

## THE WEEKLY WILDCAT UPDATES 2017-2018

Below are important reminders to help you stay involved and engaged with your student's upcoming events at Rocky Hill Middle School.

Follow us on –<https://twitter.com/RockyHillPRIN>

**Our weekly Sunday evening email has three sections:**

1. **RHMS Information and Calendar**
2. **RHMS Reminders**
3. **PTA News and Updates**

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### 1. **ROCKY HILL EVENTS/INFORMATION:**

#### **Main Office Hours:**

CORRECTION-- The main office hours are 7:45am until 3:45pm. A reminder that the main office for our school closes at 3:45 pm each day. The phones are not answered after this time and all messages left will be picked up the following morning at 7:30 am.

#### **Monday, Sept. 11- Periods 71234**

#### **No afterschool activities**

All students are bringing home a ½ sheet of paper with their schedule written on it for their family to use during Back to School Night. Ask your child for that sheet so you can bring it with you on Tuesday night!

#### **Tuesday, Sept. 12 – Periods 56712**

- Boys & Girls Softball Tryouts (3:05-4:25 pm) - 7th & 8th Grade only
- **Cross Country Tryouts (3:05-4:25 pm) - 7th & 8th Grade only**
- Drama Auditions (3:05-4:25 pm) This year's show is 'HONK, JR'. Anyone wishing to audition for a role must prepare for auditions next week on Tues., Wed., and Thurs., September 12-14, from 3:05-4:25. Audition packets are available from the drama bulletin board in the main atrium hallway. Please email or see Mr. Paul Heinemann with any questions. [Paul.W.Heinemann@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Paul.W.Heinemann@mcpsmd.org)

**Wednesday, Sept. 13 – Periods 34567**

- Boys & Girls Softball Tryouts (3:05-4:25 pm) - 7th & 8th Grade only
- Cross Country Tryouts (3:05-4:25 pm) - 7th & 8th Grade only
- Drama Auditions (3:05-4:25 pm)

**Thursday, Sept. 14 – Periods 12345**

- Boys & Girls Softball Tryouts (3:05-4:25 pm) - 7th & 8th Grade only
- Cross Country Tryouts (3:05-4:25 pm) - 7th & 8th Grade only
- Drama Auditions (3:05-4:25 pm)

**Friday, Sept. 15 – Periods 67132**

No afterschool activities

**After School Activity and Bus Information:**

**After-school activities are scheduled on most Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:00-4:25 p.m. Students hear about activities during morning announcements and during lunches. Activity buses are provided each day and leave school at 4:30 pm. Please take this opportunity to discuss which route your child should take to get home and have them write it in their agenda book—Bus 1, Bus 2 or Bus 3. (See link)**

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/rockyhillms/activities/RH\\_ActivityBusScheduleE20162017.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/rockyhillms/activities/RH_ActivityBusScheduleE20162017.pdf)

**Additionally, for students who walk home, please review the route they should take. All student who are car riders need to be picked up NO LATER than 4:25pm.**

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**2. SEPTEMBER EVENTS**

**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**

**September 12, 2017**

RHMS PTA Meeting: this is our first meeting of the year and will be in the cafeteria 6:30-7:00 pm.

- PTA information tables will be set up from 6:00-6:55 pm
- Bring donations for Wildcats Care! (see info in PTA section)

- Leo's, SGA, and NJHS are partnering to raise money to help the American Red Cross with their relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Harvey & Hurricane Irma—they will be collecting donations in the main lobby outside the gym. Any monetary donations are appreciated and will be used to support the American Red Cross in their efforts to provide relief for families.

Back to School Night Bus Shuttle Service is being provided as a convenience to parents. A MCPS Bus Shuttle Service is being provided between Clarksburg High School and Rocky Hill Middle School. Parking will be available at Clarksburg High School on Tuesday, September 12th.

- First pick-up will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Clarksburg High School.
- The shuttle will transport parents between Rocky Hill Middle School and Clarksburg High School until 9:30 p.m. The last return shuttle bus departs from RHMS @ 9:30 p.m.

#### **ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL UPDATES:**

1. Allen Ambush is on extended leave and Mrs. Karen Murphy is our acting AP (supporting 8<sup>th</sup> grade) at this time.
2. Message from new RHMS assistant principal, Ms. Denise DeFiore: *I am writing to introduce myself to you, as the assistant principal at Rocky Hill MS. I hope your child has had a very positive first week of school. I have been in classrooms, at the grade level town hall meeting, and in the cafeteria at lunch each day to start to build positive relationships with the students. I am also looking forward to getting to know parents and to working closely with each of you to support your child's learning. This year I will be the administrator for 7<sup>th</sup> I love working with middle school students because they are at an age that is characterized by incredible growth, new interests and passions, natural curiosity, new and continuing friendships, and strong feelings about the people and world around them. As an educator, I appreciate the daily interactions with middle school students and I enjoy their humor and confidence. I value their unique and varied perspectives and experiences, which make them special. Prior to joining the staff at Rocky Hill MS, I taught students at both the elementary and middle school level at several schools throughout Montgomery County Public Schools and I served various leadership positions. Most recently, I served as a central office administrator as the director of the Teacher Leadership Unit, in MCPS. I will work closely with Dr. Eldridge, the administrative team, the instructional leadership team, staff, and parents to provide each child with engaging rigorous instruction in an environment that is both supportive and welcoming. Every child deserves the opportunity to thrive, learn and grow and I will collaborate with the Rocky Hill staff as we work hard each day to ensure every child has that opportunity. I look forward to working with you to ensure your child receives the very best education at Rocky Hill MS.*

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## 2. REMINDERS:

### PE CLOTHING

PE clothing will continue to be sold until sizes run out. At this time, we have all sizes still available! Your purchase helps the PE department purchase new equipment each year for our students. You can purchase clothing using a credit card at:

<https://osp.osmsinc.com/MontgomeryMD/BVModules/CategoryTemplates/Detailed%20List%20with%20Properties/Category.aspx?categoryid=BY372>

Or, you can send your child in with cash or a check made out to RHMS for what they need. We can help them with sizing. RHMS PE clothing is excellent quality performance wear and is priced as follows:

- T-shirt: \$15
- Shorts: \$12
- Sweatpants: \$20
- Hoody: \$22

Please add \$3 extra for XXL T-shirts and Hoody, \$2 extra dollars for XXL shorts. We do not carry XXL sweatpants as the pants are sized very big already. Thank you for supporting your PE department and our kids!

### Attendance:

To report an absence for the day, please leave a voice message on the new attendance phone line at 301-601-3195. Please include the full name and grade of your student. For questions about absence calls you may have received, please also call the attendance line (301-601-3195) and leave a message with your name, your student's name and your phone number. In the event that you have an **unexpected early dismissal**, please call 301-353-8282. (See link)

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/rockyhillms/news/homeroom/ATTENDANCENOTE\\_rev%20Sept%202015.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/rockyhillms/news/homeroom/ATTENDANCENOTE_rev%20Sept%202015.pdf)

**Early Dismissal/Absence Form:**

Parents wishing to pick up their children at any time, prior to the 3:00pm dismissal, must send in a note with their child to be processed in the main office at the beginning of the day. RHMS has prepared a form for your convenience. (See link)

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/rockyhillms/news/EarlyDismissalAbsenceForm.pdf>

**Daily Student Car Rider Line:**

We appreciate everyone’s cooperation with the morning and afternoon car rider lines. We are asking that parents continue their commitment to safety by following these guidelines:

1. **All car riders must be picked up no later than 3:15 pm. Parents can begin to line up starting at 2:40pm.**
2. All car riders need to be picked up **from the car rider line**—not the parking lot, Brick Haven Way or Little Seneca Pkwy.

**Parent/Student School Checklist:**

A checklist has been created to minimize forgotten items. We encourage the use of this checklist, as it will help cut down on class interruptions. As Staff, Teachers, and Parents we are committed to assuring that instruction is not disturbed due to classroom interruptions. (See link)

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/rockyhillms/news/homeroom/ParentStudentChecklist\(1\).pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/rockyhillms/news/homeroom/ParentStudentChecklist(1).pdf)

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3. **PTA Notes:**

Rocky Hill has an outstanding tradition of parent involvement in the school community, and we encourage all parents to get involved throughout the year.

**Wildcats Care Food and Personal Hygiene Drive at BTSN:**

Wildcats Care is Rocky Hill's very own pantry here to serve the needs of our students and families! All donations come from our RH community -- for our Rocky Hill community. Our pantry needs replenishment for this school year! If you are able, please bring a donation to Back to School Night this Tuesday. Needed items include canned soups, vegetables, tuna/chicken and fruits; dried pastas and pasta sauce as well as personal toiletry items --

deodorants, toothpaste, shampoo and soap. If your family would benefit from Wildcat Cares, please contact Cheryl at [cherylshalgian@gmail.com](mailto:cherylshalgian@gmail.com) or Dr Eldridge at [Cynthia\\_Eldridge@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Cynthia_Eldridge@mcpsmd.org). All inquiries are confidential.

**PTA:**

The 1st PTA meeting of the year is on ***Tuesday, September 12th from 6:30-7pm in the cafeteria***. Please come to meet the Board of Directors and vote on this year's budget. Visit the PTA tables to see what we have planned for this year and join the PTA starting at 6:00 pm in the Atrium/Gym Lobby.

Want to get involved, please join the PTA and become a member of a Committee or Committee Chair. Check out the links below.

- PTA Membership Form: <https://sites.google.com/a/mcpsmd.net/rhms-pta/forms>
- Sign-Up Genius Link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4aaba92da64-rhms1>