

# RHEEMARKS

## "Frank"ly Speaking...

August 15, 2016

**Hello Rheem Team Families!** In the spirit of the Rio Olympics, this first edition of RHEEMARKS means we've collectively arrived at the starting gate, ready to engage in the greatest team sport of all: cheering each other on through another successful school year! Let's begin with an enthusiastic welcome to the newest members of the Rheem Team:

- **Tanja Gubser** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher
- **Gillian O'Connell** – 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher
- **Tanya Strum** – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade choir teacher
- **Larysa Larson** – Art Teacher
- **Inge Olson** – Intensive Instructional Aide
- **Anne Robles** – Intensive Instructional Aide

Other changes include **Sharon Gillbanks** adding a 4th day to her library schedule, so that she will now serve all K – 5<sup>th</sup> graders during the week and **Sara Stafford** teaching K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade general music in addition to 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade Band. We are hoping to very soon fill the positions of School Psychologist and Technology Teacher to complete our staff. Stay tuned!

The front office has been very busy as we are preparing to welcome 412 new and returning students to Rheem Elementary on Monday, August 22. **Kindergarten parents can expect to receive a welcome letter from their child's specific kindergarten teacher by Thursday, August 18, and class assignments will be emailed to the parents of all 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders on Friday, August 19.**

The start of school always brings with it excitement as well as a few nervous concerns. In an effort to get everyone off to a positive start, we hope the "**Get Ready. Get Set. GO!**" list below will help pave the way:

**GET READY! Make sure you are "ready" to receive all important communications from Rheem School.** Being aware of programs, schedules, due dates, etc. is key to a successful school year for you and your child. Here are the Big Three:

- **Weekly Rheemarks** – *This* email is the first in a series of weekly e-communications (look for it on Sundays) that I will be sending through our School Messenger System. Family email addresses are pulled from our data base (the info you provided at registration) to make sure that ALL families receive this information. In other words, there is no need to “sign-up” for weekly “Rheemarks” newsletters.
- **PTA E-News** – Rheem’s weekly PTA Newsletter will be sent out on Wednesdays again this year and includes important information and updates about PTA programs, activities, opportunities, and more! The first edition will be coming to your inbox this Wednesday, August 17.
- **REMIND text messages** -- It’s easy! It’s quick! It’s informative! Two years ago, we began using a new system called REMIND to send quick “texts” to parents who sign-up for this service. The one-way text messages come directly from me and are limited to brief, timely “Rheeminders.” This is the best way to not miss an important due date or forget a minimum day! **To receive messages via text, simply text @rheem to 81010 or click [HERE](#) to download instructions.**

**GET SET! Make sure you are “all set” by having completed important registration procedures and are prepared for the start of school by doing the following:**

- Complete the [MSD Back to School Confirmation Process](#) whether you have a new or returning student to Rheem.
- Visit the [Rheem PTA website](#) to sign-up for important resources and programs (School Directory, Hot Lunch, yearbook, spiritwear, and more!).
- If you didn’t pre-purchase a School Supply kit, please click [HERE](#) for a list of requested School Supplies by grade level.
- If you plan on volunteering at Rheem School in any capacity this year, please make sure you have completed the [Volunteer Clearance Process](#). It’s best to get this done in advance!
- Be sure to bookmark [our school website](#) to access the school calendar and other important links. You may also want to review our [Parent Handbook](#) to become familiar with some of our routines and procedures.

**GO! ...to Roadrunner Day on Friday, August 19 beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Rheem Multi-Use Room.** At this event, you can check out class lists, preview SpiritWear, get information about PTA and MEF, pick-up pre-ordered School Supply kits, and enjoy a Popsicle treat!

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 parents all joining together to promote a dynamic learning environment in which all students thrive. I encourage you to become an active participant in our efforts. Working together, we can accomplish great things!

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, Principal