

Good evening, Rocky Hill MS Community!

This is Principal Johnson with your Weekly Wildcat Updates:

EPICC Celebrations:

Shoutout to staff, students and a Wildcat roar to Ms. Tippett who organized the first ever school-wide, Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament during advisory! Students competed in advisory with the loser becoming the cheerleader for the winners until one winner was crowned in each grade level advisory. The winners met in the grade level halls and competed until there was one winner per grade level. The grade level champions met outside of the Wildcat Arena to crown a school champion! The two runners-up each received ten dollar gift cards. The winner received a twenty-five dollar gift card. As one student commented, "This is like watching the world cup all over again!" Congratulations to finalists, Jaylen Noland (8th grade) and Gabrian Amarvie (7th grade). And the 2022 Rock, Paper, Scissors Champion of Rocky Hill Middle School is...drumroll... Khamis Idriss (6th grade), who also beat me in the grand finale!



Announcements:

(The weekly calendar can be found on the right side of the RHMS website)

[MCPS Community Updates](#) [Actualizaciones de la comunidad de MCPS](#)

**FRI, DECEMBER 23, 2022 - MON, JANUARY 2, 2023 WINTER BREAK
ROCKY HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE WINTER BREAK. YOU
CAN STILL EMAIL ME OR CALL (240) 780-2782 IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanzaa to all who celebrate! As we begin the winter break, I want to thank you for your partnership and support in helping to make Rocky Hill Middle School EPICC! I feel honored and blessed to serve Rock Hill Middle School and the community as principal. I also want to thank you for sharing your most valuable gifts with us, your children. They truly are some of the best and brightest students in the world. I want to thank students for showing up every day and giving us the gift of their presence. They are the reason why we are here. I hope they all have a safe and fun-filled winter break. Students, you can continue to count on one thing when you return in 2023. You will continue to walk into a school where you are loved.

For me, winter break offers a time for quiet contemplation and an opportunity to open up space to see the world and myself more clearly. It is a time where I focus my energy on faith, family, fun and love. This past weekend we decorated our Christmas tree. When we were finished, I found myself thinking about how I could choose to see the lights we wrapped around the branches as more than simply a festive decoration—that I could choose to see them as a reminder that while the wintry darkness can often be discouraging or overwhelming, I have an opportunity to shine light on that darkness every day. Sometimes seeing light means illuminating something that someone else may view as scary or strange, or having something illuminated for us so that we can see it in a new way. During the holidays, this symbolism can be seen all around us: in the lights emanating from menorahs throughout Hanukkah; the clay lamps of Diwali; and the candles atop the kinara during Kwanzaa. I hope you will never hesitate to shine your light in the darkness, not only throughout the holiday season, but into the new year and beyond.

On behalf of the entire Rocky Hill Middle School Staff, we want to offer you our best wishes for the holiday season and for a happy and healthy 2023. I hope that over the break you will make space to do what feels right to you to renew

and recharge. I hope you have the opportunity to relax, reconnect with your friends and family, and thoroughly enjoy this winter break.

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

(English and Spanish copies of the Weekly Wildcat Update are attached to this message)