

ROCKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

On behalf of the administration, faculty, and staff of Rocky Hill High School, I welcome you to the start of the 2021-2022 school year. I understand you have many questions in regards to the opening of school. Although I do not yet have all of the specifics of what the opening of the school year will look like, it is important for me to provide you with what I know. I hope that the information enclosed answers many of your questions and provides you with useful tips to help your son or daughter have a successful year. The district's Reopening Committee has met over the last few weeks. A few highlights from the meetings include:

- The situation continues to evolve-everyone needs to remain flexible.
- Regardless of vaccination status, masks are mandatory in all PreK-12 public and private schools for students and staff through at least September 30, 2021.
- Vaccinated individuals are no longer required to quarantine following exposure if they remain asymptomatic.
- We will offer in-person instruction only; there will be no remote learning.
- Each school will have a staff member assigned to coordinate and monitor students who are quarantined. These students will still need to complete work while home, but they will not be attending class virtually.
- Both GMS and RHHS will use the A/B block schedule.
- PE and Music - no masks required for outside, but appropriate spacing is required.
- Mask breaks will continue to be permitted outside with appropriate spacing.
- We will enforce the 3W's: wear your mask, watch your distance, wash your hands.
- Teachers will use Google Classroom to post assignments and/or learning activities.
- Visitors will be restricted and virtual parent meetings will continue.
- We will not be holding Open House for 2021-2022.
- We will continue to have traditional snow days, not remote snow days.
- There are no changes to sports and extra-curricular activities at this time.

Please keep in mind all these are subject to change as the CDC, DPH, and BOE assess public health conditions and pertinent data.

Freshman Orientation is scheduled for **Friday, August 27th** from 8:00 - 11:00 AM. We feel it is very important that all incoming 9th graders attend the orientation in order to familiarize themselves with the building, their schedule, and routines of RHHS. Unfortunately, we will **not** have our "Freshman Kickoff Celebration" in the front of the school.

The first day of school for all students is **Thursday, September 2nd**. Students will report to homeroom first to receive a copy of their schedule and to go over many important pieces of information they will need to know. Homeroom lists will be posted in hallways so everyone knows where to start the day. The A/B block schedule is in place for 2021-2022. Periods 1-5 (half of Period 5) will meet on A days and periods 5-9 (half of Period 5) on B days. See attached copy of schedule.

All students are eligible for late arrival/early dismissal with parent permission. If a student has no class scheduled for the first or last period of each day (Periods 1, 5 & 9), they will be allowed to leave campus. A completed late arrival/early dismissal form must be turned in to the main office before a student can start this

"Through high expectations and a challenging curriculum, all students at Rocky Hill High School will become responsible citizens who embrace learning as a lifelong process in an ever-changing world."

privilege. Until they receive approval, students are expected to attend study halls. Students are *not* allowed leave school grounds during any other periods.

Regardless of vaccination status, masks are mandatory in all PreK-12 public and private schools for students and staff through at least September 30, 2021 per Governor Lamont's executive order #13-A. If a student forgets to bring a mask to school, the school will provide a mask to wear. Any student who refuses to wear a mask will be sent home. Again, please reinforce mask wearing when coming to school. Students are not expected to wear masks when actively eating lunch. Teachers will provide outside mask breaks when weather and time permit.

The CIAC recently provided schools with COVID-19 guidance for the 2021 Fall Sports season. They stress the importance of vaccinations as the primary mitigation strategy in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Fully vaccinated students will not need to quarantine from sports or activities following exposure to a confirmed case if they remain asymptomatic. Athletes in outdoor sports do not have to wear masks during outdoor practices, activities, or competition. However, when indoors, including the locker room, weight room, indoor practice, or watching film, then masks must be worn. Indoor athletes, in sports like volleyball, in alignment with current executive orders pertaining to mask requirements in school buildings, must wear masks for practice and competition.

Visitors to the building will be restricted. Parents dropping off items will not be allowed inside the building. If you absolutely need to bring something to the school, come to the front entrance and leave the item on the table in the vestibule. Make sure your child's name is visible. All parent meetings will continue to be conducted virtually.

The student drop-off area is located on the school side of Chapin Avenue and is one way only. Parents dropping off students in the morning should travel south on Chapin Avenue from Parsonage Street in order to keep traffic flowing smoothly. We know parents are in a hurry in the morning, but students must be dropped off in this location – please do not drop off students on the opposite side of the street and have them cross oncoming traffic. Also, parents should not enter the parking lots before the start of the school day or enter through the rear bus entrance. Please remember, the rear of the school is strictly for buses only. It is critical for the safety of our students that we separate bus drop off in the rear of the building and student drop off in the front.

Renee Garrahy is our school nurse. All medical documentation needs to be communicated to her office. She can be reached at 860-258-7620, by fax at 860-258-7646, or by email at garrahy@rockyhillps.com. It is critical that parents and guardians keep their children home if displaying any COVID symptoms or have come into contact with someone who has tested positive. Please notify the school nurse immediately. If your child has been vaccinated, we strongly encourage you to submit documentation to the school nurse, as well as any updated physicals.

In closing, we know this year will have its challenges. As a school, I am confident that we will get through this together. On behalf of the RHHS staff, we are looking forward to having students back in our classrooms. After reading this newsletter, if you have any remaining questions, please feel free to contact me or the main office at (860) 258-7721.

Sincerely,

Mario J. Almeida
Principal



ROCKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL

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STUDENT SCHEDULES

As students were notified last spring, they will not be able to make any changes to their schedule. In rare cases, a change may need to be made due to conflicts – administrative approval must be received in these cases. For all new registrations, please call the guidance department at 258-7724 to make an appointment once they have been cleared by Mr. Kennison, the district's Residency Coordinator.

GRADE 9 INFORMATION

Welcome to the Class of 2025! In addition to the Freshman Orientation, all incoming 9th graders will receive a Freshman Handbook that will provide them with all sorts of helpful information. Their class advisors, Ms. Brzozowski and Ms. Guzman, will also reach out to them.

FIRST DAY: Thursday, September 2, 2021

Students should report to their homerooms at 7:30 AM to receive important materials and information.

STUDENT IDS

Students will be provided with a student ID on the first day of school. New students and incoming freshmen will also receive lanyards. Everyone else will need to provide their own. Students are required to wear their ID while in school.

PARENT PORTAL

Just a reminder – parents and students can easily access grades and email teachers with questions through our Parent Portal. Progress reports and report cards will not be mailed home, however we will send out email reminders throughout the year. You may

monitor your student's progress by checking the Parent Portal regularly. If you have no access to the internet, you can contact your student's guidance counselor, who will provide you with a copy of the grades. If the external website is down, the Parent Portal is still accessible by using the following URL: <https://rockyhill.powerschool.com/public/>.

LATE ARRIVAL/EARLY DISMISSAL

All students are eligible for late arrival/early dismissal with parent permission. If a student has no class scheduled for the first or last period of each day (Periods 1, 5 & 9), they are allowed to leave campus. However, there is not transportation provided by the district at these times. In addition, students are *not* allowed leave school grounds during any other periods. A completed late arrival/early dismissal form must be turned in to the main office before you can start this privilege. Until they receive approval from the main office, they are expected to attend all study halls.

TARDINESS POLICY

All students are expected to be in school on time. Students who arrive late to school must first report to the main office to receive a time-stamped pass. If a student missed 30 or more minutes from class, they will be marked TL and this counts as an absence.

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is an important part of the learning process. Invaluable educational experiences are available each day in each classroom. Attendance in class every day is the only way a student may participate and

learn from these experiences. In order to receive credit in a class, students must be present. Students may lose credit in a class due to excessive absences.

Number of Absences Allowed

Attendance regulations stipulate that a student lose credit based on the following guidelines:

	Full Year Course	Semester Course
Period 1-4, 6-9	10 absences	5 absences
Period 5	16 absences	8 absences

STUDENT PARKING

Parking at RHHS is a privilege. The student parking lot is located on the south side near the tennis courts. Student parking will be offered to senior students first, and then to junior students as space permits. Students are not permitted to park in the back of the building or in the teachers' parking lot. Students wishing to obtain parking privileges must register in the main office and obtain a current school year parking decal. After registration, students will be assigned a numbered parking space on a first come, first serve basis. Students parking without a permit or in unauthorized spaces will receive a school consequence and be sent home to return their vehicle. ***Parking privileges are available to Seniors and Juniors with licenses, as long as they comply with all school rules, have a parent's written permission to drive to school, and space is available.***

STUDENT HANDBOOK & AGENDA

We will **not be** providing students with a physical *School Agenda and Planner*, rather an electronic version of the handbook will be emailed to students and parents. The Student Handbook contains school rules and regulations. Please review this document with your son or daughter and return the Parent/Guardian and Student Sign-Off form to the school no later than Friday, September 10, 2021. This form will be distributed to students on the first day of school.

CLASS DUES

Class dues are \$160 for every student. Class dues, are used to help defray activity expenses such as class night and the senior picnic. Since dues are applied to senior activities all students regardless

of when they enter RHHS are required to pay the full amount. All students are afforded the opportunity to fundraise to reduce these dues so as to avoid any financial burdens that may occur. All monies are placed in the Student Activity Fund, and receipts are issued upon payment of dues. Receipts are available required as proof of payment. Information regarding collection of dues and each year's activities will be sent home by the class advisors during the first quarter. Students will not be able to attend events such as class night and the senior picnic if their dues are not paid for by the end of Quarter 3 in their senior year. While class dues total \$160 for senior year activities, a payment plan of \$40 per year is available, and students who are not up to date on their due payments cannot participate in certain class events such as running for a class office. Please note, dues will not be applied towards proms. There will be additional ticket costs to cover prom expenses.

GUIDANCE: ASSIGNMENTS OF COUNSELORS

Counselor assignments are as follows:

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Counselor:</u>
<u>Beginning With:</u>	
A-D	Mrs. Notarangelo
E-K	Mrs. Carbutti
L-Rf	Mrs. Bikowski
Rg-Z	Mrs. Russell

If you have any questions, please feel welcome to contact the Guidance Department at 860-258-7724.

PROMOTION STANDARDS & HOMEROOM

Class of **2022** must obtain the following number of credits each year in order to successfully graduate in four years with 22 credits:

By the end of Year 1	-	5.5 credits
Year 2	-	11.0 credits
Year 3	-	16.5 credits
Year 4	-	22.0 credits

Classes of **2023 & beyond** must obtain the following number of credits each year in order to successfully graduate in four years with 25 credits.

By the end of Year 1	-	6.5 credits
Year 2	-	13.0 credits

Year 3 -	19.5 credits
Year 4 -	25.0 credits

Students will continue to remain in the same homeroom and Advisory Period for all high school years regardless of credit status.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

According to State Law, each local Board of Education shall specify the basic skills necessary for graduation and include a process to assess the student's level of competency in such skills. These are in addition to our standards for graduation as outlined in our *Program of Studies* booklet. The assessment criteria shall include, but shall not exclusively be based on, a score of four hundred or greater on the math and verbal sections of the PSAT, a score of four hundred or greater on the math and verbal sections of the SAT, or meet our school-wide academic expectations. Listed under each course description in our Program of Studies are the two expectations that will be measured and reported for that course. Academic expectations include Communicate Effectively in Writing, Communicate Effectively while Speaking, Solve Quantitative Problems Effectively, Solve Qualitative Problems Effectively, Use Research Skills Effectively, Demonstrate Effective Reading Skills, and Make Connections between Learning and Life.

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Research indicates that parent involvement is a critical factor not only in the success of the individual student, but also in the overall success of the school. All parents are encouraged to become members of our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), which meets monthly. This year, our PAC meetings will continue to be held virtually. Please email Mr. Almeida, almeidam@rockyhillps.com, if you would like to join. Your support and input are always welcome.

PROJECT GRADUATION – Class of 2022

Senior parents – Project Graduation needs your assistance! The time, planning, and preparation required to ensure a successful Project Graduation party for our seniors is overwhelming. We are sure that you share our commitment to a safe, substance-free celebration in June. Please make a decision to get involved and join the Project Graduation

Planning Committee. This is your final opportunity to be involved in your child's school program.

LOCKERS

Lockers will be once again be assigned to students. Freshman and sophomore students will receive their locker numbers on the first day. All other students will use their previously assigned locker. Lockers are located in hallways throughout the building. Lockers need to be locked at all times; this includes those in the PE and athletic locker rooms. Students should also not share their locker or combination with other students.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

At RHHS we value each young person's education and hold students to high standards regarding academic honesty. As each individual is responsible for his or her own learning, each student is expected to complete and submit only his or her own work. Any violation of this standard is considered academic dishonesty and results in very serious academic and disciplinary consequences. At the end of this newsletter, please find our complete policy information which will help both students and parents fully understand our definition regarding academic dishonesty. We have found that some of our students come to us with an incomplete understanding of what is and what is not acceptable, especially with respect to citing sources. It is our hope that this information will be helpful to you both in your conversations prior to the start of school. Additional information can be found in the Student Handbook.

ATHLETICS & CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Mr. Joe Horvath is the Director of Athletics and Student Activities.

He can be reached at 860-258-7721 X22219 or by email at horvathj@rockyhillps.com. The athletic programs continue to be successful and continue to provide meaningful experiences for our young men and women. In addition to our comprehensive *Athletic Handbook*, we have a handbook for co-curricular activities. These handbooks contain valuable information on expectations, consequences, policies, and procedures. Parents and student participants will be expected to read the documents and abide by all that is contained within them.

Athletic registrations for permission and emergencies will be one online via InfoSnap. The link can be found on our school website under the Athletics section.

In reference to the Athletic and Co-Curricular Handbooks, parents/guardians and students should note the language in the *Athletic Handbook* and the *Co-Curricular Handbook* regarding substance abuse. Both handbooks are now available online on our school website. Students are reminded that participation in athletics and co-curricular activities is a privilege and carries with it high expectations for students as role models.

Currently, all fall sports are scheduled to be played. Recent CIAC guidelines state athletes in outdoor sports do not have to wear masks for outdoor activities, including completion and practice. However, indoor sports, like volleyball, and indoor activities like weight room, indoor practice, or watching film, must wear a mask inside the school building.

Lastly, let us all remember that our athletes, their coaches, the referees, opposing teams, and their fans deserve nothing less than our respect and courtesy. This goes for not only our athletes, but also our parents and fans.

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY

Greg Ferro - Math

Greg joins RHHS after spending the last eight years teaching Math at Weston Middle School. He also participated in Teach for America as a Mathematics Corps Member in the Bridgeport Public School System. He has a Bachelor of Science from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Arts from UCONN. Greg loves to hike, bike, and ski. This summer he traveled to the Adirondacks, Vermont and Canada.

Karen Poon - Math

Karen joins the high school after working seven years in the Hartford Public Schools. She also participated in Teach for America as a summer school teacher in the Bronx. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from UCONN and Master of Arts in Education Technology from the University of Saint Joseph. Karen enjoys the outdoors, including biking and kayaking.

Charley Pietrzyl - English

Charley will be filling in for Ellen King during her maternity leave. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in English and her Masters in Secondary Education from Eastern Connecticut State University. She completed her student teaching at Classical Magnet School in Hartford.

ROCKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL
Academic Honesty Statement
(Media Center Handout)

Cheating and plagiarism constitutes academic dishonesty. Therefore, the Rocky Hill High School community will not tolerate cheating and plagiarism.

Plagiarism: “To steal and use as one’s own or to take and use as one’s own the writings or ideas of another.”
– from the Latin *plaga* meaning kidnapping.

Cheating: “A fraudulent acquisition of another’s property.”
American Heritage Dictionary of English Language

- I. There are three (3) types of plagiarism: ideas, information (data), and words (spoken or written).
1. **Ideas:** If you use another person’s unique ideas – their original thoughts/theories, opinions, or philosophy – you must give them credit.
 2. **Information:** If you use their research information/statistics, graphs, diagrams, tables, or drawings (that are not common knowledge) – you must give them credit.
 3. **Words:** If you use a person’s actual spoken or written words, you must either “quote” verbatim or paraphrase – and you must give them credit.

In each case, you must give credit to the originator of the ideas, information, or words. Failure to cite the source of information used is stealing. In addition, a list of sources cited (*Bibliography, Sources Consulted*) is always part of all research assignments.

- II. Research terminology
- **Common knowledge:** Information found in three (3) or more sources and is usually known by many people.
 - **Paraphrase:** “A rewording of the meaning expressed in something spoken or written.”
Webster’s New World Dictionary
 - **Quote:** To take (incorporate into your essay), verbatim, a creator’s passage/statement. Quotation marks are placed around the used text.

- III. Why is plagiarism illegal and unethical?
- Stealing another person’s ideas can (and has) led to loss of jobs, million-dollar lawsuits, loss of reputations, and expulsion from college/universities.
 - Teachers assign papers so that students may synthesize information, understand its significance, and apply the information gathered. Plagiarism does not achieve these goals.

- IV. Repercussions for cheating and plagiarizing
- Students caught by the teacher cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero grade for the assignment and may receive disciplinary action.
 - At the teacher’s discretion, students may have to re-write the assignment, in order to understand the learning experience of honest research methodologies.