

Friday, August 22, 2025

Richmond Community High School

Happy Friday, Pharaohs!

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. We have successfully completed our first week of school! Transportation details have been updated and are provided below. Each student has received a clear backpack stocked with school supplies. All safety drills scheduled for this week were carried out smoothly. Beginning Tuesday, August 26th, we will continue to review some of our safety drills: Fire and Evacuation. Please note that all new information is highlighted in **RED**.

In this update, you will find:

- RCHS Arrival and Dismissal
- Transportation
- RCHS Procedures
- Clear Backpack Protocol
- District Calendar
- Important Dates
- Back-to-School Night
- PTSA Information

Feel free to bookmark this link (<https://rchs.rvaschools.net/about-us/principals-newsletter>) for access to all weekly updates (From our home page go to the About Us tab then Principal's Newsletter). Also, please check out our school's website at (<https://rchs.rvaschools.net/>). 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.

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

Here is the link of all bus routes: <https://www.rvaschools.net/fs/resource-manager/view/a3b20a66-c370-476c-8fc9-032b95d5cb7b>

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 have breakfast.
- At the conclusion of our daily Morning Meeting, scholars will transition to their 1st period classes.
- Lunch times will vary based on the bell schedule of the day. We have a total of four bell schedules (Regular, Activity, Family, & Picnic).
- Please sign and return all RCHS forms and have your students return them by Monday, August 25th.
- Scholars who request a schedule change will be directed to complete a schedule change request form. The last day to make a schedule change is Wednesday, August 27th. 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 also have incorporated restroom passes.
- 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 forms; 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. We also have a new updated dress code policy. No scholars are permitted to wear cropped tops.
- The Honor Code must be followed by all scholars.
- All cell phones and other electronic devices must be powered off and stored away in a bag not in pockets on individuals.

Clear Backpack Protocol

As a part of Richmond Public Schools' (RPS) ongoing efforts to enhance safety for students and staff members, clear backpack is required.

A clear backpack is:

- COMPLETELY CLEAR ON ALL SIDES EXCEPT THE BOTTOM
 - BACKPACK-SIZED OR SIMILAR: SMALLER BAGS ARE PERMITTED, BUT LARGER ONES ARE NOT
 - STILL SUBJECT TO INSPECTION BY THE CARE AND SAFETY TEAM
1. CLEAR BACKPACK REQUIREMENT APPLIES TO ALL STUDENTS.
 2. LUNCH BAGS/BOXES DO NOT HAVE TO BE CLEAR, BUT ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION.
 3. STUDENTS MAY CARRY A POUCH NO LARGER THAN 5.5" X 8.5 TO HOLD PERSONAL BELONGINGS (PLEASE REFER TO PICTURE/EXAMPLE LOCATED ON DISTRICT'S WEBSITE AS WELL AS A FAQ)

The only exceptions permitted are:

- A small non-transparent pouch for personal hygiene items.
- School-approved sport-specific carrying case for athletic equipment.
- School-approved instrument-specific carrying case for band equipment.
- School-approved cases for medical equipment.

District Calendars

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

Upcoming Important Dates

- August 29th : Labor Day Holiday (RPS Closed)
- September 1st : Labor Day (RPS Closed)
- September 11th : Back To School Night 6pm
- October 2nd : Yom Kippur (RPS Closed)
- October 13th : Division wide Professional Development (Student Holiday)
- October 20th : Diwali (RPS Closed)
- October 24th : End of 1st Nine weeks

***SAVE THE DATE: Back-to-School Night (Thursday, September 11th at 6:00pm)**

RCHS PTSA

First open meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11th during our Back-to-School Night. This is the perfect opportunity to join and learn about what's next for us!

Looking forward to a successful school year! Please feel free to contact me at (804) 780-4332 or at Kmassenb@rvaschools.net. Thank you in advance for your continued support. With your partnership, we will plan, navigate, and execute with confidence!

Excellence. Unity. Legacy. All In, All One, All Pharaohs!

Your Partner in Education,

Kenya E. Massenburg

Kenya E. Massenburg, Principal