

Friday, September 30, 2022

Hi, Pharaoh Families!

Happy Friday! I have added a few important dates; please add them to your calendars. Remember that all new information will be highlighted in **RED**. Feel free to bookmark this link (rchs.rvaschools.net/about-us/principals-newsletter) for access to previous and future updates.

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.
- 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 three primary bell schedules (Regular, Activity, and Family/Club), which you can find on our website: rchs.rvaschools.net/about-us/bell-schedule
- 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.

Important Dates

District Calendar

www.rvaschools.net/news/district-calendar

RCHS Events Calendar

rchs.rvaschools.net/about-us/community-high-school-events-calendar

College Visits — This is HAPPENING NOW....WE HAVE WEEKLY VISITS (please encourage your scholars to sign up to attend) You'll find the college-visits calendar on the "Counseling" page of our website: rchs.rvaschools.net/academics/counseling

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

Interim Grades — Wednesday, October 5th (Grades will be updated and posted October 6th)

PSAT/NMSQT — October 12th administration for ALL 9th, 10, & 11th graders

Diwali (RPS closed) — Monday, October 24th

End of 1st Nine Weeks — Friday, November 4th

Wellness Day (RPS closed) – Monday, November 7th

Caregiver/Parent Teacher Conference (School closed for students) – Tuesday, November 8th

Harvest Fest — Tuesday, November 22nd

Thanksgiving Break (RPS closed) – Wednesday-Friday, November 23rd-25th

Spirit Week — Monday, November 28th

Homecoming Dance — Saturday, December 3rd

GRASP- FAFSA Information

GRASP (Great Aspirations Scholarship Program, Inc.) provides FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion assistance FREE of charge through its GRASP Advisors working at more than 110 schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia (<https://grasp4va.org/grasp-schools>). The FAFSA is the application for undergraduate and graduate students seeking federal student aid (i.e., grants, work-study, loans). The application for the 2023-2024 academic year opens on October 1, 2022.

Contact the school counseling office or email the school's GRASP Advisor to make an appointment (see link above). GRASP also offers evening virtual appointments on Wednesday nights and Saturdays; call 804-923-0059 to make a virtual appointment. Email advising inquiries to advising@grasp4va.org.

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.

www.rvaschools.net/operating-office/transportation/bus-stops/high-school

PTSA Information

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! We can't wait to see you in- person at our first PTSA meeting of the year on Wednesday, Oct. 19th from 6-7 p.m. at RCHS. You do not need to be a PTSA member to attend. In fact, we encourage newcomers. Come out to meet new friends, to make some fun plans for the year, and to make Community even stronger.

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

Follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram for updates:

www.facebook.com/rchspharaohsptsa

www.instagram.com/rchspharaohsptsa/

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