



Rincon High School

Dear Ranger Families,

One week to go!!!! Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you had a great summer and feel rested, rejuvenated, and ready for an amazing year. The beginning of a new school year is always a special time. It promises new opportunities, new friendships, and countless possibilities.

To ensure that your child has a strong start, I am including some important information in this letter to help you navigate the beginning of the school year. Communication is important to us. If you need anything this year, please do not hesitate to contact us.

See you all next week!

Information in this letter:

- Communication: Weekly Updates, Parent VUE/Synergy, Email
 - Student Code of Conduct
 - Open House Information
 - Bell Schedule
 - Attendance Policy
 - Student Drop Off and Pick Up (Map Attached)
 - School Safety Terminology
 - 1. ID & Cell Phone Policy
 - Laptops
 - Bus Information
 - Cell Phone Policy
-

- Campus Procedures
- Schedule Change Request
 - 1. Support Services Information
- New Student “Walk Your Schedule” Orientation

Communication

At Rincon, we work hard to communicate with our families. We are always available for phone calls or in-person meetings as needed, but general communication is done electronically. Below are some ways you will hear from us:

Make sure your email in our student data system is up-to-date so you are informed.

Weekly Updates – We will send this out every Sunday, containing schedules for the week, events, upcoming special dates, etc. Weekly updates will be sent out using the new TUSD district messaging system, Parent Square. For information on Parent Square: [Instructions for Parents about Parent Square](#)

Email - We send various information via email, which is also a great first step in communicating with your child’s teachers.

ParentVUE (Synergy) – Keep up with your child’s grades and attendance through ParentVUE. This is the online grade book for our teachers. If you do not know how to utilize this feature, please make an appointment with attendance staff, who will be happy to walk you through it.

Website – Rincon High School Web Page ([Rincon High School](#))

TUSD Student Code of Conduct

[Code of Conduct](#)

Open House

Open House is on Thursday, August 14th from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Parents will follow their student’s schedule and have an opportunity to attend each class for short 10-minute introduction session with their student’s teachers. It’s a fun opportunity to see the school,

meet the teachers, and see what it is like to follow your student's schedule. Mark your calendars!

-

Bell Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Classes start at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday: Classes start at 8:00 a.m.

Conference Period: On Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, teachers are available in their classrooms from 8-8:50 a.m. to provide support to students in need.

Early Out Wednesdays: Students are released on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. The 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each week are designated for teacher professional development so there will be no student activities on those days. The 2nd and 4th (sometimes 5th) Wednesdays are designated for Student Enrichment. Teachers may choose to hold test prep sessions, sponsor student clubs, provide test correction or make-up test opportunities, etc.

After-school Tutoring: After school tutoring (homework help) is available to students in the library after school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-4:30 p.m. Students who need extra support can report to the library and be helped by certified, Rincon teachers.

Schedule - first week back

The first day of school is Monday, August 4. For the first week, Monday/Tuesday will be sequential days according to the new Thursday/Friday bell schedule #3. You will still have a conference period, but go to all your classes after that. See the bell schedule below for the exact times for each day, including any special schedules during the school year.

***The majority of Rincon students have A Lunch (the first lunch), which is after 1st period on Mondays, after 2nd period on Tuesdays, and after 3rd period all other days. *The only students who do not have A lunch are students who have a 3rd period performing arts class. Those students will have B lunch which comes after 3rd period every day except for Tuesdays. Tuesdays, these students will have A Lunch.**

School lunch will continue to be free to all students; use your student ID or matric number to sign in for receiving lunch.

Attendance Policy

Students who reach **nine non-school-related absences** in any one course per semester may lose credit in that class. Because we understand there may be extenuating circumstances to excessive absences, absence appeals for credit loss can be made to administration. Please monitor your child's absences and let us know if there are any situations we need to be aware of regarding attendance.

Nationwide data shows that student achievement declines with excessive absences from school.

Please report all absences to our attendance office.

To excuse a student's absence or tardy

If your student will be absent or tardy, this year you will have 3 ways of reporting it. You will need to have the student's name, date of birth and the reason they will be out.

- Go to your ParentVue account, select attendance from the menu on the left and click on the box "report absence". **This is the fastest way.**
- You can email rinconattendance@tusd1.org or michelle.santacruz@tusd1.org.
- Call the attendance line at 520-232-5601. If you are unable to reach a person, please leave only ONE message.

Our office staff will retrieve your information from one of the methods above as quickly as possible during office hours. Your information may not be entered prior to you receiving our automated attendance call. **Please refer to your Parent Vue account after 3:00 p.m.** the same day to verify that the absence/tardy has been updated. If it has not been recorded, please email rinconattendance@tusd1.org to fix. **Please be aware that the highest call volume is between 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.** Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Students leaving early

If you are aware that your student will need to leave early, you have some options:

- You can send a note with the student and have them come to the attendance office before school starts and we will issue a pass.
- You can either email or give us a call directly. We will issue the pass for the student to leave their class at the time requested. Please give us at least 15 minutes to complete this process if calling in.
- If you need to come in, we will be happy to get your student for you upon your arrival, be aware that it may take additional time this way so please plan accordingly.
- For added security, you will need to show your photo ID in two areas on campus, at the front security gate and ALSO in the Attendance Office. Your student WILL NOT be released without proper identification. ANY parent, guardian, or person on emergency contact listed in the original student's registration for the current school year can sign-out your student.

We WILL NOT accept calls, emails or in person requests for students to leave early after 2:45 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, or after 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Students MUST sign-out and receive a pass from the attendance office prior to leaving campus.

Parking Passes for Student Drivers

Students applying for a parking pass must have all verification paperwork with them at the time of purchase including proof of registration from the MVD, proof of current insurance, and a valid driver's license. Parking passes are \$6.

School Safety Terminology and Practices

School safety is a priority, and we strive to make our campus a safe learning environment for our students. It is imperative that students have their IDs on them every day.

Shelter In Place

This is where we have no movement throughout our campus but teaching and learning continue. Shelter in Place should not alarm students, staff, or parents. It is simply a process where administration and authorities investigate a potential situation in the area around the school and we need to limit movement across the campus.

Lockdown

Students and staff are instructed to lockdown, barricade doors, and remain quiet. There is NO movement, no noise, and no classroom instruction utilize when there is an active campus threat.

Evacuation

Students and staff simply evacuate all buildings and exit to the perimeter of our school campus.

We are always reflecting and searching to improve all aspects of our school. We continually collaborate with authorities and other outside agencies to ensure the safety of our students and staff. This process of reflection allows us to utilize practices that protect instructional time while also maintaining a safe, educational environment.

Providing a safe learning environment for students and staff is our top priority. We intentionally practice all of the above situations throughout the school year to maintain a safe campus.

-

Laptops

Students must bring their TUSD issued laptops with them to school **every day, fully charged**. Please encourage your child to get into the routine of plugging their laptop in when they go to bed, to ensure that it is fully charged when they arrive to school each morning.

Students should either carry their laptop in the TUSD issued computer bag or get a backpack that is specifically designed to protect their laptop.

Please also remind your student that they should treat their laptop the same way their would treat their cell phone, keeping it safe within their purview at all times. Laptops often get damaged when students set their backpacks out in the open, on the ground, where they can be stepped on, causing damage. We do not have a surplus of computers to

replace damaged laptops, so it is extremely important that students handle their laptops with care to protect them.

Bus Routes to School and Home

TUSD is offering extended coverage for bus routes to get to school. At the moment, these routes only have stops within our district boundaries. You can sign up for any bus route available through the [TUSD bus stop selection website](#). Click through the interactive map to see a visual of available bus stops, and fill out the form below it to select a route.

TUSD is also offering real-time GPS tracking of school buses, see the [TUSD Here Comes the Bus page](#) for more information.

Cell Phone Policy

[HB 2484](#)

This policy is enacted in accordance with Arizona House Bill 2484 (2025), which mandates that school districts implement policies to limit student use of wireless communication devices during the school day, allowing usage only for educational purposes as directed by a teacher or during emergencies.

- **Enhancing Academic Focus:** Reducing device usage during class helps students concentrate on instructional material, thereby improving academic performance.
- **Reducing Distractions:** Limiting access to social media and other non-educational content minimizes interruptions and maintains a conducive learning environment.
- **Promoting Social Interaction:** Allowing device use during non-instructional times encourages students to engage with peers, fostering better social skills and relationships.
- **Addressing Mental Health Concerns:** Limiting screen time during school hours can mitigate issues related to anxiety, depression, and cyberbullying associated with excessive device use.

At Rincon High School, when students are in class, it is expected that each student will utilize the classroom's designated cell phone space. The purpose is to follow state law to maximize learning.

Campus procedures

Arriving late to school

All exterior gates to the school except the main gate at the guard shack on Arcadia Ave will be closed no later than 10 minutes after the tardy bell. The Penguin gate leading to the interior of campus next to the health office will be closed right at the tardy bell. All students arriving late will then need to be dropped off OUTSIDE the main gate and check in with security before entering campus. Students will then go to the buzzer door next to the administration building to be let in after verifying their identification (see **student IDs** below). Students will then head to their respective attendance office to sign in and get a tardy slip to get into class. This is **not** an excused tardy if there was no call in previous to arrival. Students will not enter the school through any other gate, fence, door, or other entrance aside from the buzzer door when arriving late to school.

Items for student pickup

Any items brought to the school for student pickup (i.e. forgotten school materials such as musical instruments, school devices, athletic equipment, etc.) must be dropped off with the security monitor at the main gate. We will ensure all items are brought to students. The following are items which **will not be delivered**:

- Cash money
- Food (lunch is free to all students with a variety of options to meet all dietary needs)
- Flowers/balloons

No food delivery

Students are not allowed to order food through delivery services of any kind to be delivered to the school. Any deliveries arriving for students will be turned away at the students' expense.

Student IDs

All students must be in possession of their IDs any time they are on campus. They may wear them (the best way), or have them in a pocket, wallet, backpack, purse, etc. They will be needed to scan for tardy sign in, to purchase any items in the bookstore, and for overall campus security. The first ID of the school year is free to students, but a replacement ID

will incur a cost. If students arrive late to school, they must present their ID to both the guard shack at the main gate AND the buzzer door, again for campus security.

Schedule Change Requests

All student schedule change requests are made through email to the student's counselor and/or by filling out a "schedule change request" form in the office. Please keep in mind that some classes are full. Therefore, we cannot accommodate all requests. We do not accommodate schedule change requests based on teacher preference. ***The final date to request a schedule change is August 8th.***

Attend the courses that are live on your Student VUE/Parent VUE accounts; do not attend the schedule you requested until it is reflected on your live schedule.

Students who request or have already requested a schedule change, should keep an eye on their TUSD issued email for communication regarding their request. We encourage all students to regularly check their TUSD email as this is how Rincon staff communicates with students outside of the classroom.

Counseling Team/ Student Services

Jill Morgan
Department chair
Counselor grades 10-11
Last names A-L
Jill.Morgan@tusd1.org

Christa McConaughy
Counselor grades 10-11
Last names M-Z
Christa.McCnaughy@tusd1.org

KJ Tousley
Counselor grade 12
Last names A-Z

KJ.Tousley@tusd1.org

Anna Finkle

Counselor grade 9

Last names A-Z

Anna.Finkle@tusd1.org

Jennifer Vasquez

College and Career Coordinator

Jennifer.Vasquez@tusd1.org

Michelle Callahan

MTSS Facilitator

Michelle.Callahan-DuMont@tusd1.org

Joanna Geurts

Ex Ed Coordinator

Joanna.Geurts@tusd1.org

Dustin Knippen

ELD Coordinator

Dustin.Knippen@tusd1.org

Sean Haynes

Athletic Director

Sean.Haynes@tusd1.org

-

New Student “Walk Your Schedule” Orientation

Freshmen/New Student Orientation is designed to provide information to help new students feel comfortable and ready for the first week of school. Plan to meet in the auditorium Friday, August 1st at 9:30-11:00 a.m. with the student schedule in hand.

-

New Staff to Rincon

Please help me welcome these new staff members to Rincon High School!

Vivian Guerra – attendance office assistant

Amy Cannon - assistant principal

Santiago Sanchez – automotive technology teacher

Marisa Pesa – English teacher

Marcos Jaime – security monitor

Angus Aron – math teacher

Christa McConaughy – counselor

Sean Haynes – athletic director

Bart Peterson – athletic trainer

Takisha Price – ex ed teacher assistant

Michelle Rodriguez – ex ed teacher assistant

And welcome back these current staff members who are changing job responsibilities:

Mark Romero – ISI teacher

Susana Nava – athletic administrative assistant

April Bull Calf – main office administrative secretary

-

The first day of school is Monday, August 4th. The morning will begin with conference period from 8-8:50 a.m. with first period starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. We will be following a sequential schedule on Monday and Tuesday, the first week of school. The second week of school, we will start the week off with our first block schedule.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us. Good luck and let's have a great school year!

We are Ranger Strong!!!

Sincerely,

Alissa Welch

Proud Principal
Ranger Nation

[View in ParentSquare](#)
