

Good evening, Rocky Hill Community,

This is Principal Johnson with a few Back-to-School Announcements and Reminders:

I hope this message finds you enjoying your final hours of summer break and preparing for tomorrow. Welcome back and happy N.E.W year! A year that we have Never Ever Witnessed, but that we are looking forward to making EPICC! The Rocky Hill MS Staff is committed to making each day EPICC through Excellence, Professionalism, Integrity, Children and Community. We want you to commit to showing up each day and demonstrating Rocky Hill MS PRIDE through Perseverance, Relationships, Integrity, Diversity and Empathy.

Monday, August 29, 2022 - First day of school

Bell times

Please note the school times: school begins at **8:15a.m.** and ends at **3:00p.m.** Students may enter the school building each day at 7:50 a.m. The first bell rings at 8:10 a.m. and school starts at 8:15 a.m. **This year, we will also give students a reminder warning bell before the late bell rings.** We ask that students arrive no earlier than 7:50a.m. as there is no adult supervision.

Opening Week Schedule Bell Schedule

Arrival the first day of school

Monday, August 29, 2022 is the first day of school! Upon arrival on the first day of school, students will report to the following areas: SIXTH GRADE: **cafeteria**; SEVENTH GRADE: **7th grade hall (homerooms)**; and EIGHTH GRADE: **8th grade hall (homerooms)**. Homeroom posters will be displayed in locations around the building. Do not worry about getting lost. Staff will be in the halls to assist students with finding their way around the building. Student schedules will be distributed on the first day of school.

Arrival the 2nd day and until the last day of school

Upon arrival on the first day any student who needs breakfast may enter through the cafeteria doors. **BREAKFAST:** use the outside cafeteria door to enter school, students must eat breakfast BEFORE going to their grade level area. SIXTH GRADE: report directly to HR(first week only)/first block class after they have gone to their locker. SEVENTH GRADE: report directly to the auxiliary gym where they will be supervised by staff. EIGHTH GRADE: report directly to "Wildcat Den" in the cafeteria to socialize with friends or get a pass to see a specific teacher for assistance.

Please regularly visit our school website for up to date information. <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/rockyhillms/>

MCPS bus transportation, new bus routes, car riders and walkers/bike/skateboard riders

- Bus riders: If your child will ride an MCPS bus, please go to the RHMS website ("Back to School Information quick link" located above) to confirm your bus stop and possible new times. As always, you can contact the Clarksburg Transportation Depot with any questions at 240-740-4729.
- Morning Car Riders: Staff start assisting the car rider line at 7:50 a.m. which is the time students should be dropped off at school (cars do start lining up early and wait to drop off). Our morning car rider line can be long, so please make sure you follow our car rider guidelines to help everyone move through the line safely. Please follow all directions of school staff and pull up as far as you can in the car rider circle (Wildcat Way). PLEASE do not drive around the other cars in the car rider line. **Safety is our main priority in our car rider line.** Please help us as we work together to ensure the safety of all our students. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.
- Afternoon Car Riders: Please arrive at RHMS in the car rider line to pick up your child at 3:00 p.m.
- Walkers: Please only cross the street at designated crosswalk areas.
- Bike riders/Skateboarders: Please secure your bike on the front bike rack and your skateboards in your locker.

Need a ParentVue Activation Code?

If you need a ParentVUE activation code, please click the link below and fill out the form. Once you complete this form a parent activation code will be sent to you in 24-48 hours. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQIET5P2T75MwaSowsVBXM_Tr0a3iRLcV0k1qb_4s3yLbo2A/viewform The form can also be found in the "news items" section of the RHMS website.

Chromebook Contract

We are thrilled to provide every student at Rocky Hill Middle School with an MCPS Chromebook. These Chromebooks allow students to access the learning using a vast number of instructional tools and resources. Together, we must agree to treat these devices responsibly to ensure all students will continue to have access to technology. Parents/guardians, review the CHROMEBOOK CONTRACT Google Form with your student and fill in the information at the end of Section 10.

Please note, this is a requirement for each student who attends Rocky Hill. If you have multiple children at Rocky Hill, you will need to complete the form for every child who attends. Paper copies are available in the main office for your convenience if needed. Thank you for your partnership with supporting responsible use of Chromebooks, and please contact the school with any questions. <https://bit.ly/3TewOF9> (Chromebook Contract)

MCPS handbooks and guidelines for students:

The **four key handbooks and guidelines developed for students** of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) have been revised for the 2022-2023 school year to address Board of Education (Board) policies and MCPS regulations amended and revised over the 2021-2022 school year, and comply with updated guidance from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Updated online versions of all four handbooks are available on the MCPS website at <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students/rights/>.

Rocky Hill has a new “Wildcat Zen Den” for staff and students

Parents, we need your support to help us realize our vision. We need supplies to furnish the Wildcat Zen Den. The den will be used as a mindfulness retreat and a place where students can receive additional social emotional support. Our amazing counseling department is leading this project and we could use your help! If you are interested in donating items from the wish list, please contact Ms. Isha Gupta, isha_s_gupta@mcpsmd.org or you may drop them off at the main office at your convenience. Thank you.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1YN46Y3QM1MHK?ref=wl_share

Update: Maryland Meals for Achievement Program

Several weeks ago, we were informed that we were selected to participate in this important program which provides free breakfast for every student, through a grant from MSDE. Unfortunately, due to grant funding, we are no longer able to offer this program to our students at Rocky Hill MS. However, we continue to encourage you to complete the free and reduced meals application if needed. It is located on the RHMS website.

Reminders:

New MCPS Personal Mobile Device Policy: We are an “Away All Day” personal mobile device school in accordance with MCPS policy. However, Rocky Hill students will be allowed to use their PMDs after the first ten minutes of lunch up to dismissal for afternoon classes. You can review the new policy on the MCPS and RHMS websites.

Back to School Night: RHMS Back to School Night will be held on September 8, 2022, from 6:00p.m. to 8:30p.m. Stay tuned for more details.

We are looking forward to an EPICC year at Rocky Hill! Thank you for your support! We are Rocky Hill Middle School-Growing Stronger Together!

With Wildcat PRIDE!

Darryl V. Johnson

Principal