

## 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 2020-2021 school year. As we all know, there will be many changes this year. Hopefully, the information enclosed answers many of your questions and provides you with helpful tips to help your son or daughter have a successful year. There is a lot of information in this packet, but it is important that you spend some time reviewing this with your son or daughter. There are many changes that have been made in order to accommodate the return of students during this time.

As we all know, school districts had to prepare three different plans for reopening – in person, hybrid, and distance learning. The district has received input from many stakeholders regarding reopening through surveys, meetings, and emails. This process is ongoing and changes may continue to be made. Currently, Rocky Hill is planning to open the school year with teaching fully in person, though families have the option to keep their children at home to learn remotely. If you previously indicated whether or not you were going to send your child to school or participate in remote learning but have now changed your mind, you must complete the In-Person - Remote Learning - Transportation Form found on the district website ([www.rockyhillps.com/reopeningplan](http://www.rockyhillps.com/reopeningplan)).

The first day of school for all students is **Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**. 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. Students will need to bring their Chromebooks fully charged for the first days of school. Student accounts had their passwords changed on July 27<sup>th</sup>. An email was sent out to all high school students via School Messenger on July 24<sup>th</sup> with a new temporary password and instructions to log into our new self-service password portal. Another email will be sent out in the next few days. Students will need to reset their passwords in order to access their accounts. Teachers will expect students to use them right away.

For students learning remotely, it is crucial that students follow their set schedule and log in to each class on time. This is very different from the spring. This time, information will be taught simultaneously with the students in class and remote learners will not be able to watch lessons on their time. Teachers are not expected to prepare different lessons for remote learners. Students will be expected to complete the same work at the same time, but at home. Students will have the same deadlines and expectations as their in-school peers. Parents and guardians, please help your child to set up a dedicated, private learning area and make sure they understand the importance of attending class on time. Attendance will be taken for all RHHS students. To prepare for the first day, all remote learners should be checking their email regularly since their teachers will be emailing them information about joining Google Classroom. This should be done prior to the first day of school.

One of the biggest changes this year is the mask requirement. All students and staff are required to wear a mask while in the building. The State of Connecticut has required mask wearing and all Rocky Hill Schools are following this policy. 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 may provide outside mask breaks when weather and time permit.

*“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.”*

Other changes relate to visitors to the building. Parents dropping off items will not be allowed in 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 be conducted virtually. Also, 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, 3, 4, 6, 7 & 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 privilege. Until they receive approval, students are expected to attend study halls.

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 bus drop-off 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. Additionally, dismissal times are slightly adjusted. Students taking the bus will be dismissed at 2:00 pm, while students who drive, walk, or are being picked up will be dismissed at 2:20 pm.

We will not be holding Freshman Orientation this year, but incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders will receive a Freshman Handbook and information from their class advisors. Though we know 9<sup>th</sup> graders would love to check out the building ahead of time, the school is currently not accessible to students until the first day of school. Staff and upperclassmen will help 9<sup>th</sup> graders out as they navigate the first days of school. Also, all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders are enrolled in a Freshman Seminar course. The course is designed to facilitate the shift from the middle school academic environment to the more rigorous high school curriculum.

Students who are learning remotely will need to pick up necessary textbooks, materials, and to resolve any technology concerns before the first day of school. This will be a huge undertaking, but we will have staff on hand on Thursday, September 3 from 8:00-2:00 in the cafeteria. In addition, if you did not return textbooks from last year, please return during this time. All incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders who attended GMS last year will be receiving a new Chromebook. They should plan to bring their old device and pick up the new one on September 3<sup>rd</sup> as well. Students new to the district should also plan on stopping by during this time to pick up their Chromebook and get it all set up. More information will be forwarded from the district's IT department. You must enter the cafeteria through the bus drop off entrance in the back of the building.

In closing, we know this year will be different as we navigate the challenges and unknown, but I am confident that our community will work together to get through this. On behalf of the RHHS staff, we are looking forward to once again having students 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