

8.18.23

Happy Friday Ruskin Families,

Welcome back to school everyone! Welcome to any students new to Ruskin this year! How exciting to start a new school year ! It has been a busy time for us here at school but we are super excited to be back with you all.

Speaking of a new school year, I too feel the pressures of being a working parent while getting my son ready for school. He will be attending Notre Dame College in Cleveland, Ohio for his senior year of college. He will be continuing to play basketball. He attended

Mayville College in North Dakota previously. I will be taking him next week for orientation and getting him all moved in. I will be leaving on 8/23 and will return on 8/29. The district is aware and will provide support as needed. Go Falcons!!!!

Next week on 8/23, students in grades TK, K, 2nd, 5th and Special Day Class will have a Hearing Screening. You may not be notified of the results UNLESS a follow up referral is suggested by the Health Clerk.

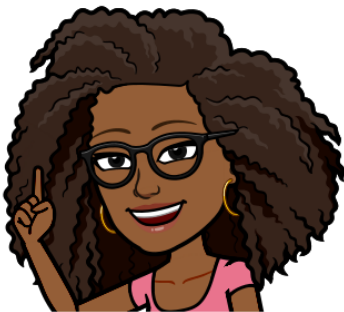
Parents, we need your help. We have closed the T intersection on Tulare and Turlock. We have less staff to cover positions and are re-routing students and families to use the crosswalk in front of the school. We appreciate all the families following the new system. It is in the best interests of everyone's safety. We have placed our custodian at the intersection to remind students of the new process.

For the ensured safety of everyone, please remember the following:

- Pull ALL the way forward in the horseshoe
- Please do not park in the STAFF parking lot
- Thank you for not parking in front of or in the neighbor's driveway
- Try to come early or walk to school if possible
- Staff supervision of students begins at 7:50
- Please leave the premises once the bell rings so we may lock down the school
- Please do not let your children out in the middle of the street or the parking lot

We appreciate your cooperation and support. As we kindly request that you follow our school rules, we are also working with our students to make sure they are following the school rules to keep themselves and others safe. Although we can have hundreds of rules for any and everything, all of our school rules fall under 3 main rules: **Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible**. We will have a Rules Assembly today and will be discussing these with our students. Ask your child what they learned while at the dinner table tonight.

FOLLOW THE RULES



Lastly, parents of students in 3rd-5th grade should have received a sheet with their child's district login and password on it. It was given to them by their teacher. It also has

directions on how to log in. The District is working with the IT Department to sync all accounts with the student emails; Google Workspace, Clever and Infinite Campus. Please advise your child not to share their login and password information with anyone

but you. The district reset all student passwords this year because many students were not using them responsibly.

Fire Drill

On Thursday, we had our first fire drill of the school year. We will have a drill each month, consisting of fire, earthquake or lockdown. The kids did GREAT today and were outside lined up quickly and were extremely quiet. Here they are getting in their lines and following their teacher's direction. Wonderful job everyone!



Refillable Water Station

As you know, it has been HOT outside!!! Please help your students stay hydrated by providing them with a refillable water bottle. We have a hands-free refill water station in the multi-purpose room. Please encourage your students to utilize it.



College Monday



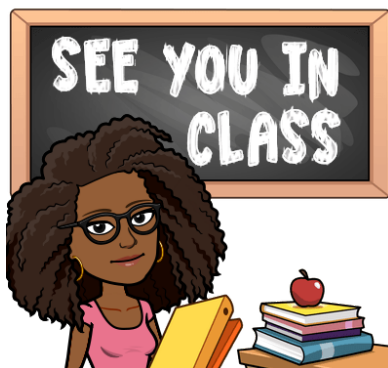
This coming Monday, 8/21, we will be having our first College Monday. For those new to our school, on Mondays (as well as any other days) we encourage students, staff and parents to wear any college gear they may have: T- shirts, sweatshirts, hats, sweats, socks, etc. I try to take pictures of anyone I can and post them here. I also highlight a college here in the Weekly Memo and at our Monday Flag Pole Ceremony. Our first Flag Pole will be **Monday, 8/28 right after the morning bell**. Parents are welcomed to join us on the blacktop during that time. Flag Pole last around 10 minutes.

This week's featured college is San Francisco State University or SFSU. Founded in 1899 as a Teacher's College, it obtained state college status in 1921 and state university college status in 1972. It is located less than 2 miles from the Pacific Ocean and in the heart of the city. Their 12 varsity athletic teams play in the NCAA Division II league. Their mascot is the Gators. The academic colleges they offer are Liberal and

Creative Arts, Business, Education, Science and Engineering, Ethnic Studies and Health and Social Science. They are a Hispanic Serving Institution (meaning at least 25% of full time undergrad students are Hispanic). They are also on their way to becoming an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Institution. SFSU was one of the first Cal State Universities to offer a doctorate in Education and in 2020 it was ranked 19th top university in the United States. The [Cinema Department](#), in the College of Liberal & Creative Arts, was named one of the world's best film schools by [Variety](#) in 2019 (per Wikipedia). My daughter actually started there as a film major before transferring. If you are looking for a great local school that has a lot to offer, consider San Francisco State University. Go Gators!!

Attendance Matters

In the 2020-21 school year, at [students](#) nationwide were estimate chronic absence from the more than [8 million](#) who were missing so many they were academically at – missing 10 percent or



least [10.1 million](#) chronically absent. We has more than doubled [students](#), pre-Covid-19, days of school that risk. Chronic absence more of school days

due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused absences and suspensions—can translate into students having difficulty learning to read by the third-grade, achieving in middle school, and graduating from high school.(Attendance Works). Please see this [video](#) on how to improve your child's attendance. Please keep your child home if they are ill and communicate with the front office. We can be reached at 408-923-1950 or you can contact the School Clerk, Ms. Kimberly, at Kyee@busd.net. I will be addressing chronic absenteeism and truancy throughout this school year. Let's work together to ensure our students get the full benefit of attending school each day.

[Vietnamese Truancy Video](#)

[Espanol Truancy Video](#)

After School Care

Are you in need of after school care? We have two different child care organizations that service our students. They are Sunshine School and Right at School. They are individually owned and operated. Their information is below:

Sunshine School

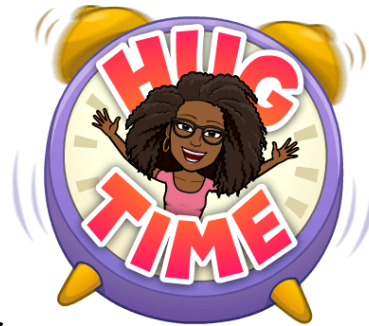
www.mysunshineschool.com

408-839-8366

Right At School (Room E1)

www.Rightatschool.com

855-287-2466



Feelings Matter

This year our focus will be on the Social Emotional well-being of each child. We will be getting re-trained in PBIS, or Positive Behavior Interventions and Support. This is whole school practice to promote a safe school setting by supporting social, learning, behavioral and emotional needs of all students. One of the most important things to know is that feelings and emotions matter. Sometimes children (and adults) have trouble regulating their emotions and feelings. We have to offer different strategies and support to assist them and meet them where they are. We have an awesome Social Worker, Ms. Nicole, on site to support the teachers or work with classes and individual students. Please read this [article](#) that discusses feelings and emotions more.

COVID Updates

Although COVID guidelines have lessened, we will continue to follow the public health guidance required by the [state](#) and [local](#) public health departments. These are the current recommendations and subject to change:

- **When symptomatic, please stay home.** Please reference our “[Reminder from the School Nurse](#)” on how to return your student post illness to school and if COVID-19 testing is required.
- **Testing** – Home antigen testing will be the primary strategy for COVID mitigation at school. We have at home tests available in the front office if needed or please visit <https://bit.ly/BUSDC19TestingResources> for more resources. Please use this link <https://bit.ly/BUSDOTC> to upload test results.
- **Ventilation** – Maintain high quality air ventilation systems for reducing virus aerosols.
- **Hand Hygiene** – Continue to reinforce the importance of frequent hand washing.
- **COVID-19 Reporting** – Please visit <https://bit.ly/BUSDStudentEvent> to report your student’s event (positive case)
- **Vaccination** – COVID-19 vaccinations are recommended for all those eligible. Please visit Santa Clara County Public Health’s [website](#) to find a location near you.

Student Nutrition Services

- School meals will continue to be FREE for ALL students thanks to California’s Universal Meals program. Each student may receive 1 free breakfast and 1 free lunch each school day. Meals include fruit, vegetables, and milk. Milk taken separately from a meal costs \$0.50 (covered by Universal Meals program if taken with a school meal).

- Families are strongly encouraged to apply for Free and Reduced price meals in order to increase funding for school programs and possibly qualify for other food benefits and discounts, e.g., afterschool programs, utilities and internet.

- Please submit your application ASAP in order for it to be counted toward school funding.

- For more info and to access the Free and Reduced Lunch forms, access the [link](#)

- The application may also be downloaded from the [SNS Meal Applications webpage](#) which also has the lunch menus

Thank you so much for a great first full week of school! I look forward to connecting with you. You can usually catch me in the morning directing traffic in the horseshoe and greeting students and their families. Come say, "Hi!" Have an amazing weekend !!



Sincerely,

LaKeisha Blackshire

Office Staff

Office Hours 7:30-3:30 **Office Phone** 408-923-1950

Principal: LaKeisha Blackshire LBlackshire@busd.net

School Secretary: Melani Montez MMontez@busd.net

School Clerk: Kimberly Yee KYee@busd.net