

Friday, January 7, 2022

Dear Richmond Community High School Families,

Happy Friday! Below you will find important information. Please read over this information and discuss it with your scholar(s). New information is displayed in red.

Updated Information & Reminders:

- The N95 masks have arrived for students and staff. We will distribute these on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> for those that request one.
- The Fall testing window has been revised. RCHS will begin testing on January 18<sup>th</sup>. All students that are enrolled in SOL courses will take their assessments between January 18<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>. The following SOL courses are testing for Semester One: Algebra I, Biology, AP English Language (semester one course ONLY), Algebra II/Trig (9<sup>th</sup> graders ONLY), Geometry, and World History I.
- All ECA students will go virtual for their J. Sargeant Reynolds class until Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>. Students are still enrolled in their RCHS class and will have to attend in-person. Students can provide their own transportation to and from school during this time. Alternatively, they can report to school in the morning using RPS transportation (HUB stop for RCHS) and log into their J. Sargeant Reynolds class with us in a space provided for learning until their RCHS class starts.
- Below is a very important message from our Safety & Security Department after evaluating our dismissal and traffic process. Please adhere to these guidelines.  
Parent pickup and drop-off is at the front of the building on E. Brookland Park Blvd. Students and parents should be using the crosswalks at each corner to safely cross the street. Mid-block crossing is dangerous, and visibility is limited. Drivers should follow traffic laws at all times. To avoid traffic collisions, no U-turns should be done in the middle of the street. We want all students and their families to arrive and depart safely at all times.  
Please avoid using Woodrow Ave if possible, as this street is used for bus arrival and dismissal. If you have to use Woodrow Ave. when buses are loading and unloading, **vehicles are to remain stopped while the stop sign is out and flashing red.** (<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/46.2-859>) There is a fine of \$250 for violations of passing a stopped school bus.  
The safety of our students, staff, and community is our priority. Let us all do our part!
- Senior parents, please remind your scholar to meet college application deadlines and to complete resumes as they request recommendations.
- Daily attendance is important. We need scholars to be present all day for the instructional impact that is needed to close the academic gaps from virtual to in-person instruction. Late arrivals and early departures negatively impact our efforts to reach every scholar, every day, to ensure their instructional needs are being met.
- Our RCHS Announcements Google Classroom is up for all students that miss our morning meetings. It will house all important information.
- Main Doors open at 8:30 a.m. for students – students that arrive prior to 8:30 a.m. will have to wait outside of the school building until the doors open.
- All students must enter the building with a mask. Students that are not eating breakfast will report directly to their 1<sup>st</sup> Period class.
- We will continue to use yellow and blue arrows to indicate traffic flow throughout the school building. Students should always walk to the right of the building.

- Teachers are required to create and maintain seating charts for all classes. Seating charts will also be submitted to the principal and stored in the main office for contact tracing purposes. Please make your student aware that seating charts are mandatory and once the seat is assigned, students will not be permitted to change their seat.
- Students will be required to social distance in all areas of the school. In classrooms, student desks will all face in one direction, and in common areas, we will have students sit every other seat. We will also have students stagger in these areas to ensure social distancing.
- To visit the school counselor (for example, to request a schedule change), students will be required to request an appointment and then use a sign in/out system to allow contact tracing. We have QR codes posted around the school building for students to use to submit their requests.
- To ensure proper contact tracing, all students will be mandated to use a sign in/sign out system when leaving their classroom (for example, to use the restrooms).
- Students who present with signs/symptoms of infectious illness (including COVID-19) will be separated from other students and staff in a “supportive care space” in an effort to minimize transmission.
  - The school nurse will evaluate the student using a Health Assessment form.
  - After the initial assessment, the school nurse will continue to follow RPS school-exclusion guidelines for students.
  - Family members will be notified of a student's illness to make arrangements for pick-up.
  - Supportive care spaces will be disinfected after each use.

Even with careful plans and preparation, cases of COVID-19 may still occur. RPS works in collaboration with, and under the direction of, the Richmond City Health District (RCHD) to perform case investigation and contact tracing of all positive and probable (by test) cases of COVID-19. Plans of action will vary on a case-by-case basis.

- Families/staff should communicate positive COVID-19 cases to RPS. (RPS will also learn of positive cases from VDH). Families and school-based staff should inform their school principal.
- RPS will communicate all confirmed COVID-19 cases to VDH and will begin case investigation.
- Based on case investigation, close contacts (which may be from transportation, class, or other activities) will be identified and contacted by RPS and will be provided with quarantine instructions, as applicable, and advisement on symptom monitoring.
- While the school and RPS communities will be informed of positive cases, student and staff privacy will be maintained.
- RPS will follow VDH guidance, which may, at times, require full-class quarantine or school closure.

#### Important Dates:

January 17 — RPS Schools closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 28 — 2-Hour Early Dismissal & First **Semester grades are due**

January 31— Teacher Work Day (school closed for students)

February 21 — RPS Schools closed for Presidents' Day

[Our new and improved website](#) has launched! If you haven't yet had a chance to check it out, I hope you will now. As you'll quickly discover, [the new homepage](#) allows us to feature edge-to-edge images of our school's community and to better communicate our stories. You'll also find many pages that provide information about who we are and what we do.

Please know that we also have a social-media footprint. You can find us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)! We hope you'll follow us and share!

In closing, let's make this school year one to remember—*Achieving Excellence Together: All In, All One, All Pharaohs!* Please feel free to contact me at (804) 780-4332 or at [Kmassenb@rvaschools.net](mailto:Kmassenb@rvaschools.net)

Your Partner in Education,

***Kenya E. Massenburg***

Kenya E. Massenburg, Principal