air quality (AQI).

I won't take any more of your time on my intro as there is quite a bit to get through with this week's Rheemarks.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, August 30:

- K-2 Early/Regularly Schedule Begins
- Early Schedule 8:25-1:55
- Late Schedule 9:35-3:05
- 3rd Grade Full Day Schedule Begins (8:25-3:05)

Tuesday, August 31:

- Regularly scheduled Tuesday

Wednesday, September 1:

- Wednesday Schedule
- 8:25 – 1:50 (All K-5th grade students)

Thursday, September 2:

- Regularly scheduled Thursday

Friday, September 3:

- Regularly scheduled Friday

Monday, September 6:

- NO SCHOOL: LABOR DAY

COVID-19 Protocols Reminders

In keeping all of our school community members as safe as possible, it is essential we continue following COVID-19 protocols.

- If your child is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, please:
 - Keep your child home.
 - Call the office, and we will walk you through the next steps.
 - A child can return to school when:
 - Fever free for 24 hours and...
 - Other symptoms have improved, and...
 - One of the following:
 - Negative COVID-19 test OR
 - Documentation of chronic condition or alternative diagnosis OR
 - Ten days have passed since symptom onset
- If your child has been exposed to a person, who has been diagnosed with COVID 19.
 - Keep your child home.
 - Call the office, and we will walk you through the next steps.

K-2 Early/Late Schedule Begins

Tomorrow (8/30), our early/late schedule will begin for all kindergarten – 2nd-grade students. You all should have received your student's early/late placement notice last Thursday, but if you are uncertain of which group they are in, please be sure to email your classroom teacher.

3rd Grade Full Day Schedule Begins

Tomorrow all third-grade students will transition into a full day schedule, where they will be attending school from 8:25-3:05 for the remainder of the school year (save the early release day on Wednesdays).

Did you Know?

Volunteers: The Moraga School District is limiting volunteers to “essential volunteers” like serving Hot Lunch and supervising students at yard duty. All volunteers need to complete a district form and be sure to show proof of vaccination in the office when you check-in.

Birthday Celebrations: *Important reminder regarding food vs. fun alternatives.*

Your child's birthday is important to us, and all students should have the chance to be recognized and honored on their special day. Birthday celebrations can be lots of fun without the need for treats (food and non-food alike) to save time and money and avoid complications with food allergies.

In honor of your child's birthday, below is a list of fun alternatives we recommend. Please take a look at the list and discuss your child's preference with your teacher?

- Bring in a favorite book to be read by your child or your child's teacher to the class. If you would like to donate a copy of the book to your class, please sign it with your name, so everyone will know that it was from you.
- Email your child's favorite song for a dance party or special activity.
- A child shares their favorite item with the class (i.e., a toy, picture, and souvenir).
- The class goes on a short nature walk.
- A child shares one of their talents with the class (i.e., singing, instrument, poem, magic).
- Class plays your child's favorite game.

Party Invitations: Parents and students are not allowed to bring party invitations to school and distribute them through the backpacks. This rule protects the feelings of students not invited to parties and ensures that our office and communication systems are used exclusively for educational purposes. Also, the office cannot provide student's addresses or phone numbers to parents or students. With that said, each year, a directory may be purchased through the PTA with all of this information.

Homework Policy: Homework should positively impact student learning and is defined as the assigned learning activities that students work on outside of the classroom. The purpose of homework is to provide students an opportunity to practice, reinforce and apply previously taught skills and acquired knowledge and prepare for future lessons and is directly tied to classroom instruction. Assignments should have a clear purpose and be

designed for completion within a reasonable time frame. Completing homework is the responsibility of the student. Parents can play a supportive role through monitoring, encouraging students' efforts, and providing a conducive learning environment.

For more details regarding homework, including guidelines for parents, teachers, and administrators, recommended minutes per grade level, and makeup work policy, please click [HERE](#).

Animals on Campus: As a general rule, dogs and other animals are not permitted at school. Specifically, according to the state's education code, dogs are prohibited from school campuses, whether or not the dogs are leashed. Several signs posted on campus note that "Dogs are not allowed."

Therefore, if families include a dog walk at the same time they are picking up or dropping off their child, we request that you meet or say goodbye to your child at the crosswalk on Laird, thereby not bringing the dog on campus. This precaution will help keep your pet from being overrun by well-meaning children and assure that our children are safe during the busy arrival and dismissal times. We have several students who are either afraid or allergic to certain types of pets, so this policy keeps our school environment safe and friendly.

If you notice a dog on campus, leashed or not, please inform the school office. It is our intention to keep our campus safe. Again, many thanks for your understanding of this school rule.

Need of Volunteers for Late Arrival Supervision

Starting this week (Monday, August 30), our early/late groups will begin in the K-2nd grades. In the past, our drop-off times have started at 9:10 AM and ended at 9:35 AM, and we hope to continue that again this year, but we will need the support of parent volunteers. The request for volunteers is to help supervise and keep students safe who arrive between 9:10-9:25. (All teachers and teaching assistants are providing instruction and

support in the classroom between 8:25-9:25). We want to provide the same opportunity to drop your student off at 9:10, so if you are available to help supervise our students from 9:10-9:25 on either a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday, please reach out to me or Mrs. Fitzinger (lfitzinger@moraga.k12.ca.us).

P.E. Classes with Ms. Mullen Start This Week!

Starting this Wednesday at Rheem, we will be welcoming a familiar face to our P.E. classes. Ms. Adrienne McMullen, one of our longtime fourth-grade teachers, will be taking over as the district's elementary P.E. teacher. This year marks Ms. McMullen's sixteenth in the district, and we wish her all the best in her new endeavor. And although it is certainly not a goodbye, thank you, Ms. McMullen, for over fifteen years of service to the Rheem Team.

Welcome to New Fourth Grade Teacher Mrs. Sytz

We are excited to welcome new fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Taylor Sytz to the Rheem staff. Mrs. Sytz will be taking over this Monday (8/30) for Ms. McMullen.

Job Opportunity at Rheem

We are currently searching for two classroom teaching assistants here at Rheem to help with students' general supervision and support. Applicants will have the opportunity to work under the direct supervision of a classroom teacher and be expected to assist with the implementation of instructional plans while also supporting students' social and emotional development.

For more information, please reach out to me at bsullivan@moraga.k12.ca.us

The Last Word...

We're three weeks into the school year, and it finally feels like we are getting our legs under us. The beginning of the school year always takes a little time to build those routines that go with keeping our children well-rested, well-fed, and prepared for school. If you are like the Sullivans, one of the biggest challenges you may be facing is when your child doesn't eat what is packed in their lunches. I read an article recently ([Creative Ideas](#)

[for Packed Lunches Kids Will Actually Eat](#)) giving some great suggestions on how to “Perk up packed lunches.”

A few of their ideas were to:

- Planning lunches together helps build buy-in, excitement, and pride, encouraging kids to eat what's in there.
- Assign lunch-packing duty to build independence and responsibility while also incentivizing students to eat what they have packed.
- Think smaller serving sizes and aim to pack only as much food as your child typically eats. Big portions can be intimidating.
- Don't try anything new. Dinner is a great time to try new things but stick with what you know your child likes when packing their lunch.

I realize so many things can play into why a child doesn't eat their lunch, but if you have a few minutes, please give the entire article a read [HERE](#).

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan