

# The Firebird

Rock University High School Newsletter

October 2020

## RUHS MISSION

The mission at Rock University High School is to inspire and empower all students to inspire and empower all students to reach their full potential by providing them with a college preparatory learning experience. The students learning experience includes an emphasis on STEM and the humanities so that students acquire the knowledge, skills, and practices to become critical and creative thinkers, problem solvers, innovators, leaders, and collaborators. RUHS ensures that graduates can apply what they have learned in order to compete and succeed in a global economy emerging with innovation.



## RUHS VISION

Rock University High School provides a small, student centered school to move from consumers of information to creators of their own learning. RUHS is a place where creativity, innovation, and flexibility are rewarded. Mistakes are viewed as opportunities and learning is ongoing. RUHS prepares with the skills, knowledge, and dispositions needed to be successful in college, meaningful careers, and life.

### IN THIS ISSUE

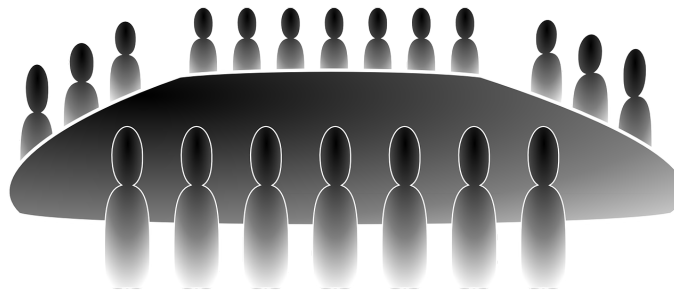
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- 01 Birthdays/ Board Meeting
- 02 Calendar/ Important Dates
- 03 Policy Reminder
- 04 Daily Health Check
- 05 Bullying Complaint Procedures

## UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS



October 10th	Aliyah Berg / Ms. Peggy Lee
October 11th	Austin Mezera
October 12th	Gauge Phillips
October 20th	Marcos Flores- Oriz
October 22nd	Madisyn Cooper
October 28th	Annie Barnes



RUHS Governing Board Meeting  
WHEN: October 02, 2020  
WHERE: Zoom Meeting  
TIME: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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## Calendar / Important Dates

**CLOSINGS / SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS:** Rock University High School (RUHS) is an instrumentality of the School District of Janesville (SDJ) and adheres to all inclement weather and school closings or delays. RUHS is also located on the campus of Blackhawk Technical College (BTC) which also requires following BTC closings and/or delays. If either the School District of Janesville or Blackhawk Technical College unexpectedly needs to close for any reason, RUHS will be closed. Communications will be delivered through Campus Messenger, email, Facebook, phone message, and/or text message.

### OCTOBER 2020

Date / Time / Location	Description of Event
Friday, October 2	<b>Manufacturing Day Launch</b> Students will have opportunities to virtually tour manufacturing facilities in the Janesville/Beloit/Milton area and learn about careers related to manufacturing. Students will be exposed to these opportunities all month long.
Tuesday, October 20 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	<b>RUHS Governing Board Meeting</b> RUHS Governing Board members meet virtually the third Tuesday of the month. See our website for meeting minutes and agendas.
October 21-22 Times vary each day. Rock University High School 6004 S. Cty Rd G	<b>Parent / Student / Teacher Conferences</b> *Our goal is 100% participation at conferences! Please sign up for a time to meet with teachers to celebrate and plan your academic successes. <i>More information to follow.</i>
Friday, October 23	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
Thursday, October 29	<b>End of First Quarter</b>
Friday, October 30	<b>NO SCHOOL - Teacher Professional Development Day</b>

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**RUHS Contact Information**  
Rock University High School  
Blackhawk Technical College- Central Campus  
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608-743-7426



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Kolleen Onsrud  
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Science Teacher  
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## 6.3 Reporting an Absence

Parents or guardians should notify the RUHS secretary of an absence by telephone, email, or written note, prior to 8:30 am on the day of the absence, or in advance of the day of absence if the absence is planned. If you are calling your student in absent, please leave the following information on this confidential voicemail. Student's name and the reason the student will be absent. If your student is absent due to illness, please state the type of illness the student is experiencing or any symptoms keeping the student out of school.

Stacy Myszewski  
School Secretary  
[smyszewski@janesville.k12.wi.us](mailto:smyszewski@janesville.k12.wi.us)  
608-743-7426

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## RUHS Policy



### Homework Guidelines Purpose of Homework

According to Dr. Erik Youngman, homework should support and enhance classroom learning.

#### It is most effect when it:

- Is guided by immediate and specific feedback
- Provides independent practice of recent learning skills.
- Reflects that individuals learn at different rates.
- Is of a responsible duration (age/grade appropriate)

#### Student's Roles and Responsibilities

- Make sure you understand the assignment and have the tools/materials that you need before leaving school. Ask your teacher questions if the directions are not clear.
- Complete your work independently and to the best of your ability. Ask questions if needed.
- Make it a routine. Set a time each day to do homework.
- Make good use of your time. Plan ahead for big assignments or projects.

#### Parent's/ Guardian's Roles and Responsibilities

- Be positive about homework.
- Provide a place and resources needed to help students complete homework.
- Help your student with time management by scheduling a regular homework time.
- Encourage your student to complete the work themselves. If your student asks for help, provide support, but do not give them the answers or do the work for them.
- Stay informed. We encourage you to talk to your student's teachers and share any questions or concerns you may have.

## Staff and Student Daily Health Checklist

During this uncertain time with ever-changing guidance, staff, students, and families are expected to work together in taking extra precautions to keep everyone safe.

Before reporting to school each day, staff and students should complete the following daily symptom checklist.

- Check your temperature. A temperature of 100.4° or greater requires you to stay at home.**
  - One of the following symptoms below requires you to stay at home.**
    - Cough (New or Worsening)
    - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
    - Vomiting
    - Diarrhea
    - New loss of taste and/or smell
  - Two or more of the following symptoms below require you to stay home.**
    - Chills
    - Headache
    - Muscle Pain
    - Nausea
    - Sore Throat
    - Running Nose/Congestion (Not related to allergies)
    - Unusual fatigue
- 
- District Administrators reserve the right to send any staff member or students with visible symptoms home from school if deemed necessary and appropriate.

*Last Update: August 28, 2020*

#### **BULLYING COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

It is the responsibility of all students, school staff members, parents/guardians and other concerned individuals who observe or become aware of acts of bullying to report such acts to an administrator or other school staff member. Complaints that involve bullying related to one or more of the characteristics or factors protected by state and federal nondiscrimination laws shall be processed in accordance with established "Student Discrimination Complaint Procedures." All other complaints of bullying shall be processed in accordance with the following procedures:

##### **Step One:**

Any claims of bullying shall be presented to the principal or designee. Students may also report their concerns to teachers or counselors who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator. Complaints against the principal shall be filed with the District Administrator. Complaints against the District Administrator shall be filed with the Board president. Information may be initially presented anonymously. All such information shall be reported in writing and shall include the specific nature of the offense and corresponding dates using the applicable district incident report form.

##### **Step Two:**

The school official receiving the complaint shall conduct a prompt investigation to verify the facts to determine the validity and seriousness of the incident. Parents/guardians shall be notified of the nature of any complaint involving their student. The school official shall arrange necessary interviews with all concerned parties. The school official conducting the investigation shall notify the complainant and parents/guardians, as appropriate, in writing when the investigation is concluded. All findings related to the complaint shall be reported in writing to the Director of Student Services. When it is determined that a student participated in bullying behavior, the report to the Director of Student Services shall include notification of the consequences and/or interventions to be imposed including, but not limited to warnings, exclusion from certain areas of the school, detentions, behavioral interventions, suspension, expulsion, and referral to law enforcement officials and/or social services.



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## **STUDENTS**

Step Three If the complainant is dissatisfied with the decision of the principal, or other school official conducting the initial investigation, he/she may appeal the decision by giving written notice to the District Administrator or next highest level of authority within five (5) days after the receipt of the written decision. The District Administrator or other school official shall schedule and hold a meeting with the involved parties within fifteen (15) days. The District Administrator or other school official shall, within five (5) days after the meeting, deliver a written response to the complainant and to the accused. The decision at this step shall be final.

### **Consequences for Retaliation Violations**

Any student or District employee who retaliates against any person who makes a good-faith report of alleged bullying, or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation or hearing related to such behavior, shall be subject to disciplinary actions and/or referral to law enforcement for criminal prosecution.

### **Interventions for Students Involved in Bullying**

The District will make available evidence-based resources and comprehensive research-based programs to address bullying. Program support may include coaching, training, reporting templates, surveys and evaluation tools, staff training, student skill training, restorative justice, and program-implementation support.

### **Students Who Have Been Bullied Will Be Supported By:**

1. Being offered an opportunity to discuss the experience with a guidance counselor/student services specialist/social worker or other staff member of their choice.
2. Offered ongoing support with the goal of restoring self-esteem and self- confidence.

## **STUDENTS BULLYING COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

### **Students Who Have Bullied Will Be Helped By:**

1. Being offered an opportunity to discuss the experience with a guidance counselor/student services specialist/social worker or other staff member of their choice.
2. Identifying the bullying behavior and the need to change the behavior.
3. Developing a plan to make amends for the incident.
4. Informing parents/guardians to help change the attitude and behavior of the student.

### **Maintenance of Complaint Records**

The maintenance of complaint records is recommended for the purpose of documenting compliance. Records shall be kept for each complaint filed and, at a minimum, include the following:

1. Name and address of the complainant and his/her title or status,
2. Date the complaint was filed,
3. Specific allegation made and any corrective action requested by the complainant,
4. Name and address of the respondents,
5. Levels of processing followed, and the resolution, date and decision-making authority at each level,
6. Summary of facts and evidence presented by each party involved, and
7. Determination of the facts, statement of the final resolution, and the nature and date(s) of any corrective or remedial action taken.

## STUDENTS BULLYING COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

### Definitions:

**General Definition Bullying:** Bullying is defined as any conscious, willful, or deliberate acts, or attempted acts, through the use of words, images, gestures or other physical actions, including electronically transmitted acts, that are intended to cause physical injury, emotional distress, property damage, or impact the learning environment. Bullying is sometimes distinguished from harassment when the behavior involves repeated incidents and involves an imbalance of power.

**Discriminatory Bullying:** This occurs when acts of bullying are related to, or motivated by an actual or perceived distinguishing characteristic or factor that includes sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, color, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap. Such incidents shall be handled in accordance with the district's student nondiscrimination policies and procedures.

### Types of Bullying

**Physical:** Physical bullying involves harmful actions against a person's body. Examples include, but are not limited to: shoving, striking, kicking, tripping, choking, pinching, poking, spiting, biting, hair-pulling, hazing, excessive tickling, and inappropriate touching. This also involves interfering with another person's property and stealing.

**Verbal:** Verbal bullying involves speaking to a person or about a person in a way that is derogatory, unkind or hurtful. Examples include but are not limited to: teasing, name-calling, insulting or inappropriate remarks, threatening, spreading rumors, and making discriminatory remarks or false accusations.

**Non-verbal/Emotional:** Non-verbal bullying refers to behaviors that upset, exclude, or embarrass others. Examples include, but are not limited to: intentionally leaving a person out of a game or activity, extortion, manipulating friends, ostracizing, pressuring peers, making rude gestures such as poking out tongue or staring, writing hate notes about a person that will be upsetting to that person.

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**Cyberbullying:** Cyberbullying is the use of any electronic communication device to convey a message in any form (text, image, audio, video, e-mail, cell phones, pager service or website postings) that defames, intimidates, harasses or is otherwise intended to harm, insult or humiliate another in a deliberate, repeated or hostile and unwanted manner under a person's true or false identify. In addition, any communication of this form that disrupts or prevents a safe and positive educational or working environment may also be considered cyberbullying.

**Bullying by Proxy:** Bullying by proxy occurs when someone engages in such behavior through another person or on behalf of another person.

**Hazing:** Hazing includes bullying behavior directed against another student or students for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization, class, club or team sponsored or supported by a school or the school district regardless of students' willingness to participate. Prohibited acts may include, but are not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, forced confinement or any other forced activity which endangers the physical health or safety of the student.

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Board of Education Janesville, Wisconsin 2009; 2011, 2012,  
July 2013

If you feel that you are being bullied, please fill out a bullying report and give it to a staff member.

[Bullying Incident Report](#)