

Friday, January 21, 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:

- We now have N95 face masks available upon request in the main office.

Make-up SOL testing is scheduled for January 24-28 and expedited retakes are scheduled for January 27 & 28. All students who are currently quarantined and will miss testing will receive a make-up date upon returning.

- 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 1st 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).

In February we will start club meetings using our Activity Bell schedule. All students are required to participate in at least one club for Semester Two. Please encourage your students to join a club of their interest. Please view our current list located on our school's website. . Have a look: <https://rchs.rvaschools.net/programs-activities/clubs>

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- Here is the link to sign up for the robotics workshop. We are seeking students to join. Please check it out:
<https://forms.gle/Ly6JWdkLLEPTJZLAA>

Early College Academy-Class of 2024 *Program Information and Admissions Details*

The Early College Academy is a partnership between Richmond Public Schools and J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College to provide an opportunity for students to earn an Associate's degree while still in high school. Current Sophomores (10th grade) with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher may apply.

The Early College Academy is a 2-year program. Students accepted into the Early College Academy take college level classes from professors at the downtown campus of J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College beginning in their Junior (11th grade) year. Students return to their high school for their afternoon classes. Tuition, and books are paid for by Richmond Public Schools.

While on campus, students are supported by ECA Coaches who help them to understand Reynolds policies and procedures. Additionally, coaches communicate with school counselors who in turn communicate with families to help students succeed in this highly rigorous program. Successful students work towards perfecting the following skills and characteristics:

- **Time management**-the ability to schedule your own time to meet deadlines and balance home and school schedules and responsibilities
- **Study Skills**-an understanding of how best you learn and a commitment to using that understanding to complete assignments, read texts and support your own learning outside of school.
- **Communication**-the ability to make your thoughts, ideas known and to hear the same from others.
- **Self-Advocacy**-the ability to understand you needs and communicate them to people who can support your success
- **Self-Motivation and Responsibility**-the willingness and self-drive to do your best to succeed in tasks and take ownership for that success.

Admissions Requirements

- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher by the end of the fall semester of the sophomore year
- Completion and submission of the ECA application by 11:59 p.m., February 22, 2022
- Recommendation/endorsement from one (1) school counselor and one (1) teacher

Admissions Process

- A team of educators will review all applications to ensure that all requirements are met
- All students who meet the requirements for admissions will be randomly selected to participate in the program.

- A representative group from each high school in RPS will be offered admission to the Early College Academy

Class of 2024 Admissions Timeline

January 14, 2022	Admissions Timeline Posted Online Admissions Application Posted Online
January 24-February 16	Information Sessions will be conducted at schools during the school day. School counselors will choose dates and times for their school and share information with students.
Tuesday, February 1 6-7 p.m. MEETING LINK	Evening Student and Parent/Guardian Information Session (online)-session recordings will be posted within 48 hours.
Wednesday, February 9 6-7 p.m. MEETING LINK	Evening Student and Parent/Guardian Information Session (online)-session recordings will be posted within 48 hours
February 22, 2022 By 11:59 p.m.	Completed Application Submission Date
March 8, 2022	ECA Status Decisions Distributed to Schools/Applicants

Application Link

[ECA Application - Class of 2024](#)

Important Dates:

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

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

February 15-17 & 22-23 —Interviews for Admission

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

Your Partner in Education,

Kenya E. Massenburg

Kenya E. Massenburg, Principal