



December 2023 Newsletter

Kindergarten Center

www.rutherfordschools.org/kcenter/

December 4-20	Winter Mitten Drive
December 5	<u>Hour of Code</u> - Presented by RHS Computer Club as part of Computer Education Week
December 5	Deadline Date to order Square One Art
December 7	<u>Holiday Shopping</u> An envelope for money and information on shopping will be sent home. Please return the completed envelope with money (check preferred; payable to Kindergarten Center PTA) to school for shopping.
December 15	Report Cards Issued-Parents log into Parent Portal *Directions on how to set up a parent portal went in late August.
December 15	Lunch Portal Opens for January Orders, 8:00 am
December 21	Winter Celebration-Pajama Day and Winter Craft
December 22	One Session Day, 12:45 Dismissal No Lunch Served. Bring a snack
December 25-January 1	Schools Closed, Holiday Recess
January 2	Schools Reopen

Absences

- Call the main office to report an absence at **201 438-7675 ext. 6219**
OR
- Email kcenterattendance@rutherfordschools.org with your child's information. Upon return, please provide a written note regarding their absence(s) signed by a parent/guardian as well as a note from the physician if applicable.
All absences must be reported to the main office. Please report your child absent by 9:00 am.

A child must be present for 4 hours to be marked present for the day. Students who are absent more than 18 days may be retained as noted in the Student Handbook. Sick children should not attend school. Please provide the proper documentation for health related absences for our records in the event 18 days are accumulated. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Health Office/Medical Information

- Please keep all children home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol/Motrin.
- Any student that has vomiting and diarrhea must stay home for 24 hours until the symptoms have passed.
- Please be sure to follow up with the pediatrician if your child has a productive or persistent cough.
- **Head Lice:** We have not had any cases thus far. However, please continue your part by checking your child's hair daily. Please notify me if you identify head lice or have a question about it.

(Late) Arrivals

If your child arrives after the doors have closed, they must be signed in at the main office. At no time shall a child be dropped off, unattended, when school is in session. As stated in the Student Handbook,. A parent conference will be held to address tardiness. During the first Trimester, it is understood that kindergarteners and families are adjusting to the new norms, however, as we start the 2nd Trimester, **all students are expected to be arriving on time and as noted, students will receive a lunch detention on the sixth tardy and on every third tardy thereafter .**

Celebrations

Birthday celebrations are food free and no food is to be distributed from home at any time. To celebrate your child on their special day, students may bring in a party favor, donate an item such as a book or game to the class, and/or have a guest reader. Additionally, party invitations will be distributed at school **only** if the whole class or all boys/ all girls are invited. Please contact your child's teacher directly to coordinate.

Dismissal

Students are dismissed from the designated dismissal doors at 2:35. Parents/guardians must meet their child directly at their class dismissal area to ensure a safe dismissal. Parking in crosswalks and blocking driveways pose safety hazards and is inconsiderate to our neighbors. If your child is being picked up by someone that is not on the authorized dismissal list, please be sure you have contacted the teacher prior to the start of the day.

Dress for the Weather

Students go outside to play on a daily basis. Remember to label all additional clothing items. Children will not go outside if it is raining or in heavy snow however if you decide to send your child in boots for inclement weather, please send a pair of shoes that they can participate in PE or outside play if applicable.

Drop-off Line

The drop-off line begins on Highland Cross and continues north on Sylvan Street. Please follow the staff's directives as you pull up. Cars are to pull all the way up to the driveway and pull up directly to the car behind them. Once stopped in the drop-off lane on Sylvan Street, please have your child exit the car **independently**. Parents/Guardians are not permitted to exit the car when utilizing the drop-off lane. Staff is there to supervise, however, your child must be able to independently exit the car. This includes unbuckling and opening/closing the door. If your child can not, you must park and walk your child to the front of the building.

Extra Set of Clothes

Clothing will be sent home to be replaced with weather appropriate clothing. Please be sure to return the labeled bag promptly, extra set of clothes with undergarments (in a labeled ziplock bag) inside your child's backpack in case of a spill or accident. The clothing will be kept at school. This is separate from that requested by Bulldog Care. Be sure to return a new set of clothes in the event your child needed to change while at school.

Holiday Shop

The Holiday Shop is scheduled for December 7. Students shop all day with the help from the PTA Volunteers. Specific information regarding this event will be sent home.

Hour of Code

The Rutherford High School Computer Club, under the direction of Ms. Margaret Nastasi, will be visiting the K-Center on December 5 to introduce the topic of computer coding with our students.

Lost Items

To reduce the number of items in our Lost and Found Box, which will be located in the north lobby, please label all clothing items (sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets, hats etc.) with your child's name or initials. From time to time we will have all items outside the school for parents to go through.

Lunch

Parents must provide a drink and lunch for their child daily. Please see the options below:

Lunch from Home: Please provide a lunch meal, snack and drink. The school does not heat lunches or provide drinks. Glass containers are not permitted to be sent to school. Please practice opening containers independently and be sure to send utensils/napkins.

PTA Lunch: The PTA provides pre-order lunches from various local businesses. The specifics regarding the lunches have been shared directly by the PTA. They offer Bagels on Tuesdays, Pizza on Wednesdays and Jim Dandy's on Thursdays.

Ordered Lunch: The Kindergarten Center falls under Lincoln School for lunch ordering and you **must** select Lincoln School as the school when prompted. Specific information regarding the lunch service has been shared. The district will notify families via email as to when the lunch portal is open for each month. **Lunch orders are not accepted after the closing date of the portal.**

If a child does not have lunch, they will receive an extra lunch or crackers.

Playground/School Grounds

Bulldog Care has priority to use the outdoor school grounds beginning at 3:00 daily. Should you allow time for your child to play following dismissal, please be sure to leave school grounds by 3:00. All children must be well supervised by their adult. Children should be in sight of their adult at all times and should refrain from playing on the stairs, ringing the bells to the building, throwing rocks or any other items, standing on top of the climbing "rock" on the playground or being physical with other children. **It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to maintain the safety of our students.**

Traditions Project

The winter holidays are filled with excitement with festive lights, celebrations, and family gatherings, however, each celebration is unique to each family. Students will be completing a winter traditions project to provide insight as to how celebrations (ie. Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's Day or Eve, Winter Solstice) are celebrated differently and for different reasons.

Trimester 1

The first trimester ended November 30. Report cards are available to parents on December 15 via the Parent Portal that was created at the start of the school year.

Trimester 2

Following the Winter Break, the Kindergarten Center often kicks off, an unofficial, "Kindergarten Part 2". Students have built a strong foundation across subjects and are now moving towards applying these concepts in a more meaningful and independent manner. Students are also expected to become more self-reliant within the school environment. To help prepare them for this, homework for the month of December will focus on various skills that your child should be working to master. Any skills that your child continues to struggle with should continue to be worked on over break.

Winter Celebration

The first day of winter is December 21st. Wear your favorite winter pajamas to school and let's have some fun doing a winter craft courtesy of the Kindergarten Center PTA. Please be sure to dress appropriately for school and be sure to wear shoes, not slippers, to ensure a safe, fun day for all!

Winter Tree Drive

Our Mitten Tree is up in the Lobby area. We are collecting new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. These items will be donated to Rutherford Social Services or local charities to benefit local families.

The Kindergarten Center Community
wishes everyone a healthy, happy holiday holiday season
and all the best in 2024!

Happy
HOLIDAYS