

News and Notes from Mr. Houchin

Welcome to Mr. Houchin's news and notes page. Here, I will try my best to post items that may help you and your child (ren) be more successful and have a great year at RCMS.

I am excited to get the 2018-2019 school year started and to make it a positive experience for everyone. I want to offer a few expectations and helpful tips to get the school year started right for you and your child (ren) and to keep it that way throughout the year. It is extremely important that we do everything we can to make our students successful. This means that there must be a collaborative partnership between our parents/guardians and the school. We (students, parents, school) must treat everyone with respect, work hard and do our personal best everyday.

Below, are some common do's / don'ts to help your child to start the school year.

1) Cell phone / Electronic Device

- Students may possess electronic devices such as cellular phones and mobile devices on school property during the school day but they must be kept in their lockers or in a pocket. These devices must be turned OFF and only used in emergency situations that are determined by school faculty, unless otherwise directed.

2) Dress Code

- Student's dress and grooming must not disrupt the educational process; interfere in the maintenance of a positive teaching and learning environment, or compromise reasonable standards of health, safety and decency. Such items include:

(1) Clothing, jewelry or other wearing apparel which is embellished with, suggests or promotes gang affiliation.

(2) Sunglasses, hats, bandannas or unusual headgear of any kind during school hours.

(3) Clothing, jewelry and other wearing apparel which is embellished with, suggests, promotes or depicts alcohol, tobacco, drugs, profanity, or any inappropriate message or slogan.

(4) Clothing or other wearing apparel which is sexually explicit, including but not limited to shirts which reveal or expose the chest or abdomen; shirts which could potentially reveal undergarments (ie spaghetti straps, tank tops, or cut-off sleeves); excessively tight clothing of any kind.

(5) Coats, jackets and hats are not to be worn inside the school during the school day and shall be either kept in students' lockers or not to be brought to school; back packs and purses must remain in student lockers at all times.

(6) Excessively ripped pants, trousers, shorts or jeans and chains are prohibited due to safety concerns; and no pants, trousers, shorts or jeans should be worn below the waistline for safety concerns. As a general rule, shorts/skirts need to be long enough to reach the end of a student's fingertips when standing with arms to their sides (2 inch Inseam). The same rule applies to rips or holes in pants.

** General rule – If you look at your child's clothes and think, "This may be a violation of the school's dress code", it is probably a violation of the dress code.

3) Attendance / Tardiness to class

- It is very important to get to school on time and get to every class on time. Get started on the right foot and make a great first impression on your teachers.

I hope you continue to read my column, as I will try to update as the year goes along. Thank you for your support and for striving to reach our vision:

To be a place where students are empowered to **LEARN, GROW, and UNITE** for the purpose of becoming tomorrow's leaders.

Thank you,

Darrell Houchin

RCMS Assistant Principal / Athletic Director