



RIO VISTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

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"Simply Be The Best"

SEPTEMBER 2016

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (Joe M. Bracamonte):

The start to the 2016-2017 school year has been amazing! Our 7th graders have stepped on campus and been outstanding. They immediately displayed the Fantastic 4 behavior expectations for which Rio students are known. We know that to help students succeed we need to address both their academic and social/emotional needs. On, October 3rd, we will host an assembly featuring a former Olympic athlete, who will talk to our students about positive decisions in life. I am proud to announce that for the 4th consecutive year our school has earned a Gold Award status for our work on student behavior at Rio through the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Team program. In addition, our Leadership students have begun planning some exciting activities this school year including our upcoming carnival, lunchtime activities and a few new ideas to get our school dances going again!

The goal for this school year, and every year, is to ensure every student is connected to the campus through some type of co-curricular activity. We held our first club day early in September which gave students an opportunity to become a member of one of nearly 20 clubs on our campus. Since the first club signup day, we have had 2 more clubs start so if your child didn't find a club to join, let them know to ask a staff member about starting another club.

Fall sports are in full swing with Championship games to be held in late October/Early November. We have an After School Program as well as after school music classes available for anyone interested. If your student cannot find a way to be connected to Rio, make sure to contact one of the administrators for assistance. Our entire team is looking forward to a productive year with our focus on connecting with every student!

In our ongoing effort to increase communication between home and school, I continue to send a weekly update that I e-mail to parents on Sunday. If you are not receiving this message, please contact our office at (559) 276-3185 to update your e-mail address in our system.

In an effort to ensure we continue to have a safe environment for our students, we will once again have our school wide ID/Lanyard policy in place. Each student was provided a lanyard, sleeve and ID card that they are expected to wear around their neck every school day. Students are able to use a personalized lanyard if they wish as long as it follows our dress code rules. We also have the WeTip program that allows students to anonymously provide school administrators with tips that will help keep our school safe and clean.

Our Chromebooks should be arriving very soon. The students will have access to the Chromebooks in all core academic classes each day. Students will be receiving training on the devices as well as working through lessons on how to care for them.

VICE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (Brandi Fleming):

As many of you are aware, social media (Snapchat, Instagram, twitter) is very much a part of a teenager's life, but as a parent there are steps you should take to ensure your child is safe online. Here are a few tips for middle school parents from www.common sense media.org:

- **Most social media sites won't let kids have sites if they are under 13.** That said, teens simply do the math to figure out what year to put so they'll seem 13 -- or older. Check your kid's computer browser history. If you see Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or Kik listed, assume your child has an account.
- **Go online.** If you don't have one already, get an account for yourself. See what users can and can't do.
- **Help kids think long term.** Everything leaves a digital footprint. Whatever gets created may never go away. If they don't want to see it tomorrow, they'd better not post it today. Explain to them that nothing is really private online -- no matter what they think. Privacy settings aren't infallible. Others can pass on information that is supposed to be private. It's up to kids to protect themselves by thinking twice before they post anything that could damage their reputation or that someone else could use to embarrass or hurt them.
- **Teach kids to keep personal information private.** Help kids define which information is important for them to keep private when they're online. To start, we recommend that kids not share their addresses, phone numbers, or birth dates.
- **Make sure your kids use privacy settings on their social network pages.** Encourage kids to think carefully about the nature of their relationships (close friends, family, acquaintances, strangers) and adjust their privacy settings accordingly.
- **Remind kids to protect their friends' privacy.** Passing along a rumor or identifying someone in a picture (called "tagging") affects other people's privacy. If your kids are tagged in friends' photos, they can ask to have the photos or the tags removed. But beyond that, there's not too much they can do.
- **Remind kids that the Golden Rule applies online.** What goes around comes around. If kids spread a rumor or talk trash about a teacher, they can't assume that what they post will stay private. Whatever negative things they say can and probably will come back to haunt them, in more ways than they can imagine.
- **Also, remind your child** that he/she can be held responsible at school for posts made online that disrupt the learning environment. Additionally, photos of another student sent to others without their consent can be cause for discipline/legal action. This is one of the reasons students are not allowed to take pictures of each other on campus. Your student may be asked to turn in their phone in to the office if this occurs.



GIA'S MESSAGE (Diana Haskins):

We are so happy to have all of our Titans back safe and sound in class! Welcome to our over 42 new Titans to Central Unified and 418 New 7th graders from our elementary schools! Middle school is a huge transition for 7th graders, we are here to help! If your child has questions about class, clubs, sports, etc. encourage them to introduce themselves to someone on our staff and get those important questions answered. Some important things coming up, Parent conferences will be held (after 6 week progress reports go home) the week of October 3rd thru October 7th. We will be on a minimum day schedule all week. Progress reports will be sent home with your students Monday, September 26th. If you have not already received log-in information for Parent Portal, please stop by the office. This is a valuable tool to view your child's daily progress, attendance, etc. For more information on how to sign-up please contact Mia Fruhe, our site Parent Portal coordinator, at 276-3185, ext. 72105.

Parent's, please remind your Titans that ID's and lanyard are mandatory at Rio Vista. Your child's safety is our top priority and having their ID with them at all times helps us to make sure all of our students are safe and where they need to be. If your student needs to replace their lanyard, ID or clear plastic sleeve, they can do so in the office. ID's and Lanyards are \$ 2.00 each and the clear plastic sleeve is \$ 1.00. Thank you for helping us keep all Titans safe while on campus!

