

“A sense of curiosity is nature's original school of education.”

Dr. Smiley Blanton

Grey Matters

Volume 4

September 18 – 22, 2006

Number 2

No matter how many times I go through it, I continue to forget how exhausting the first full week of school proves to be. Both of my daughters (starting 5th and 7th grade), my wife (a Preschool teacher) and I all came home on Friday ready for a relaxing weekend. It seems it takes us all a little extra time to get up to full speed for the year.

As we start our second full week of school, it becomes more and more important to have all student supplies purchased and planbooks in place. While teachers will often provide a review of previously taught material during the first few weeks of school, the pace will soon quicken and students will want to be prepared. Please be assured that teachers will be teaching students how to use their planbooks, in addition to other organizational strategies. Over the course of the year, you will hear more about how we support students with developing organizational and study skills. Using checklists, calendars, schedules, and assignments books are but a few of the skills taught here at the RJG.

As I mentioned last week, our student population has blossomed this year. This increase has had a direct effect on the number of students who ride to and from school on school buses leading to the vast majority of buses functioning at full capacity. Accordingly, we will be extremely limited in our ability to allow guests. Parents and guardians, this means you will need to arrange alternative transportation for rides to friend's houses, after school lessons, etc.

While I am sure no parents or guardians of RJG would *dream* of ignoring the schools drop-off/pick-up procedures, it appears that there are some “mysterious strangers” who block buses in the front loop, park in assigned spaces, and drop-off/pick-up students in unsafe locations. To these folks, I address the following reminders:

1. Between 7:00AM – 7:45AM and 1:45PM – 2:30PM, the front entrance loop is for buses only. Other vehicles are not to enter the loop during these times.
2. Student drop off and pick-up is allowed at the bottom of the steps in the lower parking lot only. *This lot is located east of the building, behind the tennis courts, just off Charter Road. Please pay particular attention for students entering and/or exiting cars when driving through this area.*

3. Parents are asked to enter and exit the parking lot via Charter Road, not Mass. Avenue (Route 111). *Driving through the campus during bus drop off and pick-up interferes with the buses and causes unnecessary traffic problems.*
4. Students are not to be dropped off in front of the Blanchard gym or in the parking lot on the west side of the building. *Again, doing so interferes with our school buses and causes unnecessary traffic problems.*
5. Parent parking is only allowed in the lower lot and in the visitor spaces off the front loop. *Please note that these visitor spaces are for short term parking only.*
6. Cars are not to be parked – momentarily or otherwise – in the front loop area except in a visitor’s space.
7. Lastly, please remember not to pass the buses.

If you haven’t already done so, please be sure to sign up for the Principal’s email list so that you can stay abreast of the most current information regarding clubs and activities. For example, students will be electing their homeroom representatives for Student Council this Wednesday and clubs such as Adopt-A-Grandparent and the Speech Team, will be starting up soon.. While we share daily announcements with our students, we do find that parent awareness drastically improves student participation.

Have a great week.