



JOHNSON RANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
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LINDA HARLAN, PRINCIPAL  
RICHARD KREINER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
JANET PESEK, COUNSELOR

July 30, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Johnson Ranch Elementary! I hope that each of you has had a wonderful summer. We are ready for an awesome school year. August 19th from 6:00-7:00 is Meet the Teacher for kindergarten, first and second grades. August 20th from 6:00-7:00 is Meet the Teacher for third, fourth and fifth grades. We ask that you and your child come to meet their teacher. Please bring all their school supplies to drop off in your child's classroom. Class lists will be posted that afternoon at 4:00. The first day of school is Monday, August 24, 2009.

School hours are 7:45a.m.-2:45p.m. with school beginning promptly at 7:45a.m. and letting out at 2:45p.m. Teachers pick up children from the gym and cafeteria at 7:35 every morning. Official school hours are from 7:15a.m.-3:15p.m. Staff is not available before or after those hours, therefore it is imperative you not drop off any earlier or pick up any later than the stated hours. Comal ISD provides transportation for those students living outside the two-mile radius of the school. Links and information about transportation can be accessed at [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org). We appreciate your help with this, as your child's safety is of utmost importance to us.

We have many new students to our school, so I will take a moment to let you know some basic procedures. All of these procedures are outlined in detail in the attached "Ropers' Report" which I encourage you to read and discuss with your child. Car drop off is in the morning from 7:15a.m.-7:40p.m. at the cafeteria and front doors.

Registration for students NEW to Comal ISD will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of August at Rahe Bulverde Elementary from 8a.m.-4p.m. and 8a.m.-6p.m., respectively. This is due to the construction occurring on FM 1863 which will widen the road, providing turn lanes in and out of the school entrance.

Construction on FM 1863 should end at around 5:30-6:00 p.m., therefore we have scheduled "Tour The School" for the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. I highly encourage you to take your time and tour the school from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on August 11th. PTA will be giving guided tours so you and your children can get an idea of the layout of the school. Teachers are not on contract yet, therefore their rooms are not ready for presentation, however, you will be able to look in a few rooms and see where everything is located. Be sure to locate the nurse's office, the cafeteria, gym and front office. Kids often get nervous before the first day of school, especially if it is a new school. You can put them at ease by talking with them openly about what they can expect. Also, listen to your children and their concerns. Let them know you take their concerns to heart. Speak positively to them about school and your experiences.

I am very excited about the upcoming school year and I can't wait to meet all of you. During Meet the Teacher, please feel free to chat with your child's teacher briefly. If you need to discuss your child's needs in depth, please make an appointment so that we can give you our individual attention.

As we look at getting back to school, it is important to remember several things. Start now by getting your child back in the habit of going to bed early. This will make the first week of school much more bearable. The National Sleep Foundation recommends that elementary age children get 10-11 hours of sleep per night. You may also want to consider getting organized for school. Have a place set aside for homework every night. Also, have all necessary supplies: paper, pencils, crayons, glue etc. located in an easy to find and organized space. This consistency will help your child become more organized and work better in a routine. Another good idea is to set backpacks in the same place every night after homework, preferably next to the door you exit from in the mornings. Along with established bedtimes, setting out clothes for the next day, can be a tremendous time saver. This also eliminates the "I don't want to wear that" issue at 7:15 in the morning. Creating a family calendar where all major projects as well as sports and activities can be tracked can also be helpful.

As always, thank you for sending me your children every day. They are precious! Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you or your child.

Respectfully,

Linda Harlan, Principal