



RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

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Thomas A. Gorman, Ed.D.
Principal

August 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome Back

This year will be like no other. We know that. However, we also know that we pivoted at a moment's notice last Spring to a virtual environment and succeeded. Over the last 128 years, RHS teachers have faced adversity at different times while successfully leading and educating their students. This may be the most difficult and trying time for RHS teachers in its history. With all of the uncertainty in the coming months, I know there is no better equipped, professional, and dedicated group of faculty and staff to overcome the challenges before us to educate the students.

The pandemic has forced educators to rethink how learning and assessment occurs. There is no guidebook to refer to and help us through this situation. We need faculty and staff, parents, and students to be reasonable, practical, and flexible in addressing and solving the challenges that confront us. Problems are being solved in real time. There is no one right answer and we will keep the mantra of what is best for students in the forefront of our minds when deciding upon solutions within the parameters that have been set before us.

Some parents/guardians and students are overwhelmed, anxious, and even a little frightened. But the faculty and staff have the strength, compassion, and steadfastness to educate our students whether in a hybrid or virtual environment. We are all in this together and together we will all get through this.

Student Orientation

All incoming freshmen and new students will be receiving a New Student Orientation letter shortly with details regarding the event.

Click on the link below to get a virtual tour of RHS, where you will be making memories the next few years.

[RHS New Student Tour](#)

Lockers, Guidance, and Schedules

Students will not be issued or using lockers this year.

Schedules can be accessed by going into Skyward on the high school website under *For Parents>Resources>Skyward Family Access* beginning **August 24 at noon**.

Counselors will be available **Monday, August 31, 8:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.** for scheduling errors only. An email from your counselor through Naviance will supply you with a link to your counselor's calendar to schedule a Google Meet for that morning. Understand that there is limited staff available until September 1, so please refrain from calling until then.

Naviance is a website used by the Guidance Department to communicate career planning, academic information, college research, and the college application process. Please ensure you are signed up for this important site. It can be accessed from the high school's website at *For Parents>Resources>Naviance*.

Communication

Please familiarize yourself with the [RHS Student Pandemic Resource Google site](#). This page includes pertinent information about the school day schedule, building usage, student attendance, guidance concerns, database links, and technology resources, etc. The link can also be found as an icon under Students/Resources on the [RHS website homepage](#).

The high school's website at rhs.ridgewood.k12.nj.us has a wealth of information. *The Ridgewood High School Guidebook*, *Program of Studies*, and *RHS Announcements* are posted for your convenience. You can also follow RHS on Facebook [@hs.ridgewood](#), Instagram [@ridgewoodhs](#), and Twitter [@RidgewoodHS](#), [@MaroonGuidance](#), [@Maroon Sports](#).

The *Mandatory Annual Student Information Update* is available online on the high school's website homepage under School News. Additional forms must also be read and clicked off via Skyward. **Forms must be completed by September 4.**

The District requires a **\$150 Activities Fee** for each student who wishes to participate in a sport, the band, or club and activity. This fee is paid once annually via Skyward.

Policies

Prior to the start of school, students are required to read and take a Skyward online tutorial regarding the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, Academic Integrity, and Chromebook policies.

Parent Organizations

Getting involved in the various high school parent organizations is a great way to be a part of your child's education. Each group works extremely hard to provide a better experience for all students. Please be generous with your time and support. To learn more, check the website under *For Parents>Home and School Association>RHS HSA* for more details.

Attendance Policy

During the opening week of school, please remember to allow for extra time in the morning until everyone gets used to the traffic patterns. School begins promptly at 7:45 A.M. and tardiness will be marked accordingly. For your convenience, the doors to the school open at 7:00 A.M. Students taking the bus must have a school ID and bus pass. This will be enforced throughout the school year.

The Board of Education attendance policy states that a student is only permitted to miss class for a total of **twelve (12)** absences for a full year course and **six (6)** for a semester or quarter course. An unexcused absence is recorded when a parent/guardian does not report the absence or calls his/her child in as sick for any reason that is not listed as excused in the *Ridgewood High School Guidebook*.

Please call the Attendance Office at 201-670-2800 x20799 or email rhsattend@ridgewood.k12.nj.us to report an absence. It is incumbent upon the student to make arrangements with the teacher to make up work that is missed.

Buses

Buses will follow the normal morning schedule and drop-off students by the Fitness Center at RHS. Dismissal departure time is 11:30 A.M. on Heermance Place.

Student Drop-off

As the school enrollment grows each year, more cars are converging upon RHS. Please help by dropping your child off on a local side street and not coming into the parking lot. We also ask for you to encourage your child to walk or bike to school.

Visitors

For the health and safety of our students and staff, no visitors are allowed in the building. If needed, please contact the appropriate faculty or staff member by phone or to schedule a virtual meeting.

Back-to-School Night

Thursday, September 10 is Back-to-School Night. Back-to-School Night will not be in person this year and will be virtual. Teachers will create a virtual message that will be shared with you that afternoon.

Parent Evenings

All parent evenings will be virtual and information about specific events is forthcoming.

Final Words

With the new school year, we are being asked to do unprecedented work during uncertain times. There is a strong possibility we will be asked to teach in a virtual, hybrid, and total in-person format at various times throughout the school year. We are ready for all situations and will be able to switch formats at a moment's notice.

By working together, we will ensure success for all.

Respectfully,



Thomas A. Gorman, Ed.D. Principal