

RWMS



Students & Parents - Please review the contents in this handbook:

Student signature: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Dear Students:

I would like to welcome you to Ron Watson Middle School. I am looking forward to assisting you in filling your educational goals. You can benefit from everything Ron Watson Middle School has to offer by being actively involved in your classes and the programs offered. If you encounter difficulties, seek out any of our trained professionals, and we will do our best to help you. We are all here to make your years in middle school as successful, yet educationally challenging, as possible. We welcome the opportunity to help you as you proceed through your middle school career.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Franklin

Vision

Our vision at Ron Watson Middle School is to foster a learning community where all students will achieve academic success while becoming citizens of strong positive character.

Mission

We are devoted to implementing challenging curriculums and programs, which ensure student success.

We are dedicated to creating a climate, which encourages student leadership, parental involvement, and community partnerships.

We are committed to integrating and modeling character building life skills and lifelong learning.

Goals

We will use current data, assessments, and practices to refine our academic programs and increase the number of students reaching and exceeding grade level standards.

We will continue to strive for better communication with parents through our school webpage, quarterly progress reports and report cards, parental access to student grades on-line, notes, phone calls and conferences. We will develop opportunities for student involvement before, during, and after school. We will continue to develop our school wide character education plan.

**RON WATSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
BELL SCHEDULE 2023-2024**

<i>Regular Schedule</i>		
1 st Period	8:40 – 9:37	57 minutes
2 nd Period	9:40 – 10:30	50 minutes
3 rd Period	10:33 – 11:23	50 minutes
1 st Lunch & 4 th Period	11:23 – 12:16	53 minutes
4 th Per. & 2 nd Lunch	11:23 – 12:16	53 minutes
4 th Per. & 3 rd Lunch	11:26 – 12:46	80 minutes
5 th Period 7 th & 8 th Gr	12:16 – 1:06	50 minutes
5 th Period 6 th Grade	12:46– 1:09	50 minutes
6 th Period	1:09 – 1:59	50 minutes
7 th Period	2:02 – 2:52	50 minutes
8 th Period	2:55 – 3:45	50 minutes

<i>Monday Schedule</i>		
1 st Period	8:35 – 9:25	45 minutes
2 nd Period	9:27 – 10:07	40 minutes
3 rd Period	10:09 – 10:49	40 minutes
4 th Period 6 th Grade	10:51 – 11:31	40 minutes
4 th & 5 th Per 7 th & 8 th Gr	10:49 -11:41	50 minutes
1 st Lunch 6 th Grade	11:31 – 12:01	30 minutes
5 th & 6 th Per 6 th Grade	12:01 – 12:51	50 minutes
6 th Per. 7 th & 8 th Gr	11:43 – 12:23	40 minutes
2 nd Lunch 7 th & 8 th Gr	12:01 – 12:51	50 minutes
7 th Period	12:53 – 1:33	40 minutes
8 th Period	1:35 – 2:15	40 minutes

YUMA SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

2023-2024 CALENDAR

<u>Quarter 1</u>		<u>Quarter 2</u>	
Aug. 7	First Day of School	Oct. 6-9	Fall Break
Sep. 4	Labor Day	Nov. 9	Progress Report
Sep.7	Progress Report	Nov. 10	Veteran's Day
Oct. 5	End of 1st Quarter	Nov.20-24	Thanksgiving Break
Oct. 10-13	Report Cards/ Parent Conferences	Dec.15	End of 2nd Quarter
		Dec. 18-Jan 5	Winter Break
<u>Quarter 3</u>		<u>Quarter 4</u>	
Jan. 11	2Q Report Cards	Mar. 26-28	3Q Report Cards/Parent Conferences
Jan. 15	MLK Jr. Day	Mar. 29-Apr.5	Spring Break
Feb. 15	Progress Report	Apr.8-26	AzM2 Testing Window
Feb.16	Non-Student Day/ Teacher PD Day	Apr. 25	Progress Report
Feb. 19	President's Day	May 30	Report Cards/Last Day of School
Mar. 8	End of 3rd Quarter		

Parent Signature Page

Dear Parents and Students;

Listed below are the progress report and report card grades Your child will fill out their grades in their homeroom to help them set goals and monitor their grades. Please sign on the appropriate line indicating that you have received and reviewed each report with your child.

First Quarter		Second Quarter	
Progress	Report Card	Progress	Report Card
ELA _____ Lit _____ Sci _____ S.S. _____ Math _____ _____ _____ _____	ELA _____ Lit _____ Sci _____ S.S. _____ Math _____ _____ _____ _____	ELA _____ Lit _____ Sci _____ S.S. _____ Math _____ _____ _____ _____	ELA _____ Lit _____ Sci _____ S.S. _____ Math _____ _____ _____ _____
Parent Signature: _____	Parent Signature: _____	Parent Signature: _____	Parent Signature: _____
Comments: _____	Comments: _____	Comments: _____	Comments: _____
Student Goal Setting for the following grading period.	Student Goal Setting for the following grading period.	Student Goal Setting for the following grading period.	Student Goal Setting for the following grading period.

Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter	
Progress	Report Card	Progress	Report Card
ELA _____ Lit _____ Sci _____ S.S. _____ Math _____ _____ _____ _____	ELA _____ Lit _____ Sci _____ S.S. _____ Math _____ _____ _____ _____	ELA _____ Lit _____ Sci _____ S.S. _____ Math _____ _____ _____ _____	ELA _____ Lit _____ Sci _____ S.S. _____ Math _____ _____ _____ _____
Parent Signature:	Parent Signature:	Parent Signature:	Parent Signature:
Comments:_____	Comments:_____	Comments:_____	Comments:_____
Student Goal Setting for the following grading period.	Student Goal Setting for the following grading period.	Student Goal Setting for the following grading period.	Student Goal Setting for the following grading period.

Quarterly Assessments & Guidelines

Galileo - Predictive Measure of Academic Success

Due to variations in test question difficulty and range of developmental level (DL) scores, students will write number correct, DL score & Proficiency Level for each test.

Math

	Goal	# Correct/ Total	DL	Proficiency Level
AASA				
Test 1				
Test 2				
Test 3				

Reading

	Goal	# Correct/ Total	DL	Proficiency Level
AASA				
Test 1				
Test 2				
Test 3				

Science

	Goal	# Correct/ Total	DL	Proficiency Level
Test 1				
Test 2				
Test 3				

Students: Make a SMART goal for each time you take the Galileo.

	S Specific	M Measurable	A Attainable	R Realistic	T Time Based	How did you do?
Galileo 1						
Galileo 2						
Galileo 3						

Academic Requirements:

Each student will have classes in the core subject areas of Language Arts/English, Math, Social Studies, and Science. Intervention and/or block classes will replace elective classes for students requiring extra assistance to meet grade level standards. English Language Learners not proficient in English will be placed in additional classes to support English Language Development (ELD).

Grading System:

Progress Reports will be sent to parents at the midpoint of each grading period. Conferences are available upon request by calling the Ron Watson office at 502-7400 and scheduling an appointment with your child's teacher(s). Conferences are available for scheduling with the teachers by emailing the teacher or calling.

Production Grade:

Production grades indicate the student's progress toward completion of assignments, tests, and daily work.

A - 100% - 90% **B** - 89% - 80% **C** - 79% - 70%

D - 69% - 60% **F** - 59% - 0%

Textbooks:

Due to the limited number of textbooks in each classroom, books are not available for students to have their own set of books. Students may check out textbook(s) and/or study materials at the end of the school day as long as they make arrangements with the teacher and agree to return them the next day before school starts. Students are responsible for assigned textbooks and will be expected to pay for lost or damaged books. Most assignments will be available on the Chromebook through Google Classroom.

Homework:

Homework is a method of having students practice and reinforces the skills and concepts introduced in the classroom. Students are encouraged to bring a planner to school and document class work and homework assignments in their planner. Parents are encouraged to check their student's planner daily to assure that students complete all needed assignments.

Policies:**Absences and Tardies:**

In accordance with Arizona state law, all children between the ages of six and sixteen years of age must attend school full time until the end of the term in which they become sixteen years of age.

Parents, please notify the school office by 8:15 A.M. each day when a student is absent and will not be in school. Any student returning to school without parental notification of an absence may be subject to disciplinary action. Also, please notify the office and teachers when you have prior knowledge of a student being absent. ***It will be the responsibility of the student to arrange for make-up work.***

Examples of an excused tardy/absence are: personal illness, family emergency, funeral, required court appearances. ***Examples of an unexcused tardy/absence are:*** taking care of an ill family member, baby-sitting, missing the bus, oversleeping, car problems, etc. A student who consistently has unexcused tardies or absences will be subject to disciplinary action and referral to truancy mediation. Absences of more than 2 days due to illness require a doctor's note to keep from being considered for disciplinary action... such as truancy. Any student arriving tardy to school must report to the office to obtain a tardy pass. Students who arrive without prior notice by phone, without a parent or a note from a parent, will receive an unexcused tardy. Students with three or more unexcused tardies will be subject to progressive discipline including referral for ***Truancy Mediation***.

When a child reaches three unexcused absences, ten excused absences, or has established a pattern of tardiness the child and parents may be referred to the County Attorney's Office for Truancy Mediation. Mediation is an attempt to prevent further absenteeism.

Withdrawals: All costs for lost or damaged iPads, iPad equipment, books, property, and cafeteria charges must be paid so that report cards, certificates and records may be forwarded to the new school. The school needs to be notified at least one day prior to the withdrawal date in order to process grades and allow the student to return all school materials and books.

Visitors: It is the obligation of the administration office to maintain a safe campus and to protect the health and welfare of students and staff. All visitors on campus are required to check in at the office and receive a visitor's pass.

Fire Drills and Lock Down Drills:

As a safety measure, fire drills are unannounced but are held regularly during the school year. Lock down drills are also part of our safety procedures and are usually practiced one time each semester. This procedure will be outlined and explained by each teacher.

Mandatory Reporting:

All school employees are **required by law** to report any suspicion of child abuse to the proper authorities. This policy is enforced at RWMS for the welfare of our students.

Positive Behavior Support:

Ron Watson Middle School students will experience the “Way of the Wolf” (WOW) as we implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Students will be expected to follow the “Ways of the Wolf”, which includes:

*Be Responsible *Be Respectful *Be Safe *Be Excellent

Wolf Rewards: To complement the “Way of the Wolf”, Ron Watson Middle School students will receive a “Wolf Rewards Card” each Monday with ten “Wolf Points” on each card. If the student fails to follow the “Way of the Wolf”, they will lose a “Wolf Point”. If a student fails to bring their Wolf Reward Card and needs to have a “Wolf Point” taken away, they will be assigned lunch detention. Also, each time a student loses five “Wolf Points” during the week, they will be assigned a lunch detention. Each day, students with a clean card will get to go to the front of the line in the cafeteria and on Fridays we will a drawing for each grade level with clean cards (no marks) that have been turned in. Also, at the end of each semester, RWMS hosts a rewards celebration for all students who have earned 80% of the “Wolf Points” and have been present at least 90% of the of the available school days.

Wolf Point deductions include: #1 Preparedness, #2 Classroom Disruption, #3 Disrespecting Peers, #4 Refusing to Work, #5 Food/Drinks/Gum, #6 Cheating, #7 Tardy to Class, #8 Inappropriate Language, #9 Public Display of Affection, #10 Dress Code, #11 Cell phone not remaining in backpack, #12 Technology misuse (minor).

Major Discipline Incidents

Continual violations of the Way of the Wolf or other major discipline issues will be handled using the District Discipline Policies and Procedures, which is available on the district website at www.yuma.org

Campus Regulations:

School Hours: School office hours are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. School starts at 8:35 AM. Supervision does not start until 8:05 AM. Students should not arrive on campus before 8:05 AM. Unless enrolled and attending the before school 21st Century program.

Closed Campus: Students are required to stay on campus from the time they arrive in the morning until they have been dismissed. Students are not to leave campus during school hours without parental and school consent. Students who leave campus early must be signed out at the office by a parent/guardian or an authorized adult.

Walkers & Bike Riders: There is no school staff supervision off campus. Parents are responsible to discuss safety and behavior expectations with children who walk or ride bikes to or from school. Students are expected to report directly to their destination within a timely manner.

Bicycles: When arriving on campus, students are to walk their bicycles on the sidewalks to the bike area. Once the bikes are locked, students are to leave the bike area. Any student who rides a bike to and from school must also wear a

helmet according to city ordinance. Students are encouraged to report to their home within a reasonable time after dismissal from school or an activity so that parents are aware of the student's whereabouts. The school assumes no responsibility for damage to or theft of any bicycles. No skates or skateboards are allowed at school.

Care of School Property:

Students are required to take proper care of all of the school buildings, iPads and equipment, books, and other school equipment. The student and his/her parents will be held liable and responsible for payment to replace damaged/missing equipment. (Parents are highly encouraged to take advantage of the iPad insurance option.)

Buses:

Buses are provided as a service of Yuma School District One. Students should be at their designated school bus stop on time and should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to board the bus. While on buses, students should follow the posted rules and obey the directions of the bus driver. Misconduct on school buses may result in the driver being distracted, which can jeopardize the safety of students. Bus misconduct will result in progressive discipline and may include bus suspension.

Prohibited Articles:

Tobacco, alcohol, drugs, inhalants, weapons, skateboards, roller blades, water pistols, markers, chains, laser pens, electronic devices, aerosol containers, and other items considered dangerous or unsafe are not permitted on campus. All food and drink items including energy drinks, caffeinated drinks, cakes, cupcakes, gum, sunflower seeds, candy, sodas, etc. are prohibited except when approved by the administration.

To avoid theft, loss, or damage, students are **NOT** to bring valuable items to school unless such items are part of a class project or assignment. Electronic devices such as cell phones, i-pods, cameras, etc. are prohibited unless a teacher gives special permission for use of such items for a special project or activity. The school is not responsible if such items are lost, damaged or stolen. Prohibited items will be confiscated if found on school premises without specific permission or used inappropriately. A parent will be required to pick the item up at school.

Parking Lot Safety:

The lane closest to the school is the bus lane. Vehicles dropping off or picking up students need to use the drop off/pick up lane between the parking lot and the bus lane. Vehicles need to pull up to the crosswalk area before dropping students off or picking students up. Students need to use the crosswalk when being dropped off or picked up.

Student Services

Cafeteria:

Breakfast is provided free of charge. Student lunches are \$1.50. Please complete a free lunch application every year to qualify for free or reduced lunch. Students may bring lunch from home.

Counseling Services:

The counselor is a source of information, a helper, a friend, an advocate, and someone in whom students can confide. Students may sign up in her office or may ask their teacher for a pass to the counselor's office. As long as their teacher isn't giving a test or the student isn't doing a group project, the teacher will be agreeable to let the student visit with the counselor.

Media Center:

Our school media center will be available for students during lunch, prior to and after school, and also will be used by classes and students throughout the regular school day. Students are expected to respect the rights of others and behave according to school and media rules. Students will be charged for lost or damaged books.

Health Office:

Parents will be notified when illness or injuries occur requiring more than routine first aid. A health aide will conduct mandatory health screenings of vision, hearing, etc. as well as brief health assessments. All medications, including over the counter medicine, is to be kept in the health office. Comprehensive standing orders of a physician and written permission for dispensing medication is required to be kept on file in the nurse's office. If the student has any health concerns or medication needs, we encourage parents to contact the office and arrangements can be made to assure the student receives medication or care as needed.

Telephones:

Each student is responsible for making arrangements for after school commitments. The office telephone is a business telephone and its use is limited to parents and staff members. Students may use a phone with permission for emergencies. Students are expected to be responsible enough to take care of personal affairs before they come to school or after they get home.

Parents need to tell their student in advance of any change in transportation accommodations or appointments and not to rely on the office to relay a message. If for some reason a parent needs to have a message given to a student, the office will make every attempt to make sure that student gets the message. The office understands that an **emergency** is never planned; therefore try to give the office enough time to relay your message to the student.

Student Cell Phones are to remain off and put away during school hours. Phones that ring during class will be taken away and a parent will be required to pick it up.

Solicitation of Fund Raising Projects:

It is not permitted to solicit funds on campus for any purpose without the expressed permission of the principal.

Student Recognition:***Student Recognition:***

Honor Roll with Distinction - (Quarterly) All As with 3s and 4s on report cards.

Honor Roll for Academic Achievement - (Quarterly) All As and Bs with 3s and 4s on the report card.

Principal's Award - Each quarter the homeroom teachers have the opportunity to recognize one student from each class as an outstanding role model.

Perfect Attendance - (Quarterly) No absences and no more than 3 tardies. A student is absent if they miss 1 or more periods in a day.

Assemblies:

Assemblies are scheduled during the year for the benefit of the students. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and respectful manner.

School Dances:

All rules governing the campus apply to the students attending dances. Additional rules and procedures will be issued and distributed to students and parents prior to the activity. Attendance at a school dance is conditional upon student behavior.

Misconduct at school may result in a student not being able to attend a dance.

Students with in-school or out of school suspensions will not be allowed to attend dances or other special activities. All lunch charges and fees must be current as well. A student must be in attendance at school for more than five class periods on the day of the dance to be allowed to attend. **School dress code is enforced.**

Sporting Events and Extracurricular Activities:

All district and school rules apply during extra curricular activities and sporting events. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. Problems may lead to school consequences and suspension from future activities. School dress code is enforced.

Dress Code Policy

Ron Watson Middle School encourages students to take pride in their attire as it relates to the school setting. Students should dress in a manner that, in addition to the following guidelines, takes into consideration the educational environment, safety, health, and welfare of themselves and others.

STUDENTS WILL:

Wear at least 1 inch of fabric on their shoulders (shirts & dresses).

Make sure you are not showing your undergarments or showing cleavage.

Make sure you are not wearing gang-type clothing or clothing advertising:

Drugs, marijuana, tobacco, alcohol, sex or profanity. Pants are not to be sagging or worn below the waist, hips, or buttocks. A student wearing a shirt or pants that are too big or baggy will be asked to tuck in their shirt and put on a belt or cinch their pants with string so that they fit properly. Caps are NOT to be worn inside the buildings. Bracelets with inappropriate words are not allowed.

Make sure that your midriff doesn't show more than 1 inch from the bottom of your shirt to the waist band of the pants. Your shorts, dress, or skirt must be as long as your thumb knuckle when extended down the side of your legs (when your shoulders are not shrugged). The buttocks must be covered. Holes in jeans or shorts must also be covered if they are above the extended thumb knuckle. If you wear a hat or cap to school it is worn forward or backwards only and you do not wear it in the building or play with it during class.

Your clothing and YOU do not advertise or use inappropriate words, cuss words, alcohol, drugs or slang not appropriate for school.

Shoes are worn at ALL times; closed toe shoes are required for PE. Slippers are not allowed.

You may not wear muscle-shirts, see-through clothing, mesh shirts, or pajamas.

You may not have chains, belts or bandannas hanging down and your clothing should be clean and neat.

If you are involved in extracurricular activities such as athletics, band, choir, etc., you are subject to the same standards of dress.

******Any apparel that the administration determines to be unacceptable in light of community standards is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, clothing which offends or disrupts the educational process.**

IF YOU CHOOSE TO BREAK ONE OF THE DRESS CODE RULES, YOU WILL BE SENT TO THE OFFICE TO CHANGE YOUR CLOTHING. THE SCHOOL WILL LOAN THE NECESSARY CLOTHING; THE STUDENT WILL NOT CALL HOME FOR A CHANGE OF CLOTHING. YOU WILL SIGN AN AGREEMENT THAT YOU WILL WASH AND RETURN THE CLOTHING WITHIN 3 DAYS. CONTINUED DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS WILL LEAD TO DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS INCLUDING SUSPENSION.

**The Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
FERPA SETS OUT REQUIREMENTS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE
PRIVACY OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS.**

IN BRIEF, THE LAW REQUIRES A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO:

1. Provide a parent* access to their child's educational records.
2. Provide a parent* an opportunity to seek correction of records he/she believes to be inaccurate or misleading.
3. With some exceptions, obtain the written permission of a parent* before disclosing information contained in the student's educational record.

*The "definition of a parent" as found in the FERPA:

"Parent" includes a parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent of a student in the absence of a parent or guardian. An educational agency or institution may presume the parent has the authority to exercise the rights inherent in the act unless the agency or institution has been provided with evidence that there is a state law or court order governing such matters - divorce, separation or custody, or a legally binding instrument which provides the contrary.

This means that, in the case of divorce or separation, a school district must provide access to both natural parents, custodial and non-custodial, unless there is a legally binding document, that specifically removes the parent's FERPA rights. In this context, a legally binding document is a court order or other legal paper that prohibits access to educational records, or removes the parent's right to have knowledge about his/her child's education.

Custody or other residential arrangements for a child do not by themselves affect the FERPA rights of the child's parents. One can best understand the FERPA position of parent's rights by separating the concept of custody from the concept of rights that the FERPA gave parents. Custody, is a legal concept, establishes where a child will live, and often, the duties of the person(s) with whom the child lives. The FERPA on the other hand, simply establishes the parent's right of access to their child's education records.

Noncustodial parents, with proof they are the natural parent, may inspect and review the education records of their own child unless the school has been provided with evidence that there is a legally binding instrument, or state law, or court order which provides the contrary. The request must be in writing and the school personnel will notify the custodial parent(s).

RON WATSON PARENT POLICY

Ron Watson Middle School recognizes that, in the healthy development of a child, the main influence is first and foremost the parent. Academic success is directly related to parent involvement and communication with the school. The dedicated staff at Ron Watson will strive to provide quality instruction (aligned with the Arizona State Standards) while fostering a safe and nurturing environment. Working together we can provide the best possible educational experience for our students, which in turn will prepare them for future success.

***A partnership established between the parent and school staff necessitates the parent providing timely transportation, appropriate behavior modifications and positive reinforcement of student achievement for the benefit of all students.

***Ron Watson Middle School will work to establish an environment that honors cultural differences and recognizes the special needs of families because they are the keys to welcoming and fostering positive relationships with parents.

***Responsible parenting, the key to maintaining a healthy society, is promoted and supported through the Parent Compact, scheduled parent workshops and various community agencies.

***Two-way communication between the home and school is essential.

Communication should be ongoing, informative and when possible in the native language of the family.

***Parents are encouraged to participate in site council meetings, the Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)--a vital support organization for the school and provide input on program evaluations.

***The homeroom teacher will take responsibility for the enforcement of this policy and the Parent Compact and serve as a guide and mentor for student progression.

STUDENT – SCHOOL – PARENT TITLE 1 COMPACT

Student Agreement:

It is important that I work to the best of my ability; therefore, I shall strive to do the following:

*attend school daily.

*come to school each day with pens, pencils, paper, and other necessary tools for learning.

*complete and return all homework assignments.

*observe regular study hours.

*follow the student rules of conduct.

School Agreement:

As a school, in order to give students every opportunity to be successful, we agree to the following:

*we will offer you a challenging instructional curriculum in a respectful environment.

*we will communicate and work with families to support learning.

*we will notify your parents whenever there is an unusual situation involving you.

*we will respect the cultural differences of students and their families.

Parent/Guardian Agreement:

I want my child to achieve; therefore, I will encourage her/him by doing the following:

*see that my child is punctual and attends school daily.

*support the school in its effort to maintain proper discipline.

*establish a time for homework and review it regular.

*encourage my child's efforts and be available for questions.

*stay aware of what my child is learning by communicating regularly with my child's teachers.

*attend conferences and other school activities involving my child.

Student signature: _____

Teacher signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____