



Summer Newsletter - 2025 - 2026

Welcome Back Terriers!

Dear RHHS Families,

Welcome to a new school year! Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning after a restful and fun-filled summer, I'm thrilled to welcome you to what promises to be another meaningful year at Rocky Hill High School.



There's something truly special about the first day of school.

Regardless of age or grade whether you're a first grader or a senior in high school that sense of excitement, anticipation, and even a little nervous energy is clearly felt. That feeling never gets old. I know our dedicated teachers and staff are just as eager as the students to begin another year.

One of my favorite traditions each year is standing outside the courtyard on the first day of school, watching students arrive with backpacks in hand, parents dropping off their child, the roar of the buses, faces smiling, laughter and the loud chatter in the air. While there's always a mix of excitement and trepidation, it's clear they can't wait to get to period 1.

Over the summer, our administrative team has been hard at work refining programs, strengthening course offerings, and laying the groundwork for a successful school year. We've been intentional in our planning to ensure that our students have access to rigorous academics, supportive services, and a wide range of extracurricular opportunities.

In this edition of the "Summer" newsletter, you'll find important information to help you and your child prepare for the year ahead including scheduling updates, key dates, academic reminders, athletics, contact details, updates to the student handbook, and more. Please take some time to

read through this together with your child.

As we get ready for this four-year journey together, I encourage you to join your child every step of the way. This includes talking to them daily about school, staying connected with their teachers, checking PowerSchool regularly, encouraging them to get involved in school activities, and supporting the things they're passionate about. They may not always say it but they absolutely notice when you're there.

From the school's side, I commit to keeping you informed and engaged through clear, timely communication. We'll continue sharing updates via the Principal's Monthly Newsletter, School Messenger, direct mailings, our new communication platform *ParentSquare*, and of course, the Rocky Hill Public Schools website: www.rockyhillps.com. There, you'll also find valuable information, including district and school goals, improvement plans, and much more.

We look forward to reconnecting and celebrating with you at these upcoming events:

- **First Day of School:** August 28
- **Open House:** September 11

Wishing you and your family a joyful, inspiring, and successful start to the 2025–26 school year.

Best,
John Fote, Principal

First Day of School

First day of School

On the first day of school RHHS will run a modified school day in order to take care of the necessary policies, procedures and correspondence to have a productive school year. Students will begin the day off in a school wide assembly by grade level in which school administrators will review the details students need to know to be productive members academically, behaviorally and socially in the Terrier community. Simultaneously, students will be reviewing the student handbook highlights with their advisor. Parents are strongly encouraged to review the student-parent handbook and sign off on all correspondence that RHHS needs to be completed within the first 10 days of school.

Below are important documents to review with your child.

- [First Day of School Schedule](#)
- **Student Handbook - (Available August 25)**
- [Program of Studies](#)
- [Attendance Policy_\(RHBOE\)](#)
- [Breakfast and Lunch Information](#)
- **Bus Routes - (Available on RHPS website)**
- [Health Forms](#) - [Records of Immunizations](#) (All Students must submit completed Health Forms in order to start school.)
- [Free and Reduced Lunch Form](#)



- [My Payments Plus](#) - Please read information below regarding accessing an account for your child below in the newsletter.
- [Loss of Credit Appeals Form](#)
- [Academic Honesty](#)
- **School Safety Letter to Parents** - [English](#) [Spanish](#)

Additional forms are available on the RHHS website ([School Forms](#)).

Senior Year Details to Know


Senior Year Details to Know

- [Student Parking](#) - Senior students may park in the student parking lot closest to the tennis courts. Seniors should complete parking forms which are available in the main office on day one of school and return to the main office in order to be eligible for a parking spot and parking sticker. Do not wait as there are limited spots.
- [Early Dismissal/Late Arrival Form](#)
- [Community Service Form](#)

Bell Schedule

Bell Schedule

Please note we run a 9 period day with 4 lunch waves. We have 4 types of schedules that we run at RHHS.

 ROCKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE 2025-26				
Periods (1 - 9)	Regular Schedule	Early Dismissal	Late Opening	Advisory
Period 1	7:35-8:16	7:35-7:57	9:35-10:03	7:35-8:13
Period 2	8:20-9:01	8:01-8:23	10:07-10:35	8:17-8:55
Homeroom	9:05-9:10	8:27-8:32	10:39-10:44	8:59-9:31
Period 3	9:14-9:55	8:36-8:58	10:48-11:16	9:35-10:13
Period 4	9:59-10:40	9:02-9:24	11:20-11:48	10:17-10:55
Period 5	10:44-11:25	9:28-9:50	11:52-12:20	10:59-11:37
Period 6	11:29-12:10	9:54-10:15	12:24-12:52	11:41-12:19
Period 7	12:14-12:55	10:19-10:40	12:56-1:23	12:23-1:01
Period 8	12:59-1:40	10:44-11:05	1:27-1:54	1:05-1:43
Period 9	1:44-2:25	11:09-11:30	1:58-2:25	1:47-2:25

Back to School Night

Open House - September 11, 2025

Save the Date!

RHHS will hold Open House on the evening of Thursday, September 11th beginning at 5:30 p.m. Parents and guardians should report to the auditorium at 5:30 p.m. for opening remarks and a review of the agenda for the evening. You will receive your child's schedule in homeroom. Homerooms will be posted in the main hallway or you may ask your child. Additional details will be provided to families via School Messenger/PowerSchool. **At 5:00 p.m. Senior parents are**



invited to attend an informational session administered by the school's guidance team in the multipurpose room.

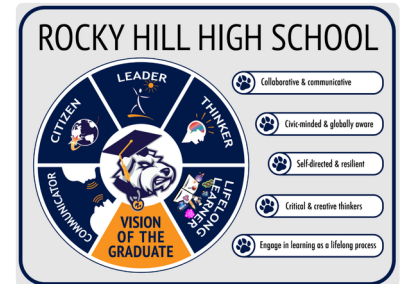
Vision of the Graduate

Vision of the Graduate

Rocky Hill High School's promise is to deliver the very best education that prepares students to achieve their own individual excellence. Within an emotionally safe environment, educators will foster students' academic, social and personal growth.

We believe Rocky Hill graduates are:

- Leaders
- Life Long Learners
- Communicators
- Civic minded citizens
- Thinkers



School Profile

School Profile 2025-26

School Profile

Rocky Hill High School is the pride of the community. Please take a moment to view the RHHS school profile on the RHHS website.



Graduation Requirements

Graduation Requirements

Graduation takes place every year for all students that are able to satisfy all RHBOE requirements over the duration of their high school career. In order to meet graduation requirements, students will need 25 course credits and 50 hours of community service by the end of their senior year. A complete breakdown can be reviewed on the RHHS website and/or



Terrier Pride

Terrier Pride!

The RHHS student handbook is written for our students and their parents. It contains required and useful information. The material covered within this student handbook is intended as a method of communicating to students and parents regarding general district information, rules and procedures. Both students and parents need to be familiar with the student handbook which is intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere conducive for learning. The student handbook is designed to be in alignment with the Rocky Hill Board of Education policies. Please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy that affect portions of the student handbook will be communicated by school administration. Please see the 2025-2026 RHHS Student Handbook on the RHHS website.



Below are details to know for the upcoming school year:

ACCEPTANCE: Regardless of race, creed, background, or beliefs the Rocky Hill High School community is committed to being a place where everyone, whether a student or staff member, is to be accepted as part of a vibrant, positive and welcoming environment. Being kind and nice represents our school climate.

ATTENDANCE: Research indicates student success in schools is strongly correlated to consistent attendance. Unless your child is under the weather, we encourage students to attend school consistently. The attendance policy is located in the RHHS Student Handbook. When your child will be absent for the day, the preferred method of reporting the absence is to access PowerSchool and indicate the reason for your child's absence. This should be done prior to 7:30 a.m. The advantage of reporting via PowerSchool is that the parent does not need to send in any additional correspondence for absences one (1) thru nine (9). However, absences ten (10+) and more require the appropriate medical documentation to be excused. The RHHS Student Handbook has more detailed information regarding excused and unexcused absences.

CREDIT LOSS: Seat time equals learning time. In order for students to pass a course and earn credit towards graduation they must be present. Students will lose credit for excessive absences. In a full year (1.0) course a student will lose credit on the 17th absence; in a semester course (.50) a student will lose course credit on the 9th absence. Potential credit loss information will be shared with the student and parent. Credit recovery sessions are scheduled on Saturdays only when the Attendance Committee has offered credit recovery sessions as an option.

TIMELINESS: *Early is on time, on time is late!*

At 7:15 a.m. the doors to RHHS will open for students to enter the building. Upon entering the school all students must scan into the school using their RHHS student ID. The first period class

begins at 7:35 a.m. The school doors are locked at 7:30 a.m. Students tardy to period 1 will receive warnings (5 warnings per quarter) and then school disciplinary consequences will be issued on the sixth (6th) and subsequent tardies to school. Please encourage your child the importance of being on time and punctual.

MORNING DROP OFF: The traffic around the high school builds up due to the combination of buses, student drivers, staff members arriving to work, and families choosing to drop off their student. School administration encourages students and families to take advantage of the bus transportation provided by the district. Bus students arrive to RHHS and are dropped off at 7:15 a.m. in the bus loop in the back of the building. (NO CARS ARE PERMITTED!) To ensure students arriving to their first period class on time, I ask all parents dropping their child off to access Chapin Avenue and using the drop off lane. RHHS senior drivers will have assigned parking spots and access the student parking lot only. Teachers will park in the teacher designated lot.

CELL PHONES: Though we live in a digital age, it is important to emphasize the importance of time and place regarding cell phone use. Students are allowed to have a cell phone and use it during passing times or in common areas. Cell phones are to be placed in classroom cell phone pockets upon arriving to class. Refusal to follow school policy may result in confiscation of the device and a parent pickup of the device. Complete disregard for the policy may result in additional disciplinary action by school administration. Students are not allowed to make face time or traditional calls. The majority of our teachers plan lessons and activities requiring students to use their Chromebooks which reduces/eliminates the need to access cell phones during instructional time. I respectfully ask all parents/guardians to partner with the school in reinforcing this message with their children so that our students' attention can be focused on classroom lessons and activities. Lastly, taking photos or the video recording of other students and/or staff is prohibited and violates school policy. Furthermore, sending images, photos or videos where it mocks any other student or school personnel or is posted that is hurtful in nature violates the student code of conduct and may lead to school disciplinary action including possible expulsion and arrest.

RESPECT FOR PROPERTY: Our school is maintained and cleaned with the intent of providing the best possible environment for our students to learn. We ask that all facility structures, physical property, and the property of others be respected by all members of the school community. We further ask our students to secure their belongings in hallway, PE, and/or team lockers by using a lock.

DRESS CODE: RHHS expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or for any school sponsored event. The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). The school's responsibility for seeing that student attire does not interfere with the health and/or safety of any student. Any restriction to the way a student dresses must be necessary to support the overall educational goals of the school. To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently using the requirements per the policy adopted by the RHBOE. In situations where the dress code is in violation the student will always have an opportunity to improve his/her outfit before being dismissed for the school day.

NO HEAD PHONES OR EAR BUDS: Students are NOT PERMITTED to bring earbuds or headphones to school or use them during the school day. These items will be confiscated by school

administration and only be given back to a parent/guardian who picks them up.

STUDENT ID: Students are required to wear his/her student ID around their neck at all times. In the event a student does not have his/her ID the student must obtain a replacement ID in order for the student to enter the building. The student ID will be made by the main office staff and a \$5.00 accountability fee will be imposed each and every time a student cannot present his/her ID. Keep in mind the student ID is used for a variety of purposes throughout the school day.

MAKE UP WORK: Students are allowed to makeup work missed due to a class or school absence unless the absence is unexcused (class cut). Students are allowed one day for every day missed unless there are special circumstances and/or agreement has been made by teacher and student.

School Counselors/Guidance

School Counselors/Guidance Office

We recommend you getting to know your school counselor as they are important to your academic journey at RHHS. School Counselors have planned time scheduled with each grade level including one-on-one meetings. School counselors support the use of Naviance in all areas of planning for post secondary opportunities and they invite you to review the [Naviance website](#) with your child. Any questions please contact the school counseling department at 860-258-7724. The counselors names and assignments are as follows.



Students with the last names ending:

Class of 2026 - 2027, 2029, Mrs. Notarangelo A - D

Class of 2026 - 2027, 2029, Mrs. Carbutti E - K

Class of 2026 - 2027, 2029, Mrs. Bikowski L - Rf

Class of 2026 - 2027, 2029, Mrs. Russell Rg - Z

Class of 2028, Mrs. Notarangelo A - F

Class of 2028, Mrs. Carbutti G - L

Class of 2028, Mrs. Bikowski M - Per

Class of 2028, Mrs. Russell Pet - Z

Nurses Office

Nurses Office

Mrs. Renee Garrahy, RHHS school nurse supervisor, is responsible for maximizing the health and well-being of our school-aged children and adolescents. Nurses provide routine and emergency

health care for students and maintain student health records while ensuring compliance with regulations regarding immunizations, physical assessments, screenings, record keeping, and privacy mandates. School nurses also oversee the administration and documentation of prescribed medications. Nurses discuss health concerns with students and parents and consult with physicians of students who have health concerns. All student health information is kept confidential. If you have a need to speak to the school nurse regarding your child's health we recommend you do so as early as possible.



[2025-26 Health & Safety Letter from Mrs. Garrahy](#)

Athletics

Athletics (Fall Registration Information)

RHHS Athletics has a strong history and tradition. Moreover, we know the value athletics has on one's high school experience and we encourage students to participate every season. The first step in being eligible to play includes meeting academic requirements, follow the student code of conduct and be willing to put the time and effort in to be a Terrier athlete.

NOTHING EASY.



Registration information is below:

Here are important reminders that must be completed to participate in any sport:

1. All sports tryouts will be published before each season on the Athletics Page of the Rocky Hill High School Website. Individual sport practice times and locations will be determined and communicated by our head coaches.
2. All student-athletes must have an current valid [sports physical \(form\)](#) and it must be on file with our nurse, Renee Garrahy, prior to the first tryout date. Physicals are valid for 13 months after the examination date.
3. All players may be required to complete neurocognitive concussion testing, which will be coordinated with each head coach by our Athletic Trainer and School Nurse.
4. Athletic registration can be found on our Rocky Hill High School website. You may register for all three seasons at once. To register, find the link entitled "Athletic Registration" which is located halfway down the RHHS website <https://rhhs.rockyhillps.com>. Sign up deadline is available on the RHHS website.
5. There will be further meetings with our coaches, who will be able to give a more in-depth overview of their programs and answer any questions that may arise. Contact information for fall head coaches can be found below on this page. It is the responsibility of the parents and student-athletes to check the school website and their personal school email throughout the summer for information in regards to their sport.

There is a sports information meeting for parents that is conducted by the Athletic Director, Mr. Daniel Trudeau. We strongly encourage parents to attend as he will cover pertinent information for

your child's sport season including NCAA requirements. See the website or email Mr. Trudeau for more information.

Fall Athletics Tryout Information

Fall Athletics Tryout Information

▶ Athletics Live Feed

First and foremost, all student-athletes need a blue card to be eligible to participate on day of tryouts/practice. The blue card is your ticket into practice and the way the coaches know that you have submitted all paperwork including parent/guardian sign off to play and updated physical. The Athletic Office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Start Dates for Fall sports

All other questions can be directed to the Athletic Director, Mr. Daniel Trudeau at trudeaud@rockyhillps.com.

RHHS Clubs and Activities

RHHS Clubs and Activities

RHHS is proud of the selection of clubs and extracurricular activities it has to offer students. With over 30+ clubs and activities opportunities students are able to be part of the RHHS school community through their interests, hobbies and activities. Student participation is strongly encouraged as RHHS clubs and activities remain a vital part of RHHS overall experience and meeting new friends. Students who have a strong desire to start up a new club or activity are encouraged to do as long as they complete an application and have a staff member who is willing to supervise the club or activity. [Clubs and Activities Listing](#)



Welcome Class of 2029

Welcome Class of 2029

Freshman Orientation will be held on August 22nd at RHHS from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The agenda for the morning includes familiarizing the newest class to RHHS. Please have your child bring their Chromebook and charger in order to exchange their



device for a new one. Welcome again, as you are officially a TERRIER!

Powerschool

Powerschool

PowerSchool is an important mode of communication at RHHS and it allows parents/guardians access to real time information regarding their child. For first-time users, you will need to create an account. For returning users, school administration recommends viewing and updating household information, contact information and cellphone/text options. Detailed instructions can be accessed on the district website, PowerSchool Information. Parents can access the Parental Portal by accessing this [link](#).



PowerSchool

ParentSquare

ParentSquare (New)



ParentSquare

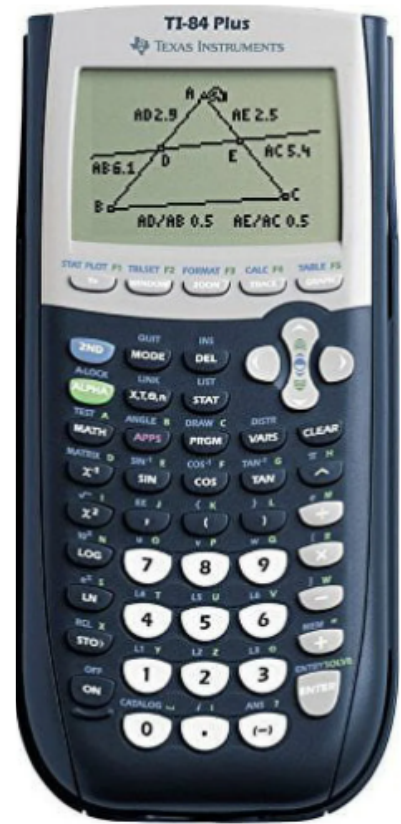
We're excited to introduce ParentSquare as our new communication platform. ParentSquare will be used to share important updates, news, events, and notifications from your child's school, teachers, and district, all in one convenient place. In August and September, we will continue using School Messenger while also beginning to send messages through ParentSquare. However, beginning in October, we will fully transition to ParentSquare as our primary communication tool.

In the meantime, we ask that you check your contact information in PowerSchool and make sure it's up to date so you don't miss your invitation or any communications. Once you receive information on ParentSquare we ask that you follow the directions to register. Invitations will be sent to the email address and phone number listed in PowerSchool. Alternatively, you can use the [flyer](#) we've created, which includes key details and a QR code for quick registration.

Math

Math Information

All students enrolled in a math class are advised to purchase a Texas Instruments graphing calculator for use in class and at home. The math department recommends the TI-84 Plus model which has superior functionality. Most large department stores sell these calculators, as well as online sites. A benefit to your child owning his/her own graphing calculator is that he/she can use it on the entire math section of the SAT.



Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Information

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Information

Signups for parents to be part of the Parent Advisory Council will be taken on Open House and/or by emailing the high school principal at fotej@rockyhillps.com. Meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month virtually. The purpose of the RHHS PAC is to create and maintain a strong school to family/community partnership.

Senior Portraits

Senior Portraits

We are very excited and pleased to announce that the Class of 2026 seniors will be photographed by Legacy Studios for a yearbook portrait this summer. The remaining senior portrait dates on the Rocky Hill campus are listed below. Make sure you keep your appointment times.

- August 26-28
- September 23, 24
- October 17
- November 4
- November 25



Seniors can visit the Legacy, Cheshire studio in August and every weekend in the Fall if that works better.

Bus Information

Bus Transportation



Rocky Hill Public Schools provides transportation in accordance with transportation policies and guidelines. Students are expected to conform to regular standards of behavior while being transported to and from school as outlined in the bus rules and regulations. All students should be at their bus stops at least 10 minutes prior to the bus stop posted time. Morning and afternoon bus drop off/ pick up occurs in the back of the building in the bus loop. Morning and afternoon parent pickup occurs in the front of the school in the drop off lane. Late bus transportation is scheduled daily (Monday through Thursday) at 4:15 p.m. for RHHS students that stay after for extra help, clubs & activities and athletic practices, competition.

Students behavior on the bus, in the interest of safety, must observe rules of good behavior, and be considerate of others. They must be seated immediately and remain seated while the vehicle is in motion. Students misbehaving and failing to abide by regulations may be denied the privilege of riding on school buses either temporarily or permanently. Please see the Board of Education "Policies" section Series 5000 STUDENTS, policy 5780 - Transportation, for more information. The deadline for changing or adding bus stops is determined by the Board of Education. The office of the Director of Special Education and Pupil Services will notify parents of the arrangements for students in special education programs.

Additional Bus Information

All bus stop requests or concerns should be directed to the Board of Education Central Office at 860-258-7701 ext. 31166. New Britain Transportation is Rocky Hill's student transportation provider and the contact phone is 860-828-0511 Ext. 234

My Payments Plus

My Payments Plus

Students will be expected to pay for meals at the time of service. To activate the account for your child, you must deposit money into the account. We encourage students to use their accounts as it allows for less chance of lost lunch money and quicker service at lunch time. Any money left at the end of the school year will carry forward to next school year.

Parents can make deposits to the account by making payments online. Parents register at MyPaymentsplus.com website in order to manage their child's accounts.



Who do I ask?

Who do I ask?

CONCERN: WHOM TO CONTACT

Student performance: Teacher

Curriculum/instruction/grading: Teacher, then School Counselor

Requests for homework: Teacher

Discipline: Principal, Assistant Principal

Attendance: School administration

Medical issues: Nurse

Clubs: Athletic Director

Athletics: Coach, then Athletics Director

Stolen items: Main Office

Lost/Found: Main Office

Personal Concerns: School Counselor, School Psychologist or School Administration

Schedule Problems: School Counselor



John Fote

John is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters