

Dear Richmond Community High School Families,

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone for an exciting school year. Whether you are new to us or returning, we can't wait to partner with you. To help things run a little smoother for the first week of school, I have added important information to this welcome letter. Please note that as things change, we will update you accordingly. There is a lot of information included, so please take time to read this entire message.

It is our goal for all scholars to feel that RCHS is their *Safe Haven*. We strive to encourage every scholar to grow in their academic abilities and become college-ready by the end of their educational career at RCHS. In partnership with our amazing teachers, who work really hard to exceed these expectations through countless hours of preparation, we plan to continue our path of excellence; indeed, we believe that our school community can work together to reach new heights. This year our theme is [We are Stronger Together!](#) It is an expression of our teamwork and commitment to ensuring that all scholars are successful academically, emotionally, socially, and behaviorally. We are fully committed—every step of the way—to working tirelessly with all our stakeholders to provide the best high-school educational experience.

When you have a moment, please check out our school's website at www.rvaschools.net/RCHS. All of the information we send via email can also be found on this site, including our weekly newsletter and the school's calendar of events and activities. We hope that you will find our site helpful and informative. Additionally, we have both Facebook (RCHSPharaohs) and Instagram (@rchspharaohs and @principalmassenburg) accounts that we will use to send updates and quick announcements as we go throughout the school year.

In closing, it's truly a privilege and honor to be a part of a school that has such a strong history of excellence, and one that maintains a legacy of building global citizens and leaders all over the world! I look forward to a great school year. *We are Stronger 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

P.S. I have included some important information below for school opening, including the general procedures that we will follow.

First Day of School & Reopening Procedures:

- All student schedules will be mailed Thursday, August 25th.
- Main Doors open at 8:30am for students – Students that arrive early will have to wait outside of the school building until opening time indicated. All students must enter the building with a mask. Students that are not eating breakfast will report directly to the auditorium for our daily morning meeting. Students that are eating breakfast will report to the cafeteria.
- At the conclusion of our daily morning meeting, students will transition to their assigned Family. Family assignments will be posted on every hallway throughout the school building.
- Students will receive an updated schedule during Family to ensure accuracy.
- New COVID-19 guidance is listed below. Please read over this information carefully. It has been updated and a lot has changed.
- All students will eat lunch together this year. Lunch will take place after 2nd period classes. Lunch times will vary based on the bell schedule of the day. We have a total of three bell schedules (Regular, Activity, and Family/Club).
- Students will receive important forms along with a hard copy of their schedule. All forms should be completed and returned to their Family head by the end of the first week of school.
- Please note that Sept. 2nd a student holiday.
- Students that request a schedule change will be directed to complete a schedule change request form. These forms will be located in the main office.
- All students must use the sign in/out system when leaving their classroom after receiving permission from their teacher. This is standard practice for our school culture.
- We will implement our 10/10 rule which indicates no movement in the building during the first ten minutes and last ten minutes of class, unless it's an emergency.
- All students will participate in safety drills the first week of school. These drills include fire, tornado, evacuation, lockdown, bus, etc.

COVID-19 Guidance for 2022-2023:

The information below will be revisited every 2 months by the district, and you will receive updates.

RPS will continue:

1. Promoting vaccination and staying “up to date”
2. Consistent and correct use of masks inside (given High community level)
3. Testing
4. Ensuring HVAC/air quality
5. Handwashing/hand sanitizing
6. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
7. Daily symptom checking and staying home when sick and getting tested

Key changes from last year are:

- Masks are not required outdoors on RPS property for staff or students; however, masks *are* required indoors for staff and for students (unless an opt out).

- Quarantine is no longer required after exposure for asymptomatic individuals; mask use, testing, and symptom monitoring are recommended (but not required).
- COVID-19 tests are available to all students and staff, as requested.
- The isolation period for positive individuals is 5 days (mask wearing and distancing during lunch required on days 6-10).
- Co-isolation is no longer required for ongoing exposures (household exposures); individuals should monitor symptoms.
- Communication frequency/protocols have been modified (daily updates will not be sent; cases will be tracked on the districts website).

Arrival/Dismissal:

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!**

Transportation:

Please visit the link below for the most recent bus stop information. I strongly encourage you to look at this again over the weekend to ensure you are viewing updates. Once you click on the link, please click the high school tab and you will see all bus routes for RCHS.

<https://www.rvaschools.net/operating-office/transportation/bus-stops/high-school>

Important Dates:

<https://www.rvaschools.net/news/district-calendar>

Staff/Student Holiday — Friday, September 2nd

Staff/Student Holiday — Monday, September 5th

Back-to-School Night — Wednesday, September 21st at 6pm

First ASPEN grade update — Friday, September 23rd

Student Holiday —Wednesday, October 5th

RPS Closed —Monday, October 24th

PTSA Information:

All RCHS parents, teachers, students and alumni are welcome to join us for a meet-and-greet at Soul Taco on Tuesday, August 30th from 6-8 pm. Let's kickoff the 2022-23 school year by getting together at a great local restaurant that is owned by an RCHS alumnus! Bonus: 15% of proceeds go to the PTSA! Please note that this event is at the Shockoe Slip location at 1215 E. Main Street.

The First day of school Bell Schedule is below:

<i>MONDAY, AUGUST 29TH, 2022</i>			
TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY	LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY
8:30 – 8:55	Student Arrival and Breakfast	Cafeteria	Staff/Principal
8:55 – 9:25	Morning/Community Meeting	Auditorium	Principal
	Welcome & Principal's Message		
	Announcements		
9:30 – 10:00	Family Meeting	Classrooms	Teachers
	Welcome		
	Introductions		
	Ice Breaker Activity		
	Distribute and Discuss Student Schedules		
	Discuss S.C.O.R.E.		
	Distribute and Discuss RCHS Forms		
	Discuss Family Expectations		
10:05 – 11:20	PERIOD ONE	Classrooms	Teachers
11:25 – 12:35	PERIOD TWO	Classrooms	Teachers
12:40 – 1:10	LUNCH	Cafeteria	
1:15 – 2:25	PERIOD THREE	Classrooms	Teachers

2:30 – 3:40	PERIOD FOUR (review bus/car rider assignments to prepare for dismissal)	Classrooms	Teachers
4:00	STUDENT DISMISSAL		Staff/Principal

NOTE – RTC students will report to the media center immediately following family. Students will not be transported to RTC on the opening day of school.