



Terrier Talk

ROCKY HILL

HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to the Rocky Hill High School Principal's newsletter!

Message from the Principal

Dear RHHS Families,

Welcome to the first issue of the Principal's Newsletter, Terrier Talk, for the 2024-2025 school year. Each month the Principal's Newsletter will be sent electronically via School Messenger as a way to communicate all the good things going on at RHHS which will include general information, reminders, updates, announcements and school news. This newsletter will supplement periodic high school communications. For your convenience, these newsletters will also be available on the RHHS website and sent through PowerSchool.



The August issue is dedicated as the "back to school" edition. It contains important details to know for the first day of school and for the school year.

I am excited for the school year to begin and eagerly await the return of our staff, returning students and the new class of 2028. Welcome to the Terrier family and all that RHHS has to offer your child. The high school experience is important and we encourage parents and families to

make the most out of your child's learning experiences at RHHS. Go TERRIERS!

If you have any questions or concerns this school please do not hesitate to contact me at fotej@rockyhillps.com. All my best for a great school year.

Best Regards,

Mr. John Fote, Principal

RHHS Daily Schedule

The RHHS daily schedule includes a 9 period school day.

Bell Schedule

	Regular Schedule	Early Dismissal	Late Opening	Advisory
Period 1	7:55-8:16	7:55-7:57	9:35-10:03	7:35-8:12
Homeroom	8:20-8:25	8:01-8:06	10:07-10:12	8:16-8:57
Period 2	8:29-9:10	8:10-8:32	10:16-10:44	9:01-9:38
Period 3	9:14-9:55	8:36-8:58	10:48-11:16	9:42-10:19
Period 4	9:59-10:40	9:02-9:24	11:20-11:48	10:23-11:00
Period 5	10:44-11:25	9:28-9:50	11:52-12:20	11:04-11:41
Period 6	11:29-12:10	9:54-10:15	12:24-12:52	11:45-12:22
Period 7	12:14-12:55	10:19-10:40	12:56-1:23	12:26-1:03
Period 8	12:59-1:40	10:44-11:05	1:27-1:54	1:07-1:44
Period 9	1:44-2:25	11:09-11:30	1:58-2:25	1:48-2:25

Open House: Save the Date!

RHHS will hold Open House on the evening of **Thursday, September 12th 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.



RHHS 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



During the school year, teachers will be incorporating the Vision of the Graduate attributes in the courses they teach.

School Profile

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

[RHHS School Profile](#)



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.



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 2024-2025 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 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 the RHHS daily absence form. This should be done prior to 7:30 a.m. The advantage of reporting via the google form is that parent does not need to send in any additional correspondence for absences one (1) thru nine (9).

Absences ten (10) and more need the appropriate documentation to be excused. See the student-parent handbook for more details. [RHHS Daily Absence Google Form](#)

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 a student will lose course credit on the 9th absence.

TIMELINESS: 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 and when the tardies become extensive school administration will impose disciplinary consequences. Please encourage your child that being early is on-time and on-time is late.

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, parent pickup and/or disciplinary action. **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 condescending in nature violates the student code of conduct and may lead to school disciplinary action including possible expulsion and arrest. The best text message is the one you child never sends!

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 dress before being dismissed for the school day.

NO HEAD PHONE 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 the result of truancy or class cut. Students are allowed one day for every day missed unless their are special circumstances and/or agreement has been made by teacher and student.

School Counseling Office

We recommend you getting to know your school counselor as they are important to your academic journey at RHHS. The counselors names and assignments are as follows. Any question please contact the school counseling department at 860-258-7724.

Students with the last names ending:

Class of 2025 - 2027, Mrs. Notarangelo A - D

Class of 2025 - 2027, Mrs. Carbutti E - K

Class of 2025 - 2027, Mrs. Bikowski L - Rf

Class of 2025 - 2027, 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



School Health 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, consult with physicians of students who have health concerns, and make home visits to students when needed. All student health information is kept confidential.

Fall Registration Athletics

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.



Winter 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 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 a current valid physical 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> Signups must be done by August 9, 2023 for this Fall Sports Season.
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 will be a Fall Sports Information Meeting for Parents on Wednesday, August 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Fall Athletics (2024) - Start dates, times and locations

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 BLUE CARD can be picked up in the ATHLETIC OFFICE one (1) day prior to the start of your team's first day of practice/tryout. **NO BLUE CARD, NO PLAY.** The Athletic Office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Start Dates for Fall sports

Golf: The first practice will be Tuesday, August 13

Girls Swimming: The first practice will be Monday, August 19, 2:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. at the RHHS Pool. For further information please contact Coach Tefoe at tefoej@rockyhillps.com

Girls Soccer: The first session for all interested soccer players(including freshmen), is Monday, August 19, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the RHHS Turf field. For further information, contact Coach Ann Marie Catania, at annmariedcatania@gmail.com.

Boys Soccer: The first session for all interested candidates (including freshmen), is Monday, August 19, 8:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m., at the RHHS Turf Field. Questions can be directed to Coach Paul Horta at phorta1728@gmail.com.

Football: Pre-season/OTAs start Wednesday, August 14, 4:00 p.m. sharp on the Turf Field. Players need to wear a white tee shirt and rubber-cleated shoes. Questions can be directed to Head Coach Richard Dance at dancer@rockyhillps.com.

Boys and Girls Cross Country: All interested candidates (including freshmen) should report to the RHHS Track on Monday, August 19, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Questions can be directed to Coach Bobrow at bobrowa@rockyhillps.com.

Girls Volleyball: All interested candidates (including freshmen) should report to RHHS Gym for practice/tryouts on Monday, August 19, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Questions can be directed to Coach Bezdelovs at bezdelovssa@rockyhillps.com.

Fall Cheerleading: Practice for all interested candidates (including freshmen) will be Wednesday, August 28, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Report directly to the RHHS Multipurpose Room Questions can be directed to Coach Kerr at kerrh@rockyhillps.com.

All other questions can be directed to the Athletic Director, Mr. Joe Horvath at horvathj@rockyhillps.com

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.



Welcome Class of 2028

Freshman Orientation will be held on August 23rd 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 bring your chromebooks and chargers in order to exchange your device for a new one. Welcome again, as you are officially a TERRIER! Go BLUE and WHITE!



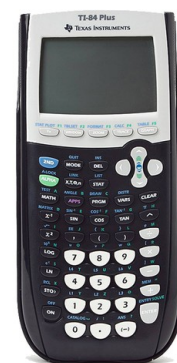
PowerSchool

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](#).



Math Department 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.



Summer Reading

Summer Reading has been a long standing tradition at RHHS. Summer is the perfect time for students to read for enjoyment and appreciate good literature. **Summer Reading is optional and is not part of the required reading Honors, UCONN ECE and AP courses.** This summer, we are encouraging all Rocky Hill High School students to participate in a reading program in which they will:



- Select and read a book(s) of their choice. The Cora J. Belden Library has compiled recommended lists of books derived from many sources: students, teachers, classic literature, bestseller lists, ALA Award-winning titles, etc. These recommendations can be found on-line at www.rockyhilllibrary.info
- Complete the [RHHS Summer Reading](#) Google Form for each book read and submit it. This form can also be accessed through the Guidance Google Classroom.
- Prepare to share responses orally upon returning to school.

The first completed Google Form will qualify the student for attendance at the Principal's Book Club Barbeque and will count as one raffle ticket toward a raffle drawing for prizes. Each subsequent form submission will earn an additional raffle entry.

First Day of School - August 29, 2024



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 as Mr. Malizia reviews 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. The daily school hours are from 7:35 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.; students adhere to a 9 period schedule.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Information

The first meeting of the **Parent Advisory Council** is Monday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m. Meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month virtually. Parents will be able to sign up for virtual meetings at Open House in the Main Office. The purpose of the **RHHS PAC** is to create and maintain a strong school to family/community partnership. Please email any questions regarding PAC to fotej@rockyhillps.com.

Senior Portraits

We are very excited and pleased to announce that the Class of 2025 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 7-9

August 29

September 23

October 15 & 16

November 7 & 8

November 25 & 26

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



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. **AM Morning Bus Drop Off** and **PM**

Afternoon Pick Off occurs in the back of the building in the bus loop. **Late Bus transportation** is scheduled daily (Monday through Thursday) at 4:30 p.m. starting Monday, September 9th for RHHS students that stay after for extra help, clubs & activities and athletic practices, competition.



Safety and Bus Behavior

Students transported, 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.

Special Transportation

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



John Fote

John is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

