On behalf of the entire Rockwood Preparatory Academy staff we would like to warmly welcome all of our returning and NEW families to the 2019-2020 school year! As our school family grows, so, too, do the opportunities for building community and fostering bonds that will last a lifetime. This year promises to be a banner year in terms of both student performance and organizational health. As the year progresses we look forward to learning with, growing with, and always striving to improve our capacity for service to RPA families.

Sincerely in Service,

John Nelsen, Executive Director
Maria McCollum, Interim-Principal, K-2
Danielle Barnard, Interim-Principal, 3-6

Rockwood Preparatory Academy’s (RPA’s) mission is “to provide excellence and justice in education by ensuring that ALL students (K-6) can demonstrate rock-solid reading, arithmetic, spelling, and writing skills. We provide a model public elementary school (K-6) that dispels the myth that racial background and economic status are determinative factors in a child’s ability to reach high levels of academic achievement.”

BE SURE to see the 2019-20 RPA School Calendar & Daily Schedule (Attached)

New Partnership with Reynolds School District Addresses Parent Concerns!

In last year’s Parent Survey, the #1 area families wanted to see improvement in was the quality of student meals. We are pleased to report that starting this fall, RPA will be providing “freshly cooked meals with multiple daily options” through an exciting new partnership with the RSD Nutrition Services Department. In addition to a re-outfitting of our kitchen, RSD will provide staff, equipment, expertise, and the fresh food!

We want to thank RSD Superintendent Dr. Danna Diaz, and Nutrition Services Coordinator Christy Foote for their support and commitment to feeding the children in our community. THANK YOU!

DIRECTIONS:
September 19-20 NO SCHOOL!
September 21st FREE OIL HANGES (inside for more!)
September 25th Back-To-School Night! 4-6pm
Sept. 30th Grandma & Grandpa Breakfast!
Penny Wars All October
October 8th Picture Day! (Retakes Nov. 4th)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Tuesday, Oct. 1 6:00-7:00pm
RPA Executive Director John Nelsen warmly invites YOU to join him for the year’s first Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting. The PAC focuses on the tough issues facing RPA, its Board, and the Rockwood community. The PAC is one of the important ways YOU can have an authentic voice at RPA. Please come join the conversation!

MONDAY OCT 8th
(Retakes: Nov. 4th)
New Partnerships with Reynolds School District Addresses Parent Concerns!

Picture Day

Please DONATE your lightly worn school uniforms that your children have outgrown for our uniform exchange program. Please bring all donations to the office. Thanks!

THE UNIFORM EXCHANGE
Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year RPA families! We are excited for another great year full of new and exciting opportunities to learn and grow together.

This year we will be introducing APTTs! APTT stands for Academic Parent Teacher Teams. Our families are very important to us, and the APTT model will allow us to interact in a positive, consistent, and impactful way. The goal of APTT is to bridge the gap between school and home academically. Families always ask "How can we help our children at home?" APTT is going to give you effective ways to do just that! In addition to our 2 conferences this year, we will also have three 75-minute parent group meetings. This will allow families to see their child's progress and learn how to support them at home.

In other news, we successfully raised enough money last year to purchase a play structure to add to our playground! Unfortunately, due to new construction in our back field on the horizon, we will need to postpone our build date until later in the year. On the bright side, we have partnered with Playworks for this year! Playworks is a program focused around constructive play and promoting the social and emotional growth of our students. We are so lucky to have Coach Sage on our team this year! She will lead our children in fun, team building activities, both in the classroom and outside. She will help teach our students leadership skills, how to make new friends, how to solve problems, and how to believe in themselves through play.

Thank you all for being a part of our RPA family. We are anticipating a wonderful year of learning, growing, and achieving!

Maria McCollum, Principal (K-2) Danielle Barnard, Principal (3-6)

From The School Registrar: Ms. Annette Marion

School Success Goes Hand in Hand with Good Attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?
- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO?
- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots. Introduce your child to his/her teachers and classmates before school starts to help this transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he/she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make him/her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips during school.
Have You Begun Receiving Weekly POSSIP Text Messages?

Every week we will be sending “POSSIP” text messages to RPA families asking how their student’s week went. Responses can be anonymous and all are reported to the leadership team weekly. This is an important way to hold the school accountable.

If not, please contact the main office and provide your current information (mramos@rockwoodprep.org).

POSSIP lets you (parents/guardians) share feedback every week through your text or email. You can choose to share your name – or you can share anonymously. You can also let us know if you want follow up.

We would love to hear what praise you have – or feedback!

RPA Hoodies, Sweatshirts, and Polo Shirts
FOR SALE on BACK-TO SCHOOL NIGHT

RPA Logo apparel will be sold by the PTO at Back to school night September 25th from 4pm to 6pm. We will be selling youth and adult size t-shirts, sweatshirts and zipper hoodies.

Prices:
$10 for Polos
$15 for Sweatshirts
$20 for Hoodies

Free and Reduced Lunch & Breakfast

RPA participates in the National School Lunch Program. The program provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost, or free lunches (and breakfasts) to children each school day.

RPA strongly encourages ALL families to apply and take advantage of this great program. IT’S SO EASY! Applications are available in the RPA Front Office and only take a moment to complete.

FREE OIL CHANGE*

WHAT: Oil and Filter Change for your car *
WHEN: Saturday, September 21 9:00am-1:00pm
WHERE: As Is Church in Rockwood
740 SE 182nd Ave, Portland, OR 97233

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED
email: myhealthycar@gmail.com
OR Text: 503-855-6612

Please leave a message with your name, year, make and model of vehicle and we will send you available times as soon as we can!

-In order to serve as many people as possible, please NO synthetics (unless car owner supplies the oil) and no cars with oil changed less than 3,000 miles ago.

Join us for free refreshments while your car is being serviced.

Sponsored by Good Shepherd Community Church & As Is Church

RPA Extends a Warm Welcome to Playworks Coach, Ms. Sage Thomas!

Playworks is the leading national nonprofit leveraging the power of play to transform children’s social and emotional health. Playworks currently serves more than 1,300 schools in 23 U.S. cities, and reaches more than 700,000 students directly and through professional training services. We are changing school culture by leveraging the power of safe, fun, and healthy play at school every day.

We create a place for every kid on the playground to feel included, be active, and build valuable social and emotional skills. This year, Playworks is partnering with RPA to provide a mix of services including on-site coaching, professional training for school staff who support recess, and consultation. We look forward to seeing this partnership flourish.

Playworks Mission

To improve the health and well-being of children by increasing opportunities for physical activity and safe, meaningful play.

Big shout outs to RPA staff members Yohemi Ramirez, Nabila Gaines, Brooblyn Ochoa, Victoria Hale-Williams and Amanda Carroll for doing such a great job with the afternoon car-line. It’s a hard job and you do it very well!

YOU ARE APPRECIATED!
ENSURING GREAT HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION!
Here are some ways!

- **POSSIP**: Possip provides parents with weekly opportunities to share feedback directly to school leadership. Possip translates YOUR COMMENTS into weekly reports to the school leadership. If your child currently attends RPA and you are NOT receiving weekly POSSIP texts and/or e-mail, please contact Maria Ramos the school office (503-907-1023) with your current cell phone number and e-mail address.

- **CLASS-DOJO**: Class-Dojo connects teachers, parents, and students who use it to share photos, videos, and messages through the school day. They use Class-Dojo to work together as a team and share the classroom experience. If your child currently attends RPA and you are NOT connected to his/her/their classroom(s) via Class-Dojo, please contact your child’s teacher(s).

- **RPA WEBSITE**: the RPA Website (www.rockwoodprep.org) has a wealth of current information on everything RPA! We labor to keep it informative and up-to-date. We ask that if you see any "typos" or have suggested edits please contact John Nelsen at jnelsen@rockwoodprep.org

- **PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)**: This is a deliberative body that assists the Executive Director by openly discussing the most difficult topics and generates actions which in-turn generate results. We meet on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month (depending on participation) at 6:00pm in room #7 of the Elementary building. For more contact John Nelsen jnelsen@rockwoodprep.org

- **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**: The RPA school newsletters is published monthly or sometimes every other month. It is are a great communication tool—versatile, reliable, affordable, and well-received. Parents are invited to contribute item for the newsletter. For more contact John Nelsen at jnelsen@rockwoodprep.org

- **E-MAIL**: One of the most effective ways to contact your child’s teacher, school office staff, or leadership is to simply send them an e-mail. ALL staff emails addresses are available on the school's website.

- **PARENT CONFRENCES**: At RPA every student has two parent-teacher conferences per year. This is a short face-to-face conference between the parents and teachers of students to discuss a child's progress at school, celebrate successes, and work cooperatively to identify solutions to academic or behavioral problems.

- **OLD FASHIONED PHONE CALL**: Most parent questions and/or concerns can be quickly addressed with a simple call to the schools' front office. Registrar, Annette Marion and Board Secretary, Maria Ramos will be happy to answer your questions or direct you to the appropriate staff member.
FROM THE TEACHERS!

We are so excited to spend the year with your kiddos. So far we have been building community, establishing school and classroom expectations, and developing a growth mindset. We will be starting reading and math VERY SLOWLY. Your student may already have some knowledge of some content. This is how our program works to get everyone on the same page and understanding how to fall into the routines and structure of a verbal/choral response program. However, the program will get harder! Don’t forget to check backpacks every day after school. Homework packets are sent home on Monday and will be collected the following Monday. We are looking forward to learning more about students and their families each day and excited to meet everyone at back to school night. If you need to contact one of us us for any reason please do so on class dojo.

-Ms. Zutub & Ms. Pescitelli

Hello from 1st grade! We have spent lots of time going over routines that help create a fun and safe environment at school and in the classroom. In our reading and language groups we are exploring stories about a silly cow, dogs with red noses, and our new friend Paul who loves purple paint! In math we are learning to count backwards, by tens, and how to plus and minus. Make sure you ask your kids! You’ll be impressed with how much they have already learned. We can always be reached on Class Dojo. Also please sure to check your child’s homework nightly and send it back to school. Thanks for a great start of the school year!

- Ms. Schubert & Ms. Cortez

First grade has had a great first 2 weeks! We have spent lots of time going over routines that help create a fun and safe environment at school and in the classroom. In our reading and language groups we are exploring stories about a silly cow, dogs with red noses, and our new friend Paul who loves purple paint! In math we are learning to count backwards, by tens, and how to plus and minus. Make sure you ask your kids! You’ll be impressed with how much they have already learned. We can always be reached on Class Dojo. Also please sure to check your child’s homework nightly and send it back to school. Thanks for a great start of the school year!

- Ms. Schubert & Ms. Cortez

Hello from 2nd grade! We are so excited to spend the year with your kiddos and grow together! The beginning of the year so far has been about building community, creating and following expectations together, and always remembering to never give up. So far we’ve been tackling place values, skip counting, and number families in math. We’ve also been working on sorting and learning our left and rights in language! We are looking forward to continuing to learn more about our students and their families each day and excited to meet everyone at back to school night.

- Ms. Bond & Ms. Shellman

3rd grade is really taking off! We have learned lots of social skills in our community circles! We are currently reviewing our number families and skip counting in math. In language we are learning what makes a sentence and different parts of speech. Science is so fun! With different articles and experiments our scientists are loving it! Reading is all about learning the four directions! Ask your student the acronym we taught them to remember our four directions! The students are working diligently in the classroom! Here’s to a great year!

- Miss Crickett & Ms. Lybarger

Hello from 4th grade! We are so happy to have your kiddo with us at RPA this year! Students are already taking off with their Rocket Math and our new writing curriculum. In spelling, they are learning about morphographs and reviewing consonants and vowels. In math, students are reviewing fractions (how many parts are in each unit), numerators and denominators as well as number families. In reading, students worked on comprehension and vocabulary from the story, Ron’s Summer Vacation. We have other exciting news; Science is making a comeback! Starting next week, we will be focusing on the composition of the Earth. (Crust, mantel, inner core and outer core.) We are all looking forward to conducting experiments in the future. Thanks for all that you do!

- Mrs. Nickelby & Mr. Morgan

5th grade is off to a rockin start! These first weeks we have been doing a lot of community building. We have also talked about and practiced the expectations and norms of our classrooms and the school. In math we are reviewing and re-learning our multiplication, division, fractions and our number families. In language we are learning about why we write and what “writer’s workshop” should feel like and the students all started on their first writing piece of the year. Last but not least, In reading, we are learning our routines and practicing our vocabulary and comprehension of our first story! We are off to a great start! Remind your children about how important kindness is- we are working on that in class as well.

- Ms. DeReamer & Mr. Dykes

Hello 6th Grade Families! As you may have heard by now, my name is Danny Walker (generally I go by “Mr.” here in the school building) and I hope you are as eager as I am to start this school year. Whatever happens, this will be your student’s final year here at Rockwood so I am going to do my best to make it a constructive and memorable one. Aside from the usual Reading, Writing, and Math (Algebra!) classes, this year I will be leading a social studies curriculum twice weekly. Please ask your students what we are learning about. I have been working here at Rockwood Prep for 8 years now so I should be able to guide you through most questions. As always, thank you for the trust you place in us by leaving your child here each weekday.

- Mr. Walker

Salutations from English Language Development! We would like to invite parents and families to come down to the ELD Green Room & Library and say “hello.” In ELD we work with RPA students whose second, and sometimes third language is English. Students come to us to enrich and improve their English Grammar and Language skills. We strive keep learning creative with art, drama, music and puppetry used in our teaching. Peace sincerely!

- Michele Brouse Peoples & Blanca Garcia
AM Drop-Off

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Car Line Gate Opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:35 AM</td>
<td>Doors Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:35-8:05</td>
<td>Breakfast Served</td>
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</table>

*Breakfast doors are closed at 8:05

PM Pick-Up

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Gates Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:50 PM</td>
<td>Gates Open for Dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00-3:15</td>
<td>Dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15</td>
<td>Gates Closed</td>
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NOTE: After 3:15 parents must sign child out from the office.

School Day Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15-10:30</td>
<td>Academics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-12:30</td>
<td>Lunches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30-3:00</td>
<td>Academics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Academics include Math, Reading, Language, and Spelling

Absences and Tardies

- Students are tardy after 8:15 AM
- Students are absent for the morning if showing up before noon.
- Students are absent for the afternoon if leaving after 1 PM.

NOTE: Students are most attentive in the mornings. Being tardy takes away from prime learning periods and causes a disruption to other students. Connections between tardiness and low academic performance have been established. Students are more likely to perform poorly on classwork and tests as well as miss out on crucial community-building within the classroom each morning.

Frequent tardies can lead to disciplinary measures for behavior problems such as suspension or missing out on extracurricular activities, and have been linked to academic failure and dropout in high school as well as getting fired from jobs as adults for showing up late.

We are setting the stage for the rest of our students’ lives. Let’s build a strong foundation together!
Rockwood Preparatory Academy Calendar 2019-2020

- School Events
  - Enrollment Night: August 28
  - Back to School Night: Sept. 25
  - Kinder and 6th Graduation: June 9

- First Day of School
  - ALL GRADES: September 3

- Grading Days
  - Report cards mailed home
  - No school for students
  - Oct. 25: 1st Quarter Ends
  - Jan. 24: 2nd Quarter Ends
  - Apr. 17: 3rd Quarter Ends
  - June 11: 4th Quarter Ends

- Staff Only Work Days
  - No school for students

- Parent-Teacher Conferences
  - No school for students
  - November 1
  - April 24

- Holiday Breaks
  - No school for students or staff
  - Sept. 2: Labor Day
  - Nov. 11: Veteran’s Day
  - Nov. 27-29: Thanksgiving Break
  - Dec. 23-Jan. 3: Winter Break
  - Jan. 20: MLK Jr. Day
  - Feb. 17: Presidents’ Day
  - Mar. 23-27: Spring Break
  - May 25: Memorial Day

- Last Day of School for Students
  - Field Day: 11:30 Dismissal
  - June 10

- Last Day for Staff
  - June 12

School Operation Hours
- 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday-Friday

Grades K-6 Daily Schedule
- Arrival/Breakfast: 7:45 am-8:10 am
- 8:15 am-3:00 pm (Monday - Friday)
- Dismissal: 3:00 pm-3:15 pm
Rockwood Preparatory Academy Calendar 2019-2020

Eventos escolares
Noche de inscripción: 28 Agosto
Regreso a la escuela: 25 de Sept.
Ceremonia de adelanto: 9 de Junio

Primer día de escuela
TODOS LOS GRADOS: 3 de Sept.

Días de calificaciones
boletas enviadas a casa
No hay escuela para estudiantes
25 de Oct: Termina el 1er trimestre
24 de Ene: Termina el 2do trimestre
17 de Abr: Termina el 3er trimestre
11 de Juno: Termina el 4to trimestre

Días de trabajo para personal
No hay escuela para estudiantes

Conferencias de padres y profesores
No hay escuela para estudiantes
1 de Noviembre
24 de Abril

Vacaciones
No hay escuela para estudiantes
2 de Sept - Labor Day
11 de Nov - Veteran's Day
27-29 de Nov - Thanksgiving Break
23 de Dec -3 de Ene - Winter Break
20 de Ene - Dia de MLK
17 de Feb - Dia del los Presidentes
23-27 de Mar - Spring Break
25 de Mayo - Memorial Day

Último día de escuela
Dia de campo salida a 11:30 am
10 de Junio

Último día para el personal
12 de June

Horas de operación de la escuela
8:00 am a 4:00 pm Lunes a Viernes

Horario diario de grados K-6
Entrada/Desayuno 7:45 am-8:10 am
8:15 am a 3:00 pm (Lunes a Viernes)
Salida 3:00 pm-3:15 pm