

Thursday, September 1, 2022

Hi, Pharaoh Families!

Thank you for your support this week. This week has truly been an amazing start for our scholars. Feel free to bookmark this link (rchs.rvaschools.net/about-us/principals-newsletter) for access to previous and future updates. In this update, you will find lots of information, including details about what's quickly approaching. By the way, our Back-to-School Night is September 21st at 6pm.

RCHS Procedures

- 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 1st period classes.
- We are still in the process of schedule changes; students will receive an updated schedule during Family to ensure accuracy once changes are complete.
- 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).
- If you have not done so, please sign all RCHS forms and have your students return them on Tuesday, September 6th.
- Students that request a schedule change will be directed to complete a schedule change request form. These forms are QR codes around the school building. The last day to make a schedule change is September 12th. No changes will happen after this date.
- 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.

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 the following:

- 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

District Calendar

www.rvaschools.net/news/district-calendar

RCHS Events Calendar

[rchs.rvaschools.net/about-us/community-high-school-events-calendar](https://richmondcommunityhigh.ptboard.com/)

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

Yom Kippur (RPS closed) —Wednesday, October 5th

Diwali (RPS closed) —Monday, October 24th

PTSA Information

From the PTSA President: Thank you to everyone who joined us for the PTSA Meetup at [Soul Taco](#) this week! It was great to see so many families interested in getting involved and 15% of proceeds will go towards supporting our students. We look forward to hosting more events like these with RCHS alumni that are local business owners.

Please be sure to visit our new PT Board site to join the PTSA:
<https://richmondcommunityhigh.ptboard.com/>

Follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram for updates:
<https://www.facebook.com/rchspharaohsptsa>
<https://www.instagram.com/rchspharaohsptsa/>

We look forward to meeting you all at Back to School Night at RCHS on September 21st at 6 p.m.!

Please feel free to contact me at (804) 780-4332 or at Kmassenb@rvaschools.net 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. Our school’s website is: www.rvaschools.net/RCHS.

We are Stronger Together: All In, All One, All Pharaohs!

Kenya E. Massenburg

Kenya E. Massenburg, Principal