

Dear Roger Clap Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are excited to begin an excellent year as members of our Roger Clap WOLF PACK.

Our core values highlight who we strive to be as a community. We know that learning and growing require that we stick with (and seek out!) challenges, use our resources to advocate for ourselves and our community, partner with others, and demonstrate kindness as we problem solve and celebrate successes. These core values are a reflection of our hopes for each member of our community - students, families, and staff. At the Roger Clap, we recognize that in order to become excellent readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, artists, athletes, musicians, and friends, together we must support our young people in developing these values.

Below is important information for the beginning of the school year:

Back to School Ice Cream Social	All students are invited on <u>Tuesday, September 3rd</u> from 4:00-5:00pm at the Roger Clap Playground. Come get the SCOOP on our staff, students, and families! Get supplies & meet the staff and students you'll be learning with this year! (If it rains, we'll meet indoors)	
First Day of School	Students in Grades 1-6: Thursday, September 5th Students in K0, K1 and K2: Monday, September 9th	
School Hours	Arrival: School opens at 9:20am which is when students are able to enter the building. To be marked on time, students must be in the building by 9:30am.	
	Dismissal: Dismissal procedures begin at 4:00pm. In order to ensure a safe dismissal procedure please do not pick up your student(s) between 3:30-4pm. Early dismissals can lead to complicated dismissal routines for our community.	
Before/After School Program	Winning Every Student runs our before and after-school program. This program will begin the first day of school for students who are pre-enrolled. Hours are: <i>Before school:</i> 7:30-9:20 and <i>Afterschool:</i> 4:10pm-6:00pm Questions: Contact: Eric Shelton, Executive Director email: winningeverystudent@gmail.com, phone: 857-540-8977	
Dress Code	The uniform consists of: Navy Blue Pants/Skirts and White or Navy Blue Shirt.	
Summer Learning	Take time to enjoy the BPS Summer Read. Your child will be engaging with experiences about the content of the books when they return. You can find the summer learning here: www.rogerclapelementary.org/summerread	

Turn this over for more important information!

Open House: Our Back-to-School Night will be on <u>Thursday</u>, <u>September 26</u>, <u>2024</u> from 5:30-7pm. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teachers, share your hopes and dreams for your child(ren), and learn about the curriculum, expectations, and opportunities for the school year. Your presence really matters. Please mark your calendar and save the date. More details will be shared soon.



<u>Your VOICE</u>: Help us build a strong family-school partnership through our Parent/Family Council & School Site Council! Learn more about these opportunities at our Back to School Night on Thursday, September 26. You can also call our Family Liaison, Deirdre DeGraffenreid at 857-891-4640.

<u>Connecting with your learner's teaching team:</u> Every family should receive communication welcoming their child to their new classroom by 9/6. This will be the first of many opportunities for families to share your hopes and dreams for your child this school year!

<u>Transportation:</u> If you have any questions you must contact 617-635-9520 or schoolbus@bostonpublicschools.org. Unfortunately, the Roger Clap staff can't make any bus changes. *All changes are completed through the central office.*

<u>Our Roger Clap Staff</u>: I am thrilled to welcome back our returning staff and share updates about new additions to our school community! Please see attached staff list.



If there is a change in your child's dismissal plan, please notify the office (not your child's teacher) by 3:00pm.

Teachers are doing the important work of teaching. If teachers receive texts and/or calls from families during the school day about urgent information such as pick up/drop off information, it can greatly impact the safety of our dismissal time.

We look forward to a terrific school year!

Sincerely,

Emma Fialka-Feldman, Principal

2024-2025 Roger Clap Student & Family Policies

The Roger Clap School Site Council & Roger Clap staff have updated school wide policies to ensure that our community collaborates to support the safety of all. All policies are in line with the Boston Public Schools.

Birthday Policy

Celebrating birthdays with classmates is something many students and staff enjoy. To create a joyful and healthy classroom community, which prioritizes time spent teaching and learning, our school implements the following policies for classroom birthday celebrations:

- To make sure that every student is celebrated, <u>all student birthdays for the month will be celebrated on the same day.</u> The <u>last Friday</u> of each month will be the Birthday Celebration Day. Students will be honored at the Town Hall.
- On the specific day of the learner's birthday, classrooms will honor the student during morning meetings and/or closing circle. Please *do not bring* in special treats for the specific day.
- On the monthly schoolwide Birthday Celebration Day (typically last Friday of the month): Special treats, activities, and/or special read alouds are enjoyed and can be provided by the family. If a family or member brings in a healthy food, a list of ingredients must be received due to allergies and food safety.



Cell Phones & Electronics

The use of cell phones for any purpose including telephone calls, text messaging and other functions (including smart watches) is <u>not permitted</u> at any time on school grounds unless authorized by the school leader for educational purposes. Students can not text/call their family on their personal device during the school day and may not check their phones to receive calls or texts. *Students must wait until they are on the school bus to use their cell phone.*Families may call the school at anytime to ensure a message is communicated to their child.

At school, students are expected to:

- ensure their cell phone is not visible during the school day and turned off
- give their technology to a member of the teaching team to hold, and/or
- follow the classroom rules regarding technology

<u>Grade 5 & 6 only</u>: Students in grades 5 & 6 will be required to use Yondr pouches (see below). Students will store their device in the pouch and it will be unlocked at dismissal.

Consequences for Violating the Cell Phone Policy may include:

- Cell phone is confiscated and returned at the end of the day
- Student is required to drop off their phone at the main office daily
- In-person family meeting
- Family is required to pick up the cell phone
- Repeated violations of this policy may be subject to additional disciplinary action



As you enter the phone free space,

your phone is placed in a Yondr pouch by our staff.



SECURE

The pouch is closed and secured. It is handed back to you. You'll keep it throughout the event.



EXII

When leaving the space, you'll tap the pouch on an unlocking base to release your phone.

Food, Drinks & Snacks

Students are provided with breakfast, lunch, and weekly snacks (as part of the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program). There is no requirement to send in any food to school with your learner.

Donations & Sharing: Families are able to donate healthy snacks for classrooms to use during snack time. Unless a whole class donation is shared, students may not SHARE individual snacks. This is to ensure the safety and health of all.



All food must be consumed during the designated breakfast, lunch and snack times. In alignment with the BPS Food & Nutrition Policy, the Clap promotes the consumption of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, healthy fats, low-fat dairy products, and water and other messages consistent with research-based findings that indicate a positive impact on health.

Food consumed may include:

- Water
- Fruits & Vegetables
- Crackers, Rice Cakes, Popcorn
- Granola and Cereal Bars
- Cheese & Yogurt

It is recommended that the following items are not consumed at school.

- Soda & Energy Drinks
- Highly sugary drinks such as Coolatas, Refreshers or Slushies
- Coffee, Caffeinated, & Hot Beverages (i.e. Hot Chocolate)
- Candy, Cakes, Cookies & Doughnuts
- Fast Food
- Tree nuts, nuts, or any nut related foods (we are a Nut-Free School)



Food delivered to school by *delivery services* (i.e. UberEats) during the school day is not permitted.

Dismissal Changes & Protocols



Early Pick Ups: Any students picked up before 4pm must have a doctor's note so the early dismissal is marked as excused. Excessive early dismissals can lead to an attendance meeting with school staff. When students leave before 4pm (even sporadically), they miss *significant academic* instructional time (30 minute pick ups throughout the year can be equivalent to missing between 8 and 16 full days of school!). Early pick ups can contribute to an unsafe dismissal for others. Students must *remain in their classroom* until the family arrives for an early pick up. They can not be waiting in the office.

<u>Dismissal Changes:</u> To have a safe dismissal, <u>please notify the office</u> (not your child's teacher) by 3:00pm if there is change in the dismissal plan (taking the bus, not taking the bus, picked up by

someone else). Teachers are doing the important work of teaching. If teachers receive texts and/or calls from families during the school day about urgent information such as pick up/drop off information, it can greatly impact the safety of our dismissal time. Last minute changes can lead to students not receiving updated information.

Call the Office



<u>Student Walkers</u>: If students are expected to walk home, there must be a written note on file giving the school permission to allow the student to walk home at dismissal.

<u>Pick Up Changes:</u> If someone is picking up the student other than the name listed on the Emergency Form, the family must call the office ahead of time so the *new contact can be added*.

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 <u>miss no more than 10 days per</u> <u>year</u> 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.

Over 30% of Clap Students are absent for more than 40 school days. 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.)

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)
- Death in the immediate family
- Court appearances
- Medical or Psychological tests/appointments
- Religious Holidays



Daily Phone Call: The Roger Clap School will <u>contact families daily</u> if a learner is not present. To avoid this phone call, please contact the school before 10am (via TalkingPoints, 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.



Social & Emotional Development, Conflict & Problem Solving

While each member works hard to display PACK (perseverance, advocacy, collaboration and kindness) each day, there are times when conflict arises. Restorative Justice (RJ) is a value-based approach to conflict and harm that is a developing practice at the Clap. These values are often identified as inclusion, democracy, responsibility, respect, safety, and healing.



The practices of RJ are implemented through:

- <u>PACK Values, Community Agreements & Town Halls:</u> Classrooms build shared understanding of the PACK Values, co-create classroom agreements, and celebrate growth at monthly Town Halls.
- Morning Meeting, Explicit Social Skills Teaching, & Closing Circle: Daily students have explicit opportunities to learn, practice, and reflect on social-emotional skills like self-management, self-awareness, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible-decision making. The Zones of Regulation is a researched-based curriculum for students to build skills and language for communication, problem solving, and emotional understanding.

Zones of Regulation









- Weekly Community Circles: Teams spend time each week in circles with
 their students to practice what it means to listen to each other, and to share about who we each are to build
 connections and a sense of belonging.
- Restorative Conversations: When a conflict occurs, our first step is to attempt to mediate the conflict in a restorative way. Our goal is always to repair the harm that was done and work to ensure that those involved in the conflict are able to safely return to being in community together again. Conversations involve giving all involved in a conflict the opportunity to reflect individually, and share that reflection with others involved. This allows the initiator of a conflict to better see and understand the impact of their actions on those they are in community with. It involves letting those involved in a conflict identify consequences that would best repair the harm done.



- Students engage in the following questions:
 - What happened?
 - What were you thinking/feeling when this happened?
 - [When thinking about what you did...] Was it helpful or hurtful? Who did it help/hurt?
 - What do you think you need to do to make it right?
- Resolutions: Through the restorative conversations process students have developed ways to make things right including writing apology notes, spending time with a different grade level at recess or lunch, rebuilding the object that was broken, taping a book with a torn page, playing a game using safe and kind words, helping in a younger classroom, returning items taken, and working with the custodian to pick up materials.
- <u>Healing/Harm Circles</u>: Using the practices of weekly circles, adults facilitate a more focused circle related to a specific incident. Community members have opportunities to describe the event, their feelings, and what is needed for the community to address the hurt experienced.
- Consequences: Restorative Justice practices does not mean actions don't have consequences. Conversations are often the first step to deciding consequences that would repair harm done to the community. Conversations are not the final step for all conflicts. Depending on the conflict and if it is also a violation of the BPS Code of Conduct, students may participate in mediation and also have additional consequences for their actions. This can include:



- Meeting with individual families
- o Completing a research project to better understand the harm experiences
- Development of a Behavior Support Plan or Safety Plan
- o Referral to Succeed Boston
- Disciplinary Hearing (required for all in school and out of school suspensions)
- BPS Bullying or Equity Investigation

Ultimately the Clap works to build a culture and climate where all members support the safety and learning of all, students build their capacity to problem solve safely and kindly, and when harm and hurt happen students know how to take responsibility and develop ways to restore the relationship and community.

Logical Consequences

Logical consequences, a key practice in the *Responsive Classroom* approach, are used by Roger Clap staff to help children recognize effects of their actions and develop internal controls. We believe that children want to do better and can do better with reflection and practice. This practice allows staff to set clear limits for students to fix and learn from their mistakes while maintaining their dignity. When students exhibit behavior that violates our school rules, staff utilize multiple strategies in order to get the student back on track to positive behavior in class. This can include verbal reminders, quick conversations, phone calls to a family, and/or time away from the classroom (i.e. a

reminders, quick conversations, phone calls to a family, and/or time away from the classroom (i.e. a meeting with the school principal or other staff). Depending on the student and the situation, staff might combine a logical consequence with other strategies.

- You break it, you fix it (i.e. a student rushes to be first in line to grab a white board causing all the other whiteboards to fall to the ground → consequence: pick up the white boards and move to the back of the line)
- Loss of Privilege (i.e. a student continues to talk off topic during a math game → consequence: no longer able to work with a partner during the math game)
- Positive Time-Out (i.e. a student is consistently interrupting during a call discussion → consequence: student directed to sit in the "calm corner" for a brief time to regain self-control before rejoining the group)

Additional adults, including the Social Worker, Instructional Coach, Family Liaison, and Principal may also respond to situations when needed.

BPS Code of Conduct

As a Boston Public School, all members are expected to follow all aspects of the BPS Code of Conduct <u>in school</u>, on school sponsored <u>activities</u>, and on their way to and from school (including the school <u>bus</u>, bus stop, and walking).

- A student may lose specific school privileges by violating the BPS Code of Conduct.
- Denial of Transportation: If a student endangers their own safety or the safety of others while
 on a school bus or public transit, the principal may deny school-provided transportation to
 the student.
- Succeed Boston: A BPS program that serves students who have violated the most serious BPS Code of Conduct infractions. While progressive measures are always recommended, repeated serious violations of the Code result in referral to Succeed Boston which can include day-long and multi-day workshops.
- Progressive Discipline: According to the BPS Code of Conduct, progressive discipline and consequences aim to address the causes of misbehavior, resolve conflicts, meet students' needs, and keep students in school. Progressive discipline and consequences can include: alternative lunch and/or recess, time problem-solving away from impacted peers, loss of technology/material, behavior contracts, family meetings, etc.
- Suspensions: According the BPS Code of Conduct a student *may be* suspended for specific serious offenses including: endangering the physical safety or mental/emotional health of another by use of threats of force communicated by any means, including by technology (including hazing, graffiti, bullying, and cyberbullying); violating the civil rights of others, sexually harassing another person, using racial or ethnic slurs or obscene language, breaking the rules for acceptable use of email and the Internet, and/or disrupting school or classroom activity, including unauthorized use of cell phones.







BOSTON To view the BPS Code of Conduct go to: https://shorturl.at/5hC5i

Key Boston Public School Policies for the Safety & Wellbeing of Our Community

Bullying, Bias-Based Behaviors, & Sexual Misconduct are violations of the BPS Code of Conduct.

<u>Bullying</u> is the repeated use by one or more students or by a member of school staff including, but not limited to, an

educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, advisor to an extracurricular activity, or paraprofessional of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

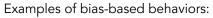
- causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property
- places the target in reasonable fear of harm to themselves or of damage to their property
- creates a hostile environment at school for the target
- infringes on the rights of the target at school
- materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Note: Cyber-bullying is bullying through the use of technology or any electronic means. This includes both the creation of a social media post, web page, blog, or profile in which the creator impersonates another person or the distribution or posting of information online if these acts create any of the conditions listed above.



<u>Reporting Allegations of Bullying</u>: You may report allegations to any BPS Staff or centrally to BPS at 617-592-2378 (staffed 24/7 by trained counselors). The Roger Clap Social Worker, along with the Principal, is responsible for completing the Bullying Investigation and informing families of the outcome of the investigation.

<u>Bias-based behavior</u> is when someone treats a student or staff member differently or makes an offensive comment because of their membership in a protected group, such as their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.



- Using a slur or insult towards a student or their family based on their membership in a protected group;
- Telling rude jokes that mock a protected group in person or through any electronic device;
- Not allowing students to participate in an activity because of their membership in a protected group;
- Disciplining a student more often or more harshly because of their membership in a protected group;
- Posting pictures of a student that make fun of them for being part of a protected group;
- Imitating someone with any kind of disability, or imitating someone's cultural norm or language.



Reporting Allegations of Bias-Based Behavior: Contact the Office of Equity for assistance at 617-635-9650 or via email at bpsequity@bostonpublicschools.org.



<u>Sexual misconduct</u> includes sexually inappropriate comments and/or behaviors of any kind, such as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature toward a student by another student, or by a staff member, volunteer, or other adult. Behavior that occurs outside of school may still constitute sexual misconduct and a violation of district policy if that behavior disrupts a student's ability to learn. Sexual misconduct may include any sexual comment, image, video, or activity. The conduct is more serious if it is unwelcome, coerced, or forced, or if the student is too young to consent or has a disability that may be a barrier to the ability to consent. Sexual misconduct may even be a crime.



Reporting Allegation of Sexual Misconduct: A student, parent, staff member, or other third party who believes that a student has been subjected to inappropriate sexual conduct may report the incident to the principal or the Office of Equity. School employees are mandatory reporters of possible sexual misconduct toward students. In the Boston Public Schools, reports are made to the Office of Equity (at 617-635-9650 or bpsequity@bostonpublicschools.org).

Visitor, Arrival & Dismissal Safety Procedures

Visitors

We welcome families into our school! Families are an integral part of supporting our community as guests, volunteers, and audience members for celebrations. In order to ensure the safety of our community:

- All visitors MUST sign into the office immediately upon entering the school.
- All visitors will receive a <u>Roger Clap</u> <u>Nametag</u> so that staff know they have checked in the office.
- Visitors can not be in a classroom without checking in the office. A member of the office will escort the visitor to the specific space if a visit was previously arranged.
- Visitors can arrange to be a guest in a classroom by calling the school/staff member ahead of time.

If a family is interested in speaking directly with a specific staff member, please call the school ahead of time to ensure the staff member is available for a meeting.

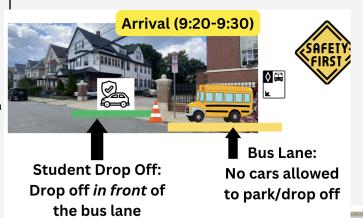


NOTICE
ALL VISITORS
MUST REPORT TO
SCHOOL OFFICE

Arrival (9:20-9:30)

In order to ensure a safe and respectful arrival please review:

- Cars may NOT stop in the middle of Harvest St. to have their child hop out of the car. Cars MUST be in park for their child to exit the vehicle.
- Cars MAY pull up to the space between the orange cones above the bus lane (the entrance to the parking lot) to drop off their students.
- If a family member is entering the building, they must check in with the office staff if they have a prior appointment to visit a classroom. The family member will wait in the office until an office staff member can escort them to the classroom.

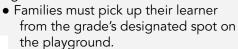


Dismissal (4:00-4:20)

In order to ensure a safe and respectful dismissal, please review the following:



• The staff member will have a clipboard with the child's name and the family must sign out their child.



- Students will not use the playground until dismissal has ended at 4:20.
- Cars may NOT stop in the middle of Harvest St. to have their child hop in the car. Cars MUST be parked.

those is need of

accessible parking

- Staff will not escort children to their family's vehicle.
- Please <u>CALL</u> the office to share a dismissal change before 3:00pm.

During inclement weather, families must walk to the playground doors to check out their learner.



No cars allowed

to park/pick up

NEW & Important Resources for Roger Clap & BPS Families

What is the tool?	How will we use it?	How do I access it?
This is replacing the Where is My School Bus Tracker for BPS Transportation	 Quickly learn your child's bus route & information Get notified of changes Track your child's rides Communicate with BPS transportation Upload a photo so the driver knows your child 	 Download the (free) Zum app in the Apple/Google Play store Sign in with your phone number, email address, and select "Roger Clap"*
Talking Points This is replacing Class Dojo.	 Communicate with all staff at the Clap Translates into preferred language Receive photos & videos of your learner Learn whole school updates 	 Download the (free) TalkingPoints Family app in the Apple/Google Play store Sign in with your phone number.*
ParentSquare	• Receive Boston Public School Updates If you do NOT want to receive emails & text messages, please download this app to receive district communication through the app.	 Download the (free) Parent Square app in the Apple/Google Play store Sign in with your phone number or email address.*
Roger Clap Website	 Check out upcoming school events Help fundraise for the school Read the weekly newsletter 	• rogerclapelementary.org

^{*}If you are prompted for a class code or receive an error in downloading, it means that the phone number or email address you are using is not linked to the student's contact information that BPS/Clap have on file. *Please call the Clap to update this information.*

Roger Clap Staff List - 2024-2025 School Year

To reach our staff please call the main office at: 617-635-8672

reach our stair please can the main onice at: 617-655-6672		
Staff		
Andria Headley & Roberta Udoh		
Adena Prince, Farah Wong*, & Ulana Ainsworth		
Clara Lucien*, Khyle Parke, & Peyton Costa		
Caroline Ambris, Clara Lucien*, & Erin Rua		
Dania Lezama, Iram Akhtar & Kenneth Rosenthal*		
Gabby Boyd, Tamia Daniel & New Hire*		
Fleming Barrows-Akers, Jennifer Teixeira, & New Hire*		
Derek Roman, Katherine Hepburn, Malik Wallace, & Sarah Moore*		
Connie Cummings (Art) Maralene Zwarich (PE & Health Education) Dean Martin (3-6 Science) Keshia Koech (Librarian)		
Clara Lucien, Farah Wong, Kenneth Rosenthal, Sarah Moore, & New Hire		
Sarah Moore (Special Education Coordinator) Brittany Duke (Home for Little Wanderers - School Based Clinician) Elizabeth Barros Centeio (Nurse) Susan Lovett (Social Worker)		
Ana Moreta (Cafeteria Manager) Latoya Strickland (Kitchen Support) Judsdelle Saintilus (Kitchen Support) Myra Matthew (Lunch Monitor) Griselda Lara (Lunch Monitor)		
ABA - Southshore Agency The Clap has not yet received notice regarding who the other related service providers will be.		
Deidre DeGraffenreid (Family Liaison) New Hire (Secretary) Emma Fialka-Feldman (Principal) Genet Mehari (Instructional Coach & K2-Grade 2 Science)		
Eric Shelton (Director) Deidre DeGraffenreid (Site Coordinator) Myra Matthews (Group Leader) Adena Prince (Group Leader)		
Brendan McIntosh (Daytime Custodian) Eduarda Paulino-Dearia (Evening Custodian)		

In order to best support the growth of students as scientists, Mr. Martin will increase his time with Grades 3-6. K2-Grade 2 will receive more science instruction as required by the daily curriculum. K2-Grade 2 students will rotate between an additional Art, Health & Science course (1 each term) during the year.