

ROCKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL

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January 14, 2021

Dear Eighth Grade Parents and Guardians:

The time of year has come to begin thinking about your child's education beyond Griswold Middle 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. The challenges of COVID have altered how schools are able to operate this year. In the past, we have held an 8th Grade Parent Orientation in person. This year, that is not possible. Instead, all information that is normally shared with you in person, will be available on the school website. You will be able to look over information about each department and access pertinent materials about course registration and requirements. This information will be available online the week of January 25. A separate communication will notify you when it is available. Although we're not meeting in person, it is very important that families read over this information in order to make informed decisions about course selection. On **Monday, January 25**, high school counselors will be meeting virtually with eighth grade classes to discuss course offerings. In the spring, your child will have the opportunity to meet with his/her high school counselor and 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. Students and parents are encouraged to make course choices which will best suit the educational needs and goals of the students.

Starting with the class of 2023, students are required to earn twenty-five 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 new graduation requirements.

Rocky Hill High School also offers some unique academic programs:

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, 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.

"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."

Peer Tutoring Program – Members of the National Honor Society offer one-to-one support for students in all academic areas.

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.

To further support our incoming freshmen, all freshmen will be automatically enrolled in a Freshman Seminar course. This class will provide ninth graders with the skills they need to be successful in high school. Activities in this class are designed to provide and refine skills needed to begin an effective transition from the middle school academic environment to the more rigorous high school curriculum. Topics will include study skills/test preparation, academic goal setting, career planning and course selection, conflict resolution and team building, and school climate. It will also introduce them to the community service requirement. Students will earn a half a credit in P.E. and a half a credit for the Seminar class at the end of the year.

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 students activities are offered on a voluntary basis. Social activities have been well attended and school spirit remains high. It's important to note that the COVID pandemic has forced us to be flexible and therefore sports and activities may continue to look a little different, depending circumstances next year.

Typically in August, incoming freshmen are invited to our 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. We are hopeful that we can continue this tradition.

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

Sincerely,



Mario J. Almeida
Principal