



Dear Roger Clap Families,

We are excited to invite you to our **Annual Back to School Night**
next Thursday, September 25 from 5:30-7pm. At Back to

School Night families and students can expect to:

- Share their hopes & dreams for the school year
- Learn about the experiences students have in the classroom
- Meet with Roger Clap Staff & Community Partners
- Engage in leadership opportunities to help make our school

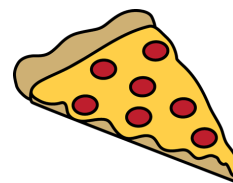
a better place for all

- Learn about the BPS Merger process for next school year (Clap/Winthrop)
- Eat Pizza

NEXT WEEK

Parking can be difficult so we're sharing some tips with you about how to ensure we respect our neighbors and city parking codes.

- You can park anywhere along Harvest St., Boston St, or Dorchester Ave.
- The Red Line MBTA (Stop Near UMass) or Bus #16, 17, and 18 are nearby
- Please do NOT park in the driveways of our neighbors



At Back to School Night, you'll be able to sign up for your child's Fall Family Conference (starting in October). During the Fall Family Conference, you'll get to learn about your child's progress, share your concerns and excitement, hear from your child's teachers, and engage in goal setting with your child and their teaching team. *Please save your individual check-ins for a phone call and/or the Fall Family Conference.* Please complete the RSVP form attached.

School Wide Updates:

- Clap Parent Mentoring Program in partnership with St. Stephen's Youth Program: Clap Parent Mentors will receive a stipend of \$19/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.

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/afterschool options, BPS transportation, donations of sleeping materials, etc.)
- If your child has minor cold or allergy symptoms (cough, runny nose, sneezing), they are expected to be in school

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)
 - Fever (100.4+) & Vomiting & Diarrhea within 24 hours are considered medical absences.
 - You can always call Ms. Centeio if you are unsure! 617-635-8672
- 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 ParentSquare, 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.

