

Friday, February 18, 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:

- **SAT School Day Information:**
 - RCHS 10th graders will participate in the March digital SAT Suite of Assessments in-school study. This opportunity will not only give College Board invaluable feedback to inform our work on the digital SAT Suite of Assessments, it will give our 10th graders first-hand experience in taking the SAT. Students will take this test on **Wednesday, March 23, 2022**.
 - SAT School Day will be administered to all 11th grade students on **Wednesday, March 23, 2022**. This opportunity will allow students to take the SAT during the school day in a familiar environment. The cost is free to all students, and no registration is required.

- The EOC Writing Test is scheduled **for Wednesday and Thursday, March 16 & 17**. All students that are currently enrolled in AP Language will participate in the writing test.
- Virginia Climate Surveys are quickly approaching. All students and staff will participate in a survey about the current culture and climate of Richmond Community High School. We are encouraging all students to participate. If you decide to opt-out of your scholar participating, please contact the main office using the direction that are indicated below under "School Survey Information."
- **IMPORTANT MASK UPDATES:**

The Governor has signed new legislation that bans mask mandates in Virginia schools. A few important details:

 - This change will begin on **March 1**.
 - The law only applies to students.
 - All adults – staff, partners, and visitors – must still abide by our mask mandate.
 - A parent/caregiver must formally request that their student not wear a mask. To do so, they will need to email us at COVIDrps@rvaschools.net and indicate the student's name and school. They do not need to provide a reason.
 - No student will be separated, singled out, or disparaged **in any way** if their parent/caregiver elects to have them not wear a mask.
 - Absent a parent/caregiver request submitted to the email address above, students must continue to wear a mask while at school.
 - Students are still required by federal law to wear a mask while on the bus. The Virginia law does not change this.

- 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!

- 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).

Community Foundation Scholarships - Community Foundation's 2022 scholarship program for graduating high school seniors, recent high school graduates, and adult learners is open. All applications and supporting materials must be **submitted online**, and are due on or before **March 1, 2022 at 5:00 pm**. *Please encourage students to request transcripts and letter(s) of recommendation well in advance of the deadline as we will not be able to offer deadline extensions due to inclement weather.*

Eligibility criteria, which is unique to each scholarship, and application information can be accessed on the Foundation's [website](#). In addition to sharing this information with your students, we encourage you to consider posting it on your website. You and your students may find the attached application guide helpful throughout the process. It is also available on our [website](#).

Last year the Foundation awarded over \$465,000 to students across the Commonwealth. With more than 65 scholarships, we hope that your students will take advantage of these opportunities.

February 24th 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>

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. <u>MEETING LINK</u>	Evening Student and Parent/Guardian Information Session (online)-session recordings will be posted within 48 hours.
Wednesday, February 9 6-7 p.m. <u>MEETING LINK</u>	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](#)

School Survey Information

This spring our school, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Department of Education, is conducting the Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions of students, classroom instructors, and staff. The purpose of this survey is to measure student support, student engagement, school discipline, and safety conditions in each school. This information will be used to guide educational practices that produce a safe and supportive school environment.

I am writing to provide you with information on the student survey. The survey will be completed online between February 28 and March 15, 2022. The survey does not ask for your child's name and all answers are anonymous (*no one will know how your child answered the survey*). Parents and guardians will not have access to their child's survey answers. You may review the student survey at this website: <https://tinyurl.com/VaSchoolSurvey>.

The survey will ask questions such as how students feel about their school, how students get along with one another and their teachers, how students feel about school rules, and their perceptions of their teachers' willingness to help them. Students will also be asked what kinds of bullying they may have observed during school and whether they have been bullied themselves.

All students in your child's grade level will be eligible to participate in the survey. Students participating in remote instruction and in-person instruction are both eligible to participate. The survey is voluntary and your child can decide not to participate. No action will be taken against you, your child, or the school if your child does not participate. If you do **not** wish for your child to participate, please notify the school office by telephone or letter by ***Thursday, February 27th***.

Your child will not receive any immediate benefit from participating in the survey, but the survey will help us to maintain a safe, inviting, and supportive learning environment for your child.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important study of Virginia's schools.

Important Dates:

February 22-23 — Interviews for Admission

February 21 — RPS Schools closed for Presidents' Day

February 24 — Club meetings during Activity Block

February 24 — PTSA Meeting (Please use the link below.)

Topic: RCHS PTSA Meeting

Time: Feb 24, 2022 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89257812169?pwd=OEFhNHZudnpVdGM1WkZaaVNsWUZGdz09>

Meeting ID: 892 5781 2169

Passcode: 4BU85F

[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@vaschools.net

Your Partner in Education,

Kenya Massenburg

Kenya Massenburg, Principal