

Welcome/Principal's Message

Royal Palm Middle School is dedicated to being a neighborhood school, a place where parents and students can feel like they belong. It is our belief that, "if a child is not learning the way we are teaching, then we must teach the way the child learns." The middle school years can be rewarding and often difficult for students. We cannot guarantee that there will not be speed bumps, but we can guarantee that if we communicate, our odds of a good experience for your child increase in direct proportion to the amount communication we have.

General Information

School Address: 8520 N. 19th Avenue

School Web Site: royalpalm.wesdschools.org

Important Telephone Numbers:

Office – 602-347-3200

Health Office – 602-347-3210

Attendance – 602-347-3222

School Hours:

8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.,

Dismissal is 1:45 p.m. on Early Release Wednesdays

Office Hours:

7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Wednesdays from 7:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Royal Palm Mission Statement

Through the Royal Palm Middle School community, students will achieve academic excellence and demonstrate responsible citizenship in a safe, supportive learning environment for young adolescents.

Royal Palm Vision Statement

The vision of Royal Palm Middle School is to educate and inspire our diverse population of students by instilling tradition and a sense of purpose that will continue to positively impact the surrounding community.

Communication

Communication among parents, school, and students is a shared responsibility. A monthly *Raider Review* will be sent home with every student and the marquee will highlight school activities weekly. Royal Palm staff will make contact with parents regarding positive behaviors and achievement, as well as concerns.

Midterms and report cards will be sent home eight times during the school year. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held at the end of the first and midterm of the third grading periods.

For parent and teacher convenience, all teachers can be reached by phone and e-mail.

Royal Palm Title I Compact for Educational Success

Royal Palm's academic programs are designed to ensure a high quality education for every student and to develop each student's potential for intellectual and emotional growth. In order to achieve this, the home and school must work together and take responsibility for student learning.

STAFF AGREES TO:

- Provide every student with a Parent/Student Handbook and a Study Skills Calendar
- Provide parents with course expectations that will include student, parent, and teacher responsibilities

- Help each student grow to his or her potential
- Provide an environment conducive to learning
- Present learning strategies in preparation for future educational experiences
- Provide assistance and support with school assignments
- Facilitate communication between the home and school on a regular basis
- Coordinate supplemental instruction. Placement in the remedial program will be based on District, state, and site (i.e. DRA, SRI) delivered math and reading assessments

PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREES TO:

- Initiate communication with Royal Palm staff as soon as he or she has a concern or question
- Support school policies and discuss them with his or her child
- Involve himself or herself with his or her child's education
- Make sure his or her child is **in school** and **on time** each day
- Provide a home environment that encourages his or her child to learn
- Support and communicate with the school by attending meetings and conferences
- Check the homework calendar every evening for completed assignments
- Read and discuss school policies with his or her child and agree to **comply** with them and **sign** the handbook form to show agreement
- Pay any fees/fines in a timely matter

STUDENT AGREES TO:

- Come to school every day, **on time** and **prepared to work**
- Complete and turn in required seat work
- Act responsibly and appropriately at all times
- Request assistance from the teacher when needed. Spend time every day at home completing assignments
- Return library books/materials on time

Promotion Requirements

Students must achieve a 1.0 or D average in each academic class to qualify for the Promotion Ceremony. If a student earns an "F" in the last quarter or a "U" in any class, it will impact the privilege(s) of attending the promotion activities but will not impact the Promotion Ceremony if all other criteria is met. If a student is suspended at the time of the Promotion Ceremony, he or she will not earn the right to participate in the ceremony. Students who have received multiple disciplinary actions for significant behavior concerns resulting in suspension(s), will be in jeopardy of not participating in the promotion activities.

Royal Palm offers support for any student struggling in any subject.

Athletic/Student Council Eligibility

Students must be eligible to participate in after-school athletics. Please refer to the WESD Sports Council Student/Parent/Coach Contract. These requirements are minimum requirements. Additional eligibility requirements may be added as deemed appropriate by Royal Palm administration. All student council officers who have a "D" or an "F" in any subject will be removed from their position.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL TO YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS!

Procedure for Reporting Absences

Parents must report any absence by telephone (602-347-3222) **24 hours per day** to the attendance office. Parents/guardians must report absences on or before the day of the absence in order for the absence to be considered excused.

If a student is absent from school and no call has been received by 8:30 a.m., every effort will be made by the attendance office to contact parents/guardians by phone.

The attendance office staff is limited; please help by calling in your child's absence as early as possible. In addition, **assist us by notifying the office of any phone number changes.**

Parents will be required to provide a doctor's note when a student has more than 10 excused absences. Special consideration will be made for students with long-term illnesses (i.e., hospitalization/doctor's care). School staff is available to meet with you to discuss any of these special considerations.

In order to participate in an afternoon or evening activity, students must be in school the day of the activity. (This includes team sports, dances, etc.)

Truancies

In order to assure students are successful and meet current state legislation, which requires all students to attend 90% of the school year, WESD has a Truancy Prevention Unit (TPU). The TPU will work in conjunction with the City Justice Courts to identify students and parents of students who are chronically absent or are truant.

When a student reaches five unexcused/unverified truancies or 10 total absences, the school may make a referral to the TPU for appropriate actions (see District guidelines). In order to avoid this eventuality, there are several precautions to take: (1) reinforce being on time and good attendance, (2) call the school each time a student will be late or absent, (3) present any medical documentation to the nurse and/or attendance clerk if illness will be a consistent, foreseeable issue.

A letter will be sent by the school to the parents/guardians of students who are approaching or past the midway point for unexcused absences, excused absences, and tardies. Parent cooperation is of the utmost importance in assuring student success.

After 10 absences, students are required to complete four educational intervention classes to be held during the lunch period.

Tardies

Tardy students must immediately report to the attendance office upon arrival at school. Excused tardies may be approved with proper notification. Tardiness will not be a problem for students who use their time wisely, have a positive attitude toward being on time, and make being on time a habit.

Students are responsible for being on time to each class. Students have three minutes to walk from one class to another. A tardy bell will ring, and any student entering a room after that bell will be considered tardy. A tardy will be considered unauthorized unless the student has been detained for a reason approved by a pass from a staff member.

Consequences for Tardies

Tardy #1: Warning/documentation by teacher/admin.

Tardy #2: Documentation by teacher/administration and parent notification

Tardy #3 or more: Discipline referral, detention.

Consequences will increase with persistent tardies.

ALL TARDIES START OVER with EACH QUARTER

STUDENT BEHAVIOR CODE

Behavior Expectations

Royal Palm's primary goal is to educate all students while fostering their personal growth. To make this goal possible, the staff, with the cooperation of the students, must create and maintain an environment that is safe and orderly.

Five basic principles will guide the behavior of Royal Palm students on campus:

- Students will come to class prepared and participate fully in class activities.
- Students will follow staff directions and their teachers' specific classroom rules.
- Students will not interfere with a teacher's right to teach or another student's right to learn.
- Students will not engage in any behavior that violates the personal rights of another individual.
- Students will not engage in any behavior that is not in his or her best interest.

These are general school-wide expectations. Each teacher/team may establish classroom expectations and consequences more restrictive than the general guidelines listed.

Discipline Policy

The essence of discipline consists of four major components: prevention, motivation, intervention, and consequences. The essence of good discipline is a respect for authority, respect for self, and respect for rules. It is an expectation of self-control that begins at home, is maintained and reinforced at school, and is applied throughout life.

Royal Palm has established a discipline policy that is consistent with the rights and responsibilities of all concerned. It is essential that parents and students familiarize themselves with the Discipline Policy and the consequences for violations.

Discipline Procedures

Any inappropriate behavior that interferes with the learning process, creates disorder, or disrupts the educational program may cause a student to be referred to the office. When a student receives a referral to the office, he or she will receive a consequence specific to the infraction, as listed in the WESD Disciplinary action chart.

Royal Palm administration reserves the right to exceed the Behavior Code consequences in exceptional cases based upon the incident.

Discipline Prevention

The staff at Royal Palm believes that preventing discipline problems is the first step involved in discipline. Communication among students, parents, and staff is vital. A prevention committee meets on a regular basis to discuss ways to keep Royal Palm safe. Programs such as Olweus (bullying prevention) are in place to address bullying at Royal Palm. In addition, our Social Services department works together to prevent discipline problems (individual counseling and group sessions). Suspected drug use by students manifested by aberrant behavior will result in an immediate suspension from school.

Bullying/Cyberbullying

Within the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, classrooms meet weekly to discuss topics related to bullying. Students at Royal Palm also have the opportunity to report bullying, including cyberbullying, incidents anonymously through the following process:

- Students may fill out an incident report in the student center. The reports are reviewed by the social worker who either intervenes or forwards the information to the student center.
- Classroom teachers may, at any time, refer specific student behaviors related to bullying directly to the student center.
- Administration deals seriously with all bullying reports, including cyberbullying, (according to WESD Parent/Student Handbook discipline guidelines).

Incentives

Royal Palm has a school-wide motivation program that involves students earning “Small Raiders” for making good choices. Students may use “Grand Raiders” to attend various activities during the school year (i.e. Fuddruckers, Disneyland and Great Skate). In order to participate in these trips, students may not have been placed on in-school or out-of-school suspension during the specific grading period(s). These “Raiders” can be used to purchase small items from the Raider Store during lunch. Teachers and teams are encouraged to use other methods to motivate their students to be academically, behaviorally, and socially successful. There are many other opportunities for students to earn incentives for positive behavior and academics.

Discipline Intervention

When students encounter behavioral, social, emotional, or academic difficulties, the staff at Royal Palm offers a variety of intervention programs to help with these difficulties. Staff, parents, and students are encouraged to communicate regarding necessary interventions. In addition, behavior contracts are frequently used to attempt to help students change their inappropriate behavior.

Discipline Consequences

Consequences include, but are not limited to: lunch detention, in-school suspension, and out-of-school suspension. Lunch detention is served in a designated classroom supervised by an adult. Students assigned in-school suspension will be supervised by an adult during the school day. They will be provided with assignments from their teachers for the duration of the consequence. If a student “strikes out” from in-school suspension, he or she will be suspended off-campus for a minimum of one day. Students have two opportunities to make appropriate behavior choices before being “struck out.”

Gang-related Behavior

Gang activity is not tolerated at Royal Palm Middle School. Students who choose to participate in gang activity will face consequences for disrupting the safety and educational process of school. Gang activity includes, but is not limited to, “gang-type writing/graffiti, written, verbal, or physical gestures, physical or violent acts associated with gangs (i.e. “jump-ins,” harassment, or intimidation), clothing that is associated with gangs or gang-like activity, and any other behavior that is associated with gangs, as determined by Royal Palm administration.

The following clothing items are considered gang related and will not be permitted:

- Bandannas (either worn or dangling from pockets)
- Clothing with gang affiliation (i.e. PHX 602, WS – Westside, PHX Bird, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and SUR 13 – Southside).

- Tattoos and/or “notched” eyebrows that represent gang affiliation.
- Any other clothing deemed gang related as determined by Royal Palm administration, as assisted by Phoenix Police Gang Task Force.

Consequences for Gang-related Behavior

1st Offense: Warning and documentation of gang-related infraction

2nd Offense +: Disciplinary action as defined in “Disciplinary Action Chart” in WESD Parent/Student Handbook (ranging from after-school detention to expulsion depending upon the severity of the infraction).

NOTE # 1: Gang-related activity that involves physical violence or threatening behavior will be subject to an automatic off-campus suspension for at least six days.

NOTE # 2: Students who have a documented incidence of gang-related infractions will be subject to a loss of privilege as it relates to permitted clothing items (i.e. not being able to wear certain color shirts, pants, or shoelaces based on their gang affiliation).

NOTE # 3: Students who continue to demonstrate gang behavior will be micromanaged by administration and subject to severe disciplinary action.

Dress Code

Royal Palm’s standard of dress is instituted to establish an atmosphere conducive to learning and to be a constant reminder to the students that their purpose in coming to school is their education. Students are expected to dress in a neat, respectful fashion reflecting pride in themselves and their school. It is governed by Washington School Board Policy and is based on the **“Killer Bs” (cover your back, belly, behind, bust, boxers, and no baggy pants or backpacks).** The decision as to whether or not a “student’s dress or personal appearance distracts from or interferes with the normal learning process” or “regarding the course of action to be taken shall be left to the reasonable discretion of the administration.” By following the “Killer Bs,” you will be conforming to the following guidelines:

- Head coverings are not allowed anywhere on campus unless for religious or medical reasons.
Head coverings include hoodies, beanies, hats, caps, etc.
- Pants/shorts must fit appropriately, and have a 3” inseam or longer. If pants/shorts have holes or rips, leggings or tights must be worn underneath. There should be no skin exposed. Pants/shorts with manufactured holes that are “patched” meet the dress code, but are subject to administrative approval.
- “Sagging” is not permitted. “Sagging” is defined as pants worn low enough where undergarments come in contact with the chair or having to hold up the pants with at least one hand while walking. In addition, you cannot waddle when walking to keep the pants on or up. Gym shorts may not be worn under sagging pants to make them “appropriate.”
- Leggings or tights must be covered by a shirt, skirt or dress that is fingertip length or longer.
- Belts must fit appropriately and not hang from the waist.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Flip-flops and slippers are not allowed.
- Shirts/blouses must have sleeves that cover the entire shoulder. Shirts must be long enough so that when your arms are raised, no skin can be visible. No cleavage may be exposed. No undergarments or straps should show.
- Extra shirts may not be worn around the neck or draped over the shoulder.
- Pajamas, sleepwear, loungewear, etc. are not allowed.

- Clothing may not contain profane symbols or vulgar language or contain language or symbols relating to sex (i.e. “pimping”), drugs, tobacco, alcohol, gang affiliation (see gang-related behavior section), gambling, or violent behavior in any language. The language or pictures cannot interfere with the normal learning process, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program. Whether this condition exists shall be left to the reasonable discretion of the administration.
- Gang-related clothing is not permitted (see gang-related behavior section for details).
- Hair style should not be a distraction in class (ex: long spikes). Students creating a distraction will not be permitted to attend classes and must return their hair to a non-distracting style.
- Jewelry/accessories may not display profanity, provocative or suggestive statements, obscenities, advertising for drugs, alcohol, or gang identifications. **Jewelry may not be a distraction or disruptive (teacher/administration discretion).** Spikes or studs on bracelets, belts, rings, or necklaces are not allowed. Wallet chains are not allowed.
- Sunglasses may only be worn outdoors and must be worn appropriately.
- Students are expected to wear their own IDs at all times. IDs must be worn around the neck, and ID pictures are not to be covered. Along with facing disciplinary action, students who do not wear their ID will not be permitted to ride the bus to and from school. In addition, they will receive a lunch detention. Replacement IDs can be purchased from the front office for \$5. Lanyards and pouches can be purchased for .50 cents each.

Consequences for Apparel Infractions

Consequences for infractions will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and may include:

- A. Student must wear school-provided clothing.
- B. Parent(s) bring in change of clothing.
- C. Parent(s) pick up child.
- D. In-school suspension.
- E. Out-of-school suspension.
- F. Parent/guardian must pick up confiscated items.

Prohibited Items and Activities

- Headphones, video games, laser pens, earbuds, MP3 players, and iPods, etc., are not allowed. E-books and earbuds will be permitted for academic use.
- Use of cell phones is prohibited on campus during the school day. If seen being used or heard, they will be confiscated. Parent/guardian will be required to pick them up from the student center or front office.
- Permanent markers of any kind, including Sharpies are not to be in a student’s possession. Markers being issued by a teacher and used for a classroom project are permitted in the classroom only.
- Backpacks, mini-backpacks, sports bags, and book bags of any kind are not allowed on campus. Students participating in a sport will be issued a sport bag from the athletic department/coach for the duration of that sport. These bags must be stored daily with the coach, in homeroom, or in the locker room. Students may not carry it throughout the day. Purses must be smaller than a notebook.
- **Gum is not permitted on campus.**
- ***Drinks are permitted on campus if purchased at Royal Palm. Bottled water may be brought on the campus and will be permitted in classrooms.***
- Any other item as deemed inappropriate by the administration is not permitted.

- Inappropriate student contact (i.e. holding hands, embracing, kissing, and hickies), as determined by Royal Palm staff, is not permitted and will result in a discipline referral.

Any prohibited item confiscated by Royal Palm staff must be claimed by a parent/guardian. Any confiscated item not claimed within nine weeks will be donated or be disposed of appropriately. Royal Palm assumes no responsibility for replacing lost, damaged, stolen, or confiscated items.