

Ruppel Academie Francaise

September 2021 Newsletter

This is the September Newsletter, but I am certain it will not be my last communication with you this month. I am so proud of the way Ruppel families and students handled the new school year. Despite the seemingly endless challenges, the community of employees, families, and students overwhelmingly maintained a positive spirit and attitude of gratitude!

- 1) **TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE:** Covid has presented an opportunity for advancements in the way we use instructional technology, and Ruppel plans to make the most of the opportunity. Secondary to that, Ruppel students will be prepared for virtual learning at home if the need for that arises in the future. I want to take a moment to explain the long-term technology vision for Ruppel.
 - At Ruppel, we are preparing students for the 21st century by integrating technology into instruction. We are blessed at this time to have ample computers for students to use regularly on campus.
 - Starting in kindergarten, students will access Google Classroom and other instructional technology regularly during the school day and as a resource at home. The frequency and extent of technology use within lessons will vary depending on the developmental level of the student.
 - Google Classroom now anchors our instructional planning. Teachers are shifting to Google Classroom as a place to house all lesson materials.
 - All students, regardless of whether they are virtual learners, should be registered for every teacher's Google Classroom. This includes being registered in the French and PE Google Classrooms.
 - For on-campus learners, homework will NOT be assigned in French and PE via Google Classroom; however, parents should use the French Google Classroom as a resource.
 - Virtual Jefferson students must use the French Google Classroom daily for lessons and assignments.
 - At this point, students on campus will use Google Classroom primarily while at school, but students and parents should access Google Classroom at home as a resource when needed.
 - Any child who needs make-up work should go to the Google Classroom. Families do not need to email the teacher to request make-up work.
 - Third and fourth graders will be taking the LEAP test on-line. Diagnostic and benchmarks assessments are administered on-line as well. Teachers will begin to use on-line platforms for some classroom assessments.
 - Ruppel will continue to use Title I funds, Gretna Jubilee fundraiser profits, and other school funds to replace outdated technology annually and to purchase supplemental instructional platforms not already provided by the district.
 - This year, Ruppel used Title I funds to purchase iReady ELA for kindergarten-2nd graders.
 - Each year I replace a few outdated Promethean boards (smart board) with new ones, so that we have a constant rotation of new infrastructure. Each board costs approximately \$10,000, and we do not want to find ourselves having to replace multiple broken boards at one time as a functioning Promethean board is a critical instructional tool for teachers and students. Unfortunately, we were not able to purchase any new Promethean Boards this year due to a smaller Title I budget and the cancelation of the Gretna Jubilee in March. Hopefully, we will raise enough money at the 2021 Gretna Jubilee to purchase at least one board next summer.
 - We used other school funds to purchase microphones and tripods as well.

- 2) **CARPOOL:** Afternoon carpool will get faster, I promise. Please read these reminders:
- In the morning, use the same process as the afternoon to line up on the opposite side of Huey P. Long and U-Turn toward the front of Ruppel. This is different than last year because the temperature process slows down the progress of the line. Do not line up between 10th Street and 9th Street on Huey P. Long as it blocks the flow of traffic.
 - We are going to shift some carpool duties to try to make the process faster in the morning, but please continue to be patient.
 - After temperature, have your child ready to get out of the car with the mask on properly.
 - The child should get out first then put on the bookbag once on the sidewalk.
 - Remind whoever picks up your child after school that we only put students in cars on the passenger side. The driver should pull forward to the corner before buckling a child into the seat.
- 3) **CALENDAR:** The district indicated that there will be a new calendar forthcoming due to the missed hurricane days. When I know more, I will let you know. Our first dress down will be September 18 as scheduled. Picture day on September 25 is pending.
- 4) **CLASS DOJO:** Parents should join class Dojo for updates about their child's behavior. The homeroom teacher will send home the invitation.
- 5) **GOOGLE HELP VIDEO:** Please see the Ruppel Family Classroom for a Google Classroom Help Video. We will try to continue to post helpful videos.
- 6) **TITLE I:** Each year some schools that qualify receive Title I funds to spend to improve student achievement based on the academic needs of the school. Our allotment this year was \$4420 to spend in a manner that aligned to our school goals. Our school goal is to improve academic achievement specifically in the areas of written expression and mathematics. The bulk of the funds were spent purchasing iReady English language arts for k-2nd graders. The rest of the money was used to purchase math manipulatives for the second kindergarten class that we added this year and the new section of 4th grade.

Join the Ruppel Google Classroom For Families!

Log-in using your child's Google credentials.

Click the + at the top right to join a class.

Enter code `dwbemx3`