



# RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

400 Main Street  
New Eagle, PA 15067

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*Superintendent of Schools*

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Monday, August 22, 2022

Dear Ringgold School District Families:

A new school year is upon us which presents opportunities for new beginnings – new classes, new faces, new challenges, and new goals.

In that spirit the District is embarking on several new initiatives related to reading, project-based learning, helping our students build leadership and 21<sup>st</sup>-century learning skills, and working together with you to create cultures of high-trust in all of our school buildings. There will be much more coming out about these initiatives throughout the year but if you have any immediate questions we invite you to mark your calendars, bring your questions, and join us for one or more of our in-person Back-to-School Nights:

## 1. Back to School Nights

Aug. 22	Aug. 23	Aug. 24	Aug. 25
Kindergarten Orientation 6:00–7:00pm	Elem. Back to School Night 6:00–7:30 pm	RMS 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation 5:00–6:00 pm	RHS 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation 5:30–6:30 pm
RESS & RESN Campuses	RESS & RESN Back to School Night All families are invited to attend	Back to School Night 6:00–7:30pm All families are invited to attend	Back to School Night 6:30– 8:00pm All families are invited to attend

We have two other important notices that we want to make you aware of as we attempt to make this a year of “a return to normalcy.”

## 2. There is a new policy regarding cell phone/smart phone /electronic device usage within the Ringgold School District that is being enacted for the 2022-23 school year.

Recent national statistics show that approximately 20% of cyberbullying incidents occur over cell phones during the school day, as do the orchestration of fights. As many of you know, the Ringgold School District was not exempt from these kinds of occurrences last year. The Ringgold Police Department documented 56 criminal incidents in the last school year where students used cell phone communication with fellow students to plan fights, harass other students, coordinate vaping “gatherings” in school bathrooms, vandalize property and commit other criminal mischief. In an effort to curb this trend, a new electronic device policy has been enacted for the 2022-2023 school year.

*~ Preparing students today for the challenges of tomorrow ~*

## Ringgold's New Electronic Device Policy

The Ringgold School District Board of Directors has adopted a policy regarding cell phone/smart phone/electronic devices which **prohibits their usage by students during the day in school buildings**, on District property, and on school buses or other forms of District transportation.

Exceptions to this policy exist when **District provided** electronic devices are being used for classroom instruction under teacher supervision or if they are mandated under a student's IEP or 504 Service Agreements.

Penalties for violating this policy are as follows:

- **First offense:** A phone conference will be held with the parent/guardian, a verbal warning will be issued, and upon completion of the conference, the electronic device will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.
- **Second offense:** A phone conference will be held with the parent/guardian, a detention will be issued, and the electronic device will be returned only to a parent/guardian. Students will not be permitted to retrieve their own electronic device.
- **Any subsequent offenses:** A phone conference will be held with the parent/guardian, a detention will be issued, and the electronic device will be submitted daily to the office as determined through a conference between administration and the parent/guardian.

Full details on this policy can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

### 3. Health, Safety and COVID-19 Protocols

While our region is in a much better situation regarding COVID-19 than the past two years, the risk of contracting COVID-19 still exists. Under state law, each Pennsylvania school district must create and submit a Health & Safety Plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the 2022-2023 school year.

Our plan can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

It is important to note that our District will monitor state and national data coming from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and update our Health & Safety Plan when necessary.

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We look forward to a fresh start in a new school year and hope that you will continue to support us in our efforts to make Ringgold schools safe, peaceful, and productive learning environments. Thank you, and welcome back.

Sincerely,

*Randall Skrinjorich*

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