

Friday, February 25, 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.
- **IMPORTANT MASK UPDATE:**
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.

- 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.

Partnership for the Future, a privately funded college preparatory/workforce development program in the Commonwealth of Virginia, will meet with our 9th graders **on Tuesday, March 8, 2022** to discuss opportunities with the program. PFF applications will go live next **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**, for three weeks, closing on **Tuesday, March 22, 2022**. Applications will be accepted from high-achieving high school freshmen (9th grade) with at least a 3.0 GPA and challenging academic background. To access the application and learn more about PFF, please visit www.partnershipforthefuture.org/become-a-student/.

Important Dates:

March 4th — 2-hour early dismissal

March 10th & 11th — Pharaoh Theatre presents *Little Women* online. Find more information on our school's homepage: rchs.rvaschools.net

March 18th — Parent/Caregiver Conference Day (no school for students)

April 4th-8th — School closed for Spring Break

April 18th — School closed for Easter Monday

[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 Massenburg

Kenya Massenburg, Principal