

SEPT 16

RAPP

IMPORTANT DATES

FEC Carnival
Friday, September 18,
4:30 - 7:30pm

9/22 FEC Chick Fil A Night

9/24 Middle School Trips Parent Meeting 7pm

9/22-24 Fall Book Fair
Tues-Thurs, 7:45am - 4pm, Friday, 7:45am - 1pm.

9/24 5th Grade Field Trip- Hogle Zoo

9/25 9th Grade Back to School Bash

9/30 3rd Grade Field Trip- Donut Falls Hike

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Renaissance Parents & Guardians,

September is 'Attendance Awareness Month' here in Utah. Please remember that school attendance each day matters! To gain an optimal education and maximize their learning experience it is vital for your student to be punctual and attend school every day. Students who are chronically late or absent miss out on crucial instruction, grade level content, and participation in required classroom activities. Utah defines 'Chronic Absenteeism' as 'a student who misses 10% of school in a year, whether from excused, or unexcused absences, and has been registered for at least 60 days is chronically absent.' This is equivalent to a student missing school twice a month. Please remember that when your student is absent that the learning they miss adds up very quickly!

When you as a parent decide to take your student out of school please remember;

1. Chronic absenteeism causes children to fall behind academically, reduces teacher effectiveness and prevent students from achieving their educational goals.
2. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten negatively correlates and impacts academic performance in first grade.
3. Chronic absenteeism means your student is consistently missing content instruction, falling behind on homework/classroom assignments, and playing 'catch-up'.
4. Chronic absenteeism prevents your student from interacting with their same-age peers and learning valuable lifelong social and relationship skills.
5. Chronic absenteeism shows a reduction in GPA, Math, Language and Science scores.
6. Chronic absenteeism can be an early predictor of dropping out of high school.
7. Chronic absenteeism can reduce the likelihood of post-secondary enrollment in education.
8. Chronic absenteeism means your student is not gaining the best education possible to help prepare them for life.

Please help your student understand how important it is for them to attend school every day. We understand there are circumstances such as illness when students should not attend school and we ask you to keep them at home for their own well-being as well as the safety of others. Please refrain from keeping your student away from school unless absolutely necessary. If your student/s is or will be absent please let us know by completing our online 'excused absence' information form. This can be found at http://renacademy.org/excuse_student_absence.html

If you plan in advance for your student to be absent from school please also contact their teacher to find out what school work they will miss and will need to make up as a result of the absence. If you plan in advance for your student/s to be away from school for two or more consecutive days for whatever reason please inform both the teacher and myself at smccappin@renacademy.org

Parents please carefully review our RA Student Attendance and Punctuality policy included in this weeks RAPP. Please note, if your student is regularly tardy or absent from school you will be contacted to find out the circumstances surrounding the absence. Please remember that you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child regularly attends school. Thank you for your support and dedication to your students education. Please feel free to email me anytime at smccappin@renacademy.org if you have any questions or concerns about student attendance, or anything else here at school.

Stephanie McCappin
Dean of Students and Families



Gary Richard Herbert

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, regular school attendance is essential to successful student achievement and graduation because teaching and learning are hindered when the student is not present in the classroom;

Whereas, chronic absenteeism—defined as being absent more than ten percent of school days—frequently indicates the student’s potential to struggle academically, dropout out of school, or engage in delinquent behavior, as well as serves as a sign that something may be disrupting the student’s life, providing an opportunity to intervene with counseling or other forms of support;

Whereas, chronic absenteeism affects all students negatively by reducing instruction time, exacerbating the achievement gap between truant students and their peers, and undermining efforts to improve academically struggling schools;

Whereas, chronic absenteeism may affect low-income and minority students particularly severely because they are more likely to lack academic and technological resources to compensate for lost time in the classroom, and are often challenged with systemic barriers to attending school regularly, such as unreliable transportation, lack of access to health care, or unstable housing or homelessness;

Whereas, chronic absenteeism can be significantly reduced when schools, parents, and communities work together to monitor and promote regular school attendance and address barriers or issues that contribute to the problem; and

Whereas, the state of Utah encourages efforts to increase public awareness of the importance of students’ regular school attendance throughout grades K-12 in order to ensure that all children have the opportunity to succeed academically;

Now, therefore, I, Gary R. Herbert, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare September 2015 as

School Attendance Awareness Month in Utah


Governor

Attendance Matters

Attendance Awareness Month, September 2015



What is Chronic Absenteeism?



Utah's Definition: A student who misses 10% of school days in a year, whether from excused, or unexcused absences, and has been registered for at least 60 days is chronically absent.



10%
Students who are chronically absent miss 10% of overall school days. That's equal to twice a month! Missed days add up quickly!

Chronic absenteeism can reduce the likelihood of post-secondary enrollment

Chronic absenteeism shows a reduction in GPA, Math, Language, and Science Scores

Chronic absenteeism is often higher in urban schools than rural schools

Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten negatively correlates with academic performance in first grade

Chronic absenteeism can be an early predictor of dropping out of high school.

Chronic Absenteeism causes children to fall behind academically, reduces teacher effectiveness, and hinders district goals



What Can I Do?



Students

Students should be made aware that the more school days are missed, the more their grades and future will be affected.



Teachers

Awareness is key. Knowing which students are absent, finding out why, and working with administrators and counselors can help direct interventions.



Administrators

Schools can collect specific data and use it to inform parents and communities in order to develop best practices.



Parents

Parents should be invited to participate in the conversation. They should be informed of the consequences and resources available.

Check Out These Resources for Data and Best Practices!

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/>
<http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/>
<http://www.utahdataalliance.org/downloads/ChronicAbsenteeismResearchBrief.pdf>

Partner Agencies:



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY STUDENT ATTENDANCE & TARDY POLICY

PHILOSOPHY

To fulfill Renaissance Academy's goal of educating the whole child in a collaborative learning environment, regular and punctual attendance is vital to the teaching-learning process. Regular attendance and punctuality develops patterns of behavior and important skills essential to success in the workplace and life. At RA student attendance and punctuality is viewed as critically connected to student success. Students must be present and punctual to maximize their learning and achieve academic mastery, and to help their classmates likewise be successful.

ATTENDANCE STANDARDS

Students may not have more than five excused or unexcused absences per semester. For the purpose of this policy, semester dates will be established in the Renaissance Academy annual school calendar. Any unexcused absence, as defined below, shall be counted in this total.

1. Excused Absences

The following are excused absences: student illness, family death, approved school activity, absence permitted by a school-age minor's Individualized Education Program, or Section 504 Accommodation Plan. A parent may excuse an absence by sending a note or email within three school days to the school enrollment specialist explaining the reason for the absence. Seven or more days (or equivalent class periods) of 'excused absence' within a school year are considered excessive and we will require a doctor's note to excuse subsequent absences. Students may be required to make up work for excused absences. Parents or students who know of an absence in advance, should complete a pre-excused absence form. This form will allow students to collect work they will miss due absence in advance.

2. Unexcused Absences

Any absence not excused, as defined above, or any absence exceeding the state allowable total of five per semester (two terms) is considered unexcused. Teachers will not be required to provide make-up work for unexcused absences.

ENFORCEMENT OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Formal letters of notification regarding student attendance and unexcused and/or excessive absence from school will be sent to parents/legal guardians as outlined below:

- 3rd absence – A notice will be mailed asking for the parent's help with the student's attendance and warning of consequences for further truancy.
- 4th absence – Administration will request a meeting with the parents/legal guardian.
- 5th absence – Administration will develop an attendance contract with the parents/legal guardian.
- 6th absence – Administration will initiate additional measures to correct ongoing attendance problems which may include but is not limited to after school detention.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

- 10th absence – The school will mail the student and parents a Habitual Truancy Notice/Pre-Court Hearing letter. The Habitual Truancy Notice requires student and parents to attend a pre-court hearing. Students may be assigned a truancy fee. A referral will be made to the juvenile courts for students in 7th-9th grades. Parents/legal guardians of students ages 6-12 (K-6 grades) may be referred to the Utah County District Attorney.

TARDINESS

Every student is expected to be punctual for school. Tardiness results in a student missing necessary instruction and results in the interruption of their class. A student is considered tardy if they arrive at school any time after the bell rings commencing school at 8 am. Students who arrive within ten-minutes of school starting (i.e., before 8:10 am) should report straight to class and are marked tardy by their classroom teacher. If a child is more than ten-minutes late to school, the parent must sign the student in at the front desk or provide the office with a note. If there is a valid reason for the tardiness, please explain the reason in the note. Students arriving without parent check-in or note will automatically receive an unexcused tardy. The student must obtain a tardy slip before going to the classroom.

More than three tardies in a two-week period to school or to class periods throughout the day (for Middle School students) are considered excessive and will result in parent / guardian contact regarding excessive tardiness. The classroom teacher will send an email home to the students' parents / guardian in elementary grades indicating the student is regularly and excessively tardy. If punctuality does not improve the teacher may elect to invite the parents / guardian to meet and discuss the impact of tardiness on student learning. Middle School students who are tardy to school in the morning or class periods throughout the day based on their teachers classroom tardy policy will receive after-school detention. Middle School parents will be notified by email regarding their students 'Tardy' detention. Middle School students who do not attend this detention without a written parental exemption request will be required to attend an extra penalty detention.

Parents and/or guardians of students who are consistently late for school may be contacted by the students classroom teacher or administration to discuss the ramifications of tardiness on student learning and achievement. Students who consistently miss learning opportunities and lessons due to tardiness or absence may be required to complete additional make up assignments or attend alternate learning opportunities to fill learning gaps.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Students are discouraged from leaving school during school hours. In the event that it is absolutely necessary, please send a note to the teacher regarding the early dismissal. Children will be released only to the parent/guardian or to those family members or adults designated on the emergency information form. Parents/guardians must come to the office, not the classroom, to collect children who will then be called to the office. The person who is checking the student out requires photo identification. Parents/Guardians, please do not send unauthorized individuals to check your students out. For the safety of your children and students, this policy will be strictly enforced. Children may not leave school grounds until they have been signed out at the school office.

Congratulations to our first group of Phoenix Club winners for 2015-16!

The Mystery Motivator this round is a 'Pajama Pizza Party' on Friday 9/25. The following students (see list below) are invited to wear their pajamas all day or just for the party. The plan is to wear pajamas, eat pizza and enjoy watching the new movie 'Cinderella'.

Students participating should be picked up from school at the regular time of 12:15 pm. Students are also welcome to bring a pillow and/or blanket to make viewing the movie more comfortable. Congratulations!

For those of you new to our school, the Phoenix 200 Club is our school wide positive behavior program whereby teachers look to present tickets to students demonstrating good behavior, going above and beyond, and following our school expectations of **Be Successful, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Honest, Be Kind and Be Safe.**

Mia Wakeland 2nd grade

Christie Bean Kindergarten

Sebastian Hamilton 5th grade

Gavin Broderick 5th grade

Brianna Barlow 1st grade

Brahm Bina 3rd grade

Sophia Charles 2nd grade

Anisten Thueson 1st grade

Sofia Wolfson 1st grade

Jenna Robbins 5th grade



FEC CARNIVAL SEPT 18TH

Renaissance Academy



Schedule of Events!

Sept 18, 4:30-7:30

FRONT 4:30-5:30 Safety Fair & Car Show

GYM (access through back door only)

4:30-7pm Silent Auction!

5:30-6:30 Live Creatures
class booths

DJ TENT

*Ticket Raffles- enter to win!

*Contests Every Half Hour:
(Hoola Hoop, Dad's Donuts!,
Teacher Tug O' War, Mom Challenge!
and Middle School Match!) and FUN!

BACK of SCHOOL

class booths, dunk tank, food trucks
bounce houses, balloon animals, treats
Photo booths- characters, hair color
and MORE!



FEC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our school staff does a great job keeping our kids safe in the lunchroom and during busy traffic times but they could use some help!! Please take a look at the link below and pick a day of the week, a day of the month or even just one or two days this year and sign up to help. Traffic duty is 7:30-8:00am beginning 9/21 and lunchroom volunteers are 11:45-12:45pm beginning 9/14.

Any and all help is SO appreciated!

<https://goo.gl/50F5ld>

SPIRIT GEAR FOR SALE AT THE CARNIVAL!

Tee shirts \$10-15
several sizes/colors/styles available!

Window clings \$5

Water bottle \$4
or \$5 for personalized one

Calendars* \$12

Hoodies* \$25



*Calendars and hoodies can be ordered in the office any time.

2015 CARNIVAL SPONSORS



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LEHI POLICE
Swig the sweets
TRADER JOE'S
Live Garden ITALIAN RESTAURANT
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HOLDMAN Studios
NEADER BAKERY & CAFE
Pulver's BUTTERBURGERS FROZEN CUSTARD
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Little Caesars

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY
Says Thanks! To our Carnival Sponsors!

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AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Program	Grades/Ages	Program Description	Start Date	Run Times	Location	Cost	Sponsor	Sponsor Contact
Guitar Private Lessons	All	Kevin Schultz, professional guitar instructor, offers private lessons in the Art Room on Fridays. Price includes four 30 Minute sessions.	Start Date TBD by student and teacher (but always on a Friday)		Art Room	\$95/ four 30 min sessions	Kevin Schultz	kevinschultzmusic@gmail.com
Middle School Play	Middle School	<i>The Music Man Jr.</i>	August Auditions, Rehearsals Begin 9/3	Rehearsals Tues/Thurs 3-5, Performances 11/5-7, 7pm	Gym, Music Room	\$60	Dorian Kinder	dkinder@renacademy.org
Elementary Play	Elementary	<i>The Music Man Jr.</i>	January Auditions	January-March	Gym, Music Room	\$60	Dorian Kinder	dkinder@renacademy.org
Elementary Ballroom	Elementary	Level 1 & Level 2 ballroom. Come learn the basics of both Latin and Standard ballroom styles.	8/31/2015	M/W 3:15-4:15	Gym	\$145/sem	Marissa Harris Drew Wright	dwright@renacademy.org
Beginning Arabic	All Welcome, class currently consists of 1st-3rd	For any students at RA that were unable to register for an Arabic class during the school day.	August (open to join until September 25th)	W 3-3:30, F 12:30-1:15	William's Studio, first floor Arabic classroom	\$1 registration fee	Jordan Wilson	jwilson@renacademy.org
Middle School Ballroom	Middle School	The middle school ballroom team will be coached by National Champion BYU Ballroom dance star and experienced dance instructor, Marissa Harris.	8/31/2015	M/W 4:15-5:30	Gym	\$145/sem	Marissa Harris	mharris@renacademy.org
Chess Club	All	Come learn proven strategies from a chess expert and champion. Enjoy participating in chess tournaments and learning to love the game! Tournament fees not included.	9/22/2015	T 3:10-4:30	Upper East Wing Classroom	\$50/sem	Larry Prisbrey	
Middle School Dance Team	Middle School	By tryout only. Performing team focusing on lyrical, hip hop, precision, and jazz.	8/28/2015	W 3:15-4:15, F 12:45-2	Gym	\$145/sem	Marissa Harris	mharris@renacademy.org
Elementary Dance Club	Elementary	Come learn to love dance with instructor Marissa Harris!	8/27/2015	Th 3-4:30	Upper West Wing	\$95/sem	Marissa Harris	mharris@renacademy.org
Computer Programming Using SCRATCH	Ages 7-12	Learn computer programming using the interactive program Scratch. This fun and engaging programming language allows kids to create games, interactive stories, presentations and much more! Students will start with SCRATCH and then move on to HTML, CSS and JavaScript.	1/28/2016	Th 3:15-4:15	TBD	\$80	Jared Nielson	jnielson@renacademy.org
1st Experience Robotics by Bricks 4 Kids	ages 7 and up	In 1st Experience Robotics with Bricks 4 Kidz LEGO Education, builders work with a partner to construct, then program and finally customize their robotic creation to share with others. This 1st Experience Robotics is a great mechanical building foundation and fun introduction into computer programming	mid October	F 12:45-1:45	RA Classroom TBA	\$165/sem		email questions to hlyons@renacademy.org
VEX Robotics Team	ages 8-14	In the VEX IQ Challenge, students will build a robot using the VEX IQ robotics platform to solve an engineering challenge that is presented in the form of a game. In addition to building robots, the VEX IQ Challenge will encourage students to actively learn about science, technology, engineering and mathematics with a STEM themed research project that consists of a written or media presentation.	mid October	Th 3:15-4:15	RA Classroom TBA	\$125		email questions to jwalker@renacademy.org
Boys Middle School Basketball Team	Middle School	Coached by experienced college and high school coach, Travis Story. Travis was a 2-time state champ in high school, played college ball, was the assistant coach at SUU, and coached high school for 10 years.	Tryouts 11/9-11/10	Practice M 3-4, F 2-3:30, Games TBA	Gym	\$120	Travis Story	tstory@renacademy.org
Co-ed Middle School Soccer Team	Middle School	Coach Jared Nielsen combines drills and scrimmages to increase your technical abilities while having fun! You'll work on footwork, dribbling, passing, shooting and heading. You will receive personalized instruction and valuable feedback all while having fun on a team	March	2 practices 3:30-4:30, 2 games/week (games TBA)	Practices at a local park (not on RA Campus), games in the south end of Salt Lake Valley	\$120	Jared Nielson	jnielson@renacademy.org
Creative Writing	6th-9th	This is a writing workshop is for 6th-9th graders who are serious about improving their writing skills, run by David Scheerer, RA 6th grade Language Arts teacher.	10/1/2015	Th 3-4:30	Portable 4	\$85/sem	David Scheerer	dscheerer@renacademy.org
Art Club	5th-9th	Art Club is for anyone 5th grade and up who is looking to make friends with fellow creatives. Individual and Collaborative projects will stretch creativity and build confidence.	9/16/2015	W 3:15-4:30	Art Room	\$95	Holly Lyons	hlyons@renacademy.org
Voice Lessons	All	Experienced vocal coach, Janalee Rich, of Rich Sounds, offers private 30-minute lessons that include instruction in a variety of styles.	TBD by student/parent and coach		RA Classroom TBD	\$80/four 30 minute sessions	Janalee Rich	435-760-7626
Farpoint Academy	for details check out farpointstation.weebly.com							