

Rocky Hill High School Principal's Newsletter

SEPTEMBER, 2011

WELCOME

Welcome to the start of the 2011-2012 school year. An important factor in a student's success relies on the "cooperative effort" between the school and home. One of the ways we will communicate is through the Principal's Newsletter. The newsletter's primary intent is to keep our school community informed of current and future events at RHHS. **In order to cut postage costs and save some trees along the way, we are sending newsletters and other pertinent information through email. If the school does not have your email, we will mail out the newsletters as we have done in the past. Please notify the school if you want to be added to our email distribution list.**

OPEN HOUSE

Our open house is scheduled for **Monday, September 19th**, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Parents should first report to homerooms where you will receive student's schedules. Parents will then follow his or her child's schedule for the remainder of the evening. During each ten-minute period, classroom teachers will present an overview of course content, with emphasis on their expectations for student performance and achievement. Administrators, guidance counselors, and support staff will be available throughout the evening to answer questions. Members of the Student Senate will be on hand to serve as guides. Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria

PROGRESS REPORTS/REPORT CARDS

Progress reports will no longer be mailed home, as parents and students can easily access grades and email teachers with questions through the Parent Portal. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact your counselor for a copy of the grades. Report cards will be issued around the following dates: **11/15/11, 2/1/12, and 4/10/12**. The final report card will be sent home after school ends. Parents and students can check PowerSchool using the Parent Portal (<http://web.rockyhillps.com/resources/ForParents.htm>) for more information on student grades and absences.

ROCK

RHHS has implemented PBIS - Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports this school year. PBIS is a research-based, school-wide approach to improve school climate and create safer and more effective schools. The goal of the program is to create an atmosphere of learning by setting clear, consistent expectations and directly teaching and reinforcing our expectations. **ROCK** (**R**espectful, **O**rganized, **C**ompassionate, **K**nowledgeable) was chosen as our motto by the PBIS Student Team in an effort to instill school-wide pride. Students can be recognized by teachers, peers and other staff members for demonstrating characteristics of **ROCK**.

NURSE'S OFFICE

Maureen Shaffer is our school nurse. All medical documentation needs to be communicated to her office. She can be reached at 860-258-7620 or by fax at 860-258-7735.

TARDY POLICY-ATTENDANCE REMINDER

Any student not present in first period at the 15-minute late tone is considered absent according to class attendance regulations. Any student who accumulates five tardies to school in any quarter will be assigned a Saturday Detention. Furthermore, our attendance regulations mandate that a student lose credit for a course if he/she exceeds 8 absences for a half-year course or 16 absences for a full-year course. We make attempts to notify students and parents through attendance letters and automated phone calls in the evening. You can also monitor your students' attendance through our parent portal. We will once again be running our after-school Attendance Recovery Program. Students who have exceeded the number of allowable absences may attend credit recovery sessions for each class they exceeded. Credit recovery sessions are held after school on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2:15-3:00 in Room 326. Students may only attend credit recovery sessions for a course which they are passing with a numerical grade above a 60. There is a limit of 5 credit recovery sessions per course.

ATHLETICS/CLUBS

The fall sports season at Rocky Hill High School officially kicks off the regular season on Tuesday, September 13. Over the past three weeks, 196 student-athletes have been working very hard along with their coaches to prepare for an exciting fall season. We also welcome a new fall cheerleading coach, Christa Allard who will lead the girls this fall season. Also, Adam Vess will assist our cross country program. Anyone who has any questions about the athletic program or student activities may contact Athletic and Student Activities Director Thomas McCabe at (860) 258-7721.

ROYAL BLUES RAKING FUNDRAISER

The Royal Blues marks the beginning of each season with the falling of leaves. Why not have them clean your lawn and help support a meaningful fundraiser? Any town resident that is interested in having students assist with raking leaves can call (860) 721-7791 to schedule an appointment. All they ask is a donation equivalent to the size of the yard and the length of the job. Space is limited and is subject to weather.

UPCOMING EVENTS

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Activity</u> | <u>Beginning Time</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9/15 | Meet the Coaches Night | 6:30 PM |
| 9/19 | Open House | 6:30 PM |
| 9/21 | PAC Meeting | 7:00 PM |
| 9/24 | Royal Blues Band Invitational | 1:00PM |
| 9/30 | Lend A Paw | 7:20 AM |
| 10/14 | Homecoming Weekend | |

STUDENT SAFETY

A reminder as we kick-off a new school year, the driveway rotunda in the front of the building is reserved for buses from 6:45 - 7:30 am and from 2:00 - 2:30 pm. Please do not drop off students in the front of the school during these times. Additionally, I would ask you not to drop off a student in the rear of the building. Delivery trucks use this area, as well as Special Education buses to drop off and pick up students.

LEND A PAW

Our twelfth annual Lend-A-Paw community service day is scheduled for **Friday, September 30th** (rain date will be **Thursday, October 6th**). In past years, students, staff, parent volunteers, and community members have all had a very positive experience on this day of service and giving to the greater Rocky Hill Community. Permission Slips and site descriptions will be available on **Friday, September 9th** in the main office. Permission slips and two non-perishable food items will be collected starting at **6:45AM on Tuesday, September 13th in the gymnasium**. If you are interested in chaperoning, please contact the Main Office.

PAC

All parents are encouraged to become members of our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) which meets monthly on the third Wednesday of every month. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 21**. All meetings are at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. Your support and input are always welcome.

Mario J. Almeida