

January 12, 2024

Dear Eighth Grade Parents and Guardians:

While September may seem far away, I would like to begin welcoming you and your child to Rocky Hill High School. The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to Rocky Hill High School and to highlight some important features and programs offered at RHHS. We are very proud of our school, its programs, activities, teachers and students and look forward to telling you more about RHHS. **Parents are invited to attend an 8th Grade Freshman Orientation Program on Wednesday evening, January 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the high school.** *This is a parent ONLY event.* Parents will learn more about the high school from the Principal, Assistant Principal, Director of Athletics and Student Activities, and the School Counselor Supervisor in the Auditorium. **Prior to the 8th grade presentation and beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room, parents are invited to the Course & Elective Fair** where department supervisors and representative teachers from all departments will be present to answer questions and explain course offerings.

On **Monday, January 22**, high school counselors will be visiting eighth grade classes at GMS to discuss course offerings and the registration process. In the spring, your child will have the opportunity to meet with his/her high school counselor individually and will review his/her ninth grade course selections.

Rocky Hill High School offers a comprehensive and rigorous program of studies, including a wide variety of educational, co-curricular, and extracurricular programs. Approximately one hundred and seventy courses are available to students ranging in degree of difficulty and designated as honors, academic, or general. These programs meet the varied needs of students preparing for continued education or for direct employment after graduation. Rocky Hill High School also offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Mathematics, English, Science, Social Studies, Humanities, Art and World Languages. Students have the opportunity to earn college credit depending on their AP exam score. Students may also take advantage of the University of Connecticut's Early College Experience (ECE). In this program students may receive UCONN credit in Biology, Chemistry, Horticulture, Physics, Individual and Family Development, Spanish, Latin, French, and Classical Mythology. Advanced Placement courses and ECE courses will become available to students in Sophomore through Senior year. Students and parents are encouraged to make course choices which will best suit the educational needs and goals of the students.

Students are required to earn twenty-five (25) units of credit for graduation. Classes range from ten to twenty five students per section. In addition to the core requirements of English, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science, students have the opportunity to explore areas such as Art, Music, Humanities, Business Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Technology, World Languages and Physical Education. Additionally, students will need to complete 50 hours of community service over the course of four years as part of the graduation requirements.

Rocky Hill High School also offers some unique academic programs and opportunities:

- Project Lead the Way** – This is a four-year pre-engineering program, which exposes students to the world of engineering and related careers in this very exciting field, with the potential to earn credit from the University of New Haven and Rochester Institute of Technology.
- College Partnership** – Students have the opportunity in their junior and senior year to participate in high school partnership programs at several state colleges. Students will have the potential to earn and transfer college credit. Partnerships include: MCC, MxCC, UHART, CCSU, and Wesleyan.
- Greater Hartford Academy of Performing Arts** – Students attend this magnet school for half day sessions in dance, music, creative writing and art.
- Online courses-** Students can choose to enroll in one of over 200+ online full semester or half semester courses through Educere. Juniors and seniors can take up to 1.0 credit of an Educere course in their academic career.
- Peer Tutoring Lab** – Members of the National Honor Society offer one-to-one support for students in all academic areas.
- Writing Center-** This is a student-led and collaborative program designed to foster writing growth, rigor, and independence. Students can sign up for an appointment during their free period on the website.
- Independent Study Programs** – Offered in subjects not included in the curriculum. Students may pursue an area of interest as an extension or enrichment of the existing curriculum.

Rocky Hill High School also offers freshmen additional support through the Advisee/Advisor Program. Through this program, all students have two faculty members that serve as their homeroom teachers/Advisors. These two teachers will follow them over the next four years. This gives students an additional connection with a friendly, caring adult.

Rocky Hill has an extensive three season athletic program for girls and boys that includes twenty-five varsity sports. A variety of clubs and student activities are offered on a voluntary basis. Social activities have been well attended and school spirit remains high.

In August, incoming freshmen will be invited to the **freshmen orientation** program sponsored by the Student Council. Students will have the opportunity to tour the school, meet some of the Student Council members, and ask any questions. Below is a summary of the events and activities for the Class of 2028.

I look forward to working with you in the months to come and hope to make the transition to RHHS a successful one. If I can be of any assistance, please give me a call at (860) 258-7721.

Sincerely,

John Fote, Principal

Day/Date	Time	Event/Happening
January 22	School Day	Course Selections - High school counselors will meet with 8th graders at GMS to review RHHS course offerings, the course registration process, the <i>Program of Studies</i> , and graduation requirements.
January 24	School Day	8th Grade Visits - 8th Graders will visit RHHS to get an early preview of all that RHHS has to offer. Students will be privy to RHHS academics, Q&A with current RHHS students, Athletics & Clubs information and lunch in the school cafeteria.
January 24	6:00PM 5:00PM	Grade 8 Parent Night (Parents only) - Parents will be provided essential information regarding the transition from 8th to 9th grade. Optional: <i>Course Offering and Elective Fair in the multi-purpose room. Parents are invited to learn more about core and elective course offerings at RHHS. Program supervisors will be on hand to answer questions.</i>
August	TBD	Freshman Orientation (students only) - Students will take a tour of the building, meet RHHS teachers, familiarize themselves with the location of their lockers and classrooms, and have an opportunity to ask questions.