

Friday, January 23, 2026

Richmond Community High School

Happy Friday, Pharaoh Families! We hope everyone is staying safe and preparing for the snow. We are planning for Monday and Tuesday to be asynchronous learning days. Please ensure that all scholars log into their Canvas pages to complete assignments provided by their teachers. Additionally, a Google Meet link will be shared for scholars to log in and receive instruction. As always, new items highlighted in **RED**.

Mini-mester Messages for all grade levels:

Families, all grade levels have shared information regarding this year's trips and available assistance. If you need support with trip payments, please be sure to complete the assistance application. We are working with firm deadlines and want to plan the best possible experience for all scholars once we confirm the number of participants for each grade level. We also have to confirm/reserve transportation for all trips. The mini-mester leads are listed below:

9th Grade- Summer Schultz (swilliam9@rvaschools.net)

10th Grade- Stephanie Humphries (shumphr@rvaschools.net)

11th Grade- Ella Ilie (eilie@rvaschools.net)

12th Grade- Heather Crone and Hannah Shambley (hkistler@rvaschools.net)(hshamble@rvaschools.net)

In this update, you will find:

- **District Calendar & Important Dates**
- RCHS Arrival and Dismissal
- Transportation
- RCHS Procedures
- Clear Backpack Protocol
- 2026 Virginia School Survey (Located at the end of this communication)

Families, please ensure that scholars bring their school-issued Chromebooks to school every day. While we understand some may prefer using personal devices, for instructional purposes we are requiring all scholars to use their RPS-issued Chromebooks. These devices are equipped with important alerts, filters, and district-wide resources that support the success of all students. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

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.

District Calendars

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

Upcoming Important Dates

- February- Admissions Interviews for Applicants
- February 12th- DC Trip (African American Studies)
- February 16th – RPS CLOSED (Wellness Day)
- February 17th – Division wide Professional Learning Day (Student Holiday)

The course selection window for the 2026–2027 school year is now open and will remain open through February 27.

During this time, students should log into their Aspen account to complete their course requests. To support students in this process, a copy of the 32-credit Richmond Community High School Program of Study will be sent to all students as a reference while selecting courses.

If you or your student has any questions regarding course selection or graduation requirements, please feel free to reach out to Ms. Williams, School Counselor at bwilliam@rvaschools.net.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we support students in planning for a successful 2026-2027 academic 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.

- Lunch times will vary based on the bell schedule of the day. We have a total of four bell schedules (Regular, Activity, Family, & Picnic).
- 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.

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

2026 Virginia School Survey Information

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

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 2026. 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 12th and February 28th**. The survey does not ask for your child's name; 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](#).

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 whether 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 **December 12, 2025**.

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 address relevant needs to improve learning environments for your child and for students across the state.

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

