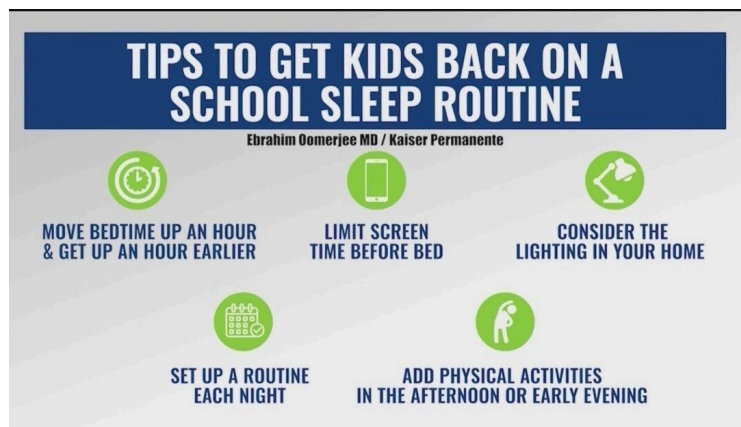




Dear Roger Clap Families,

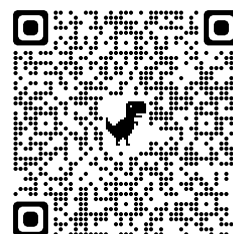
We know that transitioning back to school can mean getting back into a new sleep and bedtime routine. Take a look at these resources to help you and your family ensure your learner is rested and ready to learn each day.



Age	Recommended Hours of Sleep Each Day
Students Ages 3-5	10-13 hours (including naps)
Students Ages 6-12	9-12 hours

ST Math: This week we are launching our school wide participation in ST Math! ST Math is a visual instructional program that uses puzzles to

teach math and develop problem-solving skills while having fun. As a part of our math curriculum, your student has been given an ST Math account. You can read more information about ST Math and our adventures with Jiji, the penguin, in the [attached letter](#). [You can also try the program by using this QR Code](#)



School Wide Updates:

- **TOMORROW - Wednesday, September 18** from 6-7pm on [Zoom](#): Learn about School Site Council and Family Council positions you can be elected to.
- **Back to School Night - Thursday, September 26** from 5:30-7pm: This is an opportunity to meet your child's teachers, share your hopes and dreams for your child(ren), eat pizza and learn about the curriculum, expectations, and opportunities for the school year. Please return the attached sheet.
- **Clap Parent Mentoring Program in partnership with St. Stephen's Youth Program:** Clap Parent Mentors will receive a stipend of \$18/hour for the 12.5 hours a week they are in person. Parents as mentors at the Clap work one on one and in small groups with students in a consistent classroom. No other previous experience is required, and all parents will be provided the training necessary (in English, Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole, and/or Vietnamese). Please complete the attached form if you are interested or [sign up here](#).



In partnership,
Emma Fialka-Feldman, Principal



Roger Clap's Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be in school each day from arrival at 9:20am to dismissal that begins at 4:00pm.



BPS & Massachusetts attendance policy states that students are expected to miss no more than 10 days per year in order to be on track for meeting grade level academic expectations. These 10 absences (excused and unexcused) may include: medical appointments, sick days, and family emergencies.

Over 30% of Clap Students are absent for more than 40 school days. When students are not at school - they lose out on their learning, the class misses a critical member of their community, and teachers have to dedicate additional time to address unfinished learning.



In order to meet the 94% yearly attendance rate please adhere to our policy by:

- Scheduling vacations and family trips during the school breaks
- Making appointments in the morning or later afternoon. *Students can come to school after an appointment or be picked up early.* Some school is better than no school!
- Contact the Family Liaison and/or Social Worker in order to problem solve if getting to/from school is a challenge (solutions may include: before/after school options, BPS transportation, donations of sleeping materials, etc.)

Given that some absences are expected, the following is a list of excused absences (when a letter is needed):

- Medical need that prevents the student from attending school (verified by a healthcare provider, school nurse, or parent)
- Death in the immediate family
- Court appearances
- Medical or Psychological tests/appointments
- Religious Holidays



Daily Phone Call: The Roger Clap School will contact families daily if a learner is not present. To avoid this phone call, please contact the school before 10am (via TalkingPoints, Text, Phone Call, or Email) to inform the school of an absence (or tardy) and the rationale. This procedure is provided to ensure that schools can partner with families to problem solve and address challenges that prevent their learner from being in school. If an anticipated absence is known (i.e. religious holiday), consider reaching out to the school beforehand.

Making Up Work: Families will receive the option of making up missed work due to an absence. This can be provided to the child before the absence, picked up/dropped off if the student is expected to be out for multiple days, or completed after their return. This can be a critical way to ensure absences do not impact academic progress.

In order to prevent students acquiring more than 10 absences the following steps are followed to address attendance challenges (absences & tardies) each term:

- 1st & 2nd Absence: Phone Call check in.
- 3rd Absence: Attendance Problem Solving conversation & goal setting with the Roger Clap Staff
- 4th Absence: Referral & In-Person Meeting with the Clap Student Support Team
- 5th or More Absences: Collaboration with the BPS Supervisor of Attendance and possible filing to the Suffolk County Juvenile Truancy Court.



Roger Clap Family Newsletter
Tuesday, September 17, 2024



617-635-8672
35 Harvest Street Dorchester