



August 27, 2023

Dear RCS Parents and Families,

Welcome back! Our preparation for the 2022-2023 school year has been full speed ahead the past few weeks and it is now time to welcome our students back. Thank you to our parents and students for coming out to Bulldog Days, Open Houses and other kick off events. We are very excited to get the 2023-24 school year started.

The beginning of every school year can present logistical challenges as we all settle into our regular routine. I ask that we all remain patient as we implement busing routes, new class schedules, arrival-dismissal routines and lunch time procedures. It is normal that things can take a week or two to settle in and often modifications have to be made. If you have questions it is best to work through your school offices but we are here at the Administration Office to help if needed.

Here are some additional updates as we begin this school year:

Transportation-

All of our bus routes are staffed to begin the year and we have added an additional route at three of our buildings. We have improved systems in our bus fleet that will support better communication within the department and for parents. We are launching a new districtwide two way radio system that is installed in all of our buses. The improvements also include a live GPS tracking system of all buses that integrates with preventative maintenance and mechanical issues that need attention. Mrs. Marshall and her staff will be working to launch a new app for parents this fall that will provide live bus location information when there are delays in pick up or drop off times. I will reiterate the message I shared in July that the best mitigation to all of our traffic issues around school campuses is for students to ride the bus to and from school. Contact the Transportation Department if you have questions around busing. (586) 752-0267

Food Service-

You have received messages from Ms. Stewart, our Food Service Director over the past month explaining how the free breakfast and lunch program has been reinstated as part of this year's state school aid budget. We still need parents to follow the previous protocols of completing free and reduced lunch eligibility forms. If you need any assistance in regard to school meals please contact the Food Service Department by email - kristin.stewart@romeok12.org.

Other Information-

- **2023-2024 Athletic Participation Fees-** The Board of Education took action at the July meeting to suspend Pay to Participate fees for the 2023-2024 school year. We are happy to provide this adjustment for many of our middle and high school families. Continuation of the suspension of fees will be reviewed annually in the budget approval process. It is important to note that the additional operational fees associated with our club sports at both RHS and RMS will still be in place.
- **2023-2024 School Calendar and School Times-** The 2023-2024 School Calendar is available on the district website. Another reminder that Spring Break has moved to the last week in March in alignment with the MISD Common Calendar as required. School times for this year remain the same. You can find the times for each level on the bottom of the calendar that is posted on the district website.

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In closing, our annual theme for this year is “**Choose Joy.**” We are all very fortunate to have the opportunity to live and work in this special place. Our new strategic plan is providing an exciting path forward for our district as we strive to provide the best for our students, staff and families. It is our goal to put the difficulty of past years behind us and focus on the bright future ahead. We have a great deal to be proud of and grateful for.

Thank you again for your commitment to our school district and for serving as a partner in your student’s education. With a great deal of joy in my heart, I believe the 2023-24 school year will be our best.

Go Bulldogs!

Dr. Todd R. Robinson, Superintendent



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