

Richmond Community High School

Happy Friday, Pharaoh Families! New information is highlighted in **RED**. Thank you for your continued partnership and support!

In this update, you will find:

- RCHS Arrival and Dismissal
- Transportation
- RCHS Procedures
- RCHS Events Calendar & Bell Schedules
- **Important Dates**
- **REMINDER:** ECA Application Process
- RCHS Costa Rica and Spain Information
- School Climate Survey

Feel free to bookmark this link (rchs.rvaschools.net/about-us/principals-newsletter) for access to all weekly updates. Also, please check out our school's website at www.rvaschools.net/RCHS. Here you will find all important school information, including our school's calendar of events and activities: rchs.rvaschools.net/about-us/community-high-school-events-calendar. 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. Please review our updated Student Code of Responsible Ethics (SCORE). Please click on the link for viewing:

- [The Student Code of Responsible Ethics \(SCORE\)](#)

RCHS 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 pick-up 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. Link is also provided below;

<https://www.rvaschools.net/fs/resource-manager/view/a1da18cb-2c0a-4e73-b1b3-86c01b43b6d6>

***All student drivers MUST have an application on file in the main office. Not completing this step will result in driving privileges being revoked.

**Caregivers: Please discuss safety with your drivers. This week we experienced a student driver turning onto Woodrow Ave. while the Bus Stop Sign was out (\$250.00 fine). We dismiss drivers early to prevent this from happening. However, we have some drivers who are playing in the parking lot and packing their cars with students, which is not allowed for new student drivers. We will move aggressively with addressing these concerns. Safety is our priority!

RCHS Procedures

- Main Doors open at 8:40am for scholars. Those who arrive early will have to wait outside of the school building until opening time indicated. Students who are not eating breakfast will report directly to the auditorium for our daily Morning Meeting. Scholars who are eating breakfast will report to the cafeteria and will transition to our Morning Meeting at the sound of the bell.
- Breakfast will close daily at 9:00am. Scholars who are late due to RPS transportation will have the opportunity to eat breakfast. Car riders and drivers who arrive late will not be permitted to breakfast.
- At the conclusion of our daily Morning Meeting, scholars will transition to their 1st period classes except during the first week of school, when scholars will transition to Family for important information.
- Lunch times will vary based on the bell schedule of the day. We have a total of four bell schedules (Regular, Activity, and Family).
- Please sign and return all RCHS forms and have your students return them by Thursday, August 24th.
- Scholars who request a schedule change will be directed to complete a schedule change request form via QR code that will be located around the school building starting the first day of school. The last day to make a schedule change is Friday, September 8th. No changes will happen after this date.
- All scholars must use the sign-in/sign-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 scholars who drive must complete the driving form; driving privileges will be revoked if proper steps are not followed. Privileges can also be revoked at the discretion of the principal for disciplinary reasons.
- The SCORE (Student Code of Responsible Ethics) must be followed by all scholars daily.
- The Honor Code must be followed by all scholars.

School & District Calendars

- RCHS Events Calendar: rchs.rvaschools.net/about-us/community-high-school-events-calendar
- District Calendar: <https://www.rvaschools.net/news/district-calendar>

Important Dates

Monday, February 19th — President's Day (RPS Closed)

Monday, February 12th, 13th & 15th, February 20th-22nd — Interview/Writing Prompt days for admissions process

Thursday, February 29th — Schoolwide Field Trip (African American Museum) ** This is a change!

Tuesday, March 5th — SAT School Day (Juniors ONLY; no cost involved or registration required)

Thursday, March 21st — End of Third Quarter

Friday, March 22nd — 2-Hour Early Release and Caregiver/Teacher Conferences (Sign-up sheet will be available soon.)

ECA Application Process

Applications for the Early College Academy are now open for eligible 10th-grade students to submit. Participation in this program opens doors for students to acquire college credits and work towards earning an Associate's degree. Please ensure all application materials are submitted by the due date of **February 5, 2024**. If you want more information, please contact Ms. Williams, the School Counselor.

RCHS Takes Costa Rica and Spain!

With the help of EF Tours—a well-respected company that has been designing educational tours for more than 55 years—Mr. Simone has planned student trips to **Costa Rica** (in June 2024) and to **Spain** (in June/July 2025). Anyone in the RCHS community—students, alumni, caregivers, friends, faculty, staff—is welcome to join these trips. For information, please visit the "Travel" page of his website: mistersimone.edublogs.org/travel/. And if you have any questions, please let him know!

RCHS Survey Information

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. We will survey students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, as well as classroom instructors and staff, beginning in January 2024. The purpose of the student 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.

The student survey will be completed between January 15- March 1. The survey does not ask for your child's name and all answers are anonymous. No one, including teachers and administrators, will know how your child answered the survey questions. You will not have access to your child's survey answers. You may preview the questions asked in 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. Please note that there are questions about topics that may be sensitive to some, including questions about bullying, mental health, and suicide. This is a great time to talk to your child about these important issues. For guidance and more resources on these topics, please see <https://tinyurl.com/MentalHealthdcjs> or <https://tinyurl.com/VDOEstudentservices>.

All students in your child's grade level are eligible to participate in the survey. The survey is voluntary and you and/or your child can decide they prefer 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, email or letter by **January 8, 2024**.

The Virginia School Survey results are provided to the school around the end of the school year. You can find survey results for your school and division here: <https://tinyurl.com/VaSchoolSurvey>. The results are used by the

school, the division, and the state to identify strengths and to address relevant needs to improve learning environments for your child as well as students across the state.

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

Kenya Massenburg
RCHS Principal

RCHS 2023-2024 Bell Schedules

- <https://rchs.rvaschools.net/about-us/bell-schedule>

Please feel free to contact me at (804) 780-4332 or at Kmassenb@rvaschools.net "Life is a puzzle; you can only see the picture when you put all the pieces together!" **CHEERS** to "Putting it all together, one piece at a time."

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

Your Partner in Education,
Kenya E. Massenburg
Kenya E. Massenburg, Principal