

October 16, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians of Eighth Grade Students,

November is usually the time when we receive many requests from parents and students for information about secondary schools. This letter will explain information and procedures for moving on to high school.

Students can pursue their secondary education in:

- Public high schools ex. Rocky Hill High School (RHHS)
- Career and technical education ex. Vinal Technical High School or Agricultural Science and Technology Education (Middletown High School)
- Magnet high schools ex. Greater Hartford Academy of Math & Science (GHAMAS) or Greater Hartford Academy of Arts (GHAA)
- Private high schools ex. Mercy High School, Xavier High School, Kingswood Oxford School

These options are choices that families study with care before making their decisions. During the months of November and December, it is traditional for private schools to have “open house” opportunities, followed by dates when entrance exams are taken. Private schools typically require extensive applications and testing for admission. It is the responsibility of the parents to obtain the necessary information from these institutions. We will assist you by completing the sections of the application related to us. Recommendations completed by teachers, counselors, and/or administrators are sent directly to the respective schools.

The career and technical schools require applications, and hold open houses in October or November. These applications are available to the students in the guidance office or, for some schools, online.

The magnet schools require parent and student meetings or attendance at an open house, and online applications. The openings for these schools are limited and students are chosen by lottery. For more information on magnet school choices and open house dates, please visit <http://www.crec.org/schools/magnet.php>

The staff at RHHS will host an orientation for eighth grade parents on January 24 (snow date – January 29) at RHHS. We encourage you to attend to learn about the curriculum and programs available to your children right here at home. In addition to the advanced placement classes and the many other opportunities RHHS students presently enjoy, a program called Project Lead the Way (PLTW) has also been established. PLTW is geared toward students who have an interest in engineering and allows them to earn college credits for some of the courses. You will receive information regarding the orientation via School Messenger. For more information about RHHS please visit <https://rhhs.rockyhillps.com/>

If there are questions or concerns you have as your children move on to the next level in their education, please contact your child's school counselor, Mrs. Lentini for the Royal Team and Mrs. Brockel for the Blue Team. We will do our best to provide you with the answers you need.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Lentini
School Counselor

Lisa Brockel
School Counselor