

RHEEMARKS: August 8th

August 8, 2020

Dear Rheem Team Families,

WELCOME...and WELCOME BACK!! I hope you and your family are enjoying the weekend and soaking up the last few days of summer break. Come this Tuesday; we get a chance to welcome your children back to campus after a year that saw us learning from both at home and school. The beginning of any school year brings an excitement and expectation of good things to come, and I am happy to report we are excited to begin this new journey with each of you as classes begin Tuesday (8/10) morning.

This edition of RHEEMARKS (a weekly publication for all Rheem families) intends to give you all the information you'll need for a smooth first week.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, August 9:

Roadrunner Day on the playground from 4:00-5:00

Kindergarten "Meet and Greet" from 3:30-4:00 on the Kindergarten Playground

New Family "Meet and Greet" on the Main Playground (3:30-4:00)

Kindergarten "Back to School Night" 5:00-5:45

Families will be meeting teachers in their student's classrooms

Tuesday, August 10:

First Day of School!

K – 3rd: 8:25 – 1:55

4th – 5th: 8:25 – 3:05

MSD Governing School Board Meeting from 6:00-9:00 PM (Zoom link)

Wednesday, August 11:

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

Rules Assembly (1st – 5th grades)

Thursday, August 12:

Minimum Day 8:25 – 12:12 (all K – 5th)

Back to School Night: 1st – 5th grades (see schedules below)

Friday, August 13:

Regularly scheduled day

K – 3rd: 8:25 – 1:55

4th – 5th: 8:25 – 3:05

COVID-19 Protocols

There have been some changes to the guidelines since last spring. The guidelines can be found below.

- [COVID-19 Safety Guidelines](#) Slide Deck
- [Screencast](#) from the Superintendent, Dr. Julie Parks.

Roadrunner Day is tomorrow, August 9

Be sure to come to Rheem tomorrow for Roadrunner Day. Families will be able to gather their pre-ordered school supply kits, sign up for Hot Lunch, learn more about this year's ASEP (After School Enrichment Program) classes to be held at the Hacienda, purchase Rheem Spirit Wear, and learn more about all the incredible work of PTA, all while enjoying popsicles and the company of good friends. There will be a host of PTA volunteers providing icy treats and lots of great information. The fun begins at 4:00 PM and goes till 5:00.

For more on Rheem's PTA, as well as membership information, please click [HERE](#).

Kindergarten Back to School Night is tomorrow, August 9

Kindergartener parents and guardians are invited to "Kindergarten Back to School Night." The program goes from 5:00-5:45. Teachers will begin at 5:00 in their classrooms, and Mr. Sullivan will come to each room and welcome families to Rheem and update them on new information regarding the school year. (This is a parent only presentation, so please be sure to make childcare arrangements)

First–Fifth Grade Back to School Night: Thursday, August 12

This 1st-5th Grade PARENT ONLY event is an important opportunity to hear from the classroom teacher about specific goals, practices, and procedures for a great year! In addition, I will be welcoming families onto campus and getting them all situated. There will also be a video presentation from myself, MEF, and PTA to discuss overarching themes and practices and new protocols. Please attend (even if you're a veteran "Rheem Teamer" – there is new information for everyone).

5:45-6:00 – Mr. Sullivan welcomes 1st and 2nd-grade families to campus

6:00-6:45 – 1st-2nd grade classroom presentations

6:45 - Video presentation in classrooms from Mr. Sullivan, MEF, PTA

6:45-7:00 – Mr. Sullivan welcomes 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade families to campus

7:00-7:45 – 3rd-5th grade classroom presentations

7:45 - Video presentation in classrooms from Mr. Sullivan, MEF, PTA

Aeries Parent Portal

Please be sure to go online and update your Aeries Parent Portal Account (link [HERE](#)). We must have everyone complete this before the first day of school.

Class placement will be made available to all families on Aeries Monday (8/9) after 4:00 PM...so please be sure to update (or create) your account before then. Please remember that the Rheem staff have worked for many hours to build balanced classes. We hope you will support us with an enthusiastic response to your child's classroom assignment. Your attitude goes a long way in making for a successful year.

If you have more than one student attending Rheem this year, please be sure to update information for all students.

Third-grade students

For years in Moraga Schools, 3rd-grade students have followed an "early bird" schedule for the first three weeks of school, and this year will be no different.

Through August 30, third graders will be dismissed at 1:55 (1:50 on Wednesdays) to allow time for their teachers to assess students in reading comprehension and fluency individually. Third-grade teachers will contact parents to schedule dates and times for individual student assessments.

Drop-off Reminders:

Supervision starts at 8:10. Students should arrive between 8:10-8:25 (except for students attending Roadrunner).

Please drop students off on Laird Drive (along the blue benches). Several teachers and I will be out front welcoming students to campus and helping them get to their classrooms.

A campus map can be found [HERE](#)

Parents dropping off students by car need to read and follow [THESE](#) traffic rules.

Staffing Updates

Rheem welcomes the following staff to the "Team":

Classroom TAs: Hazel Lowe and Janaina Pettibone

Instructional IAs: Genevieve O'Brien and Lisa Stepp

With additional funding made available recently, MSD will hire one full-time elementary P.E. teacher, with the position being filled later this week.

MEF: The Moraga Education Foundation

The Moraga Education Foundation (MEF) raises money to support our students in a variety of ways. Please consider donating. You can find information on how your donation supports our students [HERE](#). Donations to MEF help our district provide "Rheemarkable" opportunities for "[Every Student Every Day!](#)"

Rheem's PTA

The Rheem Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a site-based partnership focused on community building and advocacy for our students. Learn more about all the things our PTA does to support the students and families of Rheem by clicking [HERE](#).

The Last Word...

As returning families already know (and new families will soon discover), Rheem Elementary is a very special place that takes advantage of a "Team" approach – teachers, students, and families all joining together to promote a dynamic learning environment in which all students thrive. You will often hear people reference Rheem stakeholders as a part of the Rheem Team (there's even a song commemorating our spirit). The old adage "many hands, makes the load lighter" rings true here at Rheem, and I strongly urge you to become an active participant in our efforts. Working together, we can accomplish great things!!!

Here's to a great and safe 2021-22 school year.

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan