



Dear Students and Families:

August 12, 2016

Welcome back for the start of a new school year! Rutland High School teachers and staff look forward to another year of continued partnership with students and family members as we help prepare our region's young people for the world beyond high school.

School officially begins for **9th grade students on Wednesday, August 31, 2016**. Freshman should arrive between 7:45 and 8:15. At 8:15, the day will commence with a gathering in the theater. Rutland High School has a special day planned for the 9th grade to ensure that all students make a great start. We end the orientation by 1:30.

On September 1st, school begins for ALL students. Our regular schedule will be in place on this day.

YES Plan Students in Grades 10 – 12 who still owe community service hours for YES Plan should have that completed by the first day of school. Failure to complete these hours will prevent students from meeting graduation requirements. In addition, to be eligible for a fall sport, students must have completed community service hours by August 1, 2016.

Open House Our Parent Open House is **Wednesday, September 14th at 6:00 PM**. Parents and friends will have the opportunity to follow a modified student schedule and to hear what is new at Rutland High School. We look forward to having you join us.

Guidance Information Schedules will be available to view on *Infinite Campus* during the week of August 19. If you have any questions regarding your schedule, please contact your guidance counselor either by phone (770-1100) or email. Assignments are based on last names. Please note that from year to year we shift counselor assignments to balance caseloads. Students should check the list below to note their counselor for the year.

Last name beginning with:	A–B:	Mrs. Wigmore at jennifer.wigmore@rcpsvt.org
	C-Ga	Ms. Myers at kelton.myers@rcpsvt.org
	Ge-Lo:	Ms. Herlihy at kate.herlihy@rcpsvt.org
	Lu-Re	Mrs. Conn at amy.conn@rcpsvt.org
	Rh-Z	Ms. Dirmeikis monica.dirmeikis@rcpsvt.org

Please note that recently, Mrs. Wigmore earned a prestigious fellowship through the Rowland Foundation that will require that some of her time be devoted to developing internships for Rutland High School students. Thus, this year, some of her students will be supported by other guidance counselors. Counselors will be contacting those students to let them know that they will be working together this year.

Guidance Counselors review students' schedules to achieve balance and to ensure that courses are appropriately placed. Remember that in the request process, students requested courses and not teachers. **Counselors will not change schedules based on teacher preference.** Please contact the guidance counselor directly if there is a concern regarding a schedule.

Infinite Campus The application form for getting a portal account is available here: <http://rhs.rutlandcitypublicschools.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/08/Parent-Portal-Access-Form.pdf> . If you have questions, please contact Michelle Browne at 802-770-1227, or michelle.browne@rcpsvt.org . Parents/guardians must activate their own account so that they receive information and survey opportunities.

Weekly Schedule Rutland High School continues to excel in developing systems that allow our teachers to work together to provide the best education for our students. We remind all that on **nearly each Wednesday during the school year, classes begin one hour later in order for teachers to meet on teams**. On Wednesdays, students should arrive to school in time to start class at 8:50. If a student must arrive earlier, we provide supervision in the cafeteria and Information Center.

Mailings This will be the last regular mailing from RHS. As of Term 1 Progress Reports, all correspondence will be through the *Infinite Campus* Parent/Student Portal. If you choose to continue to receive paper mailings, please complete the Mailing Request Form and return it to Main Office.

School Calendar A reminder regarding the school calendar: when planning events for June, 2017, please remember that our end date often shifts further into June due to weather cancellations. Students have the responsibility of meeting all attendance obligations.

A Point of Emphasis A year ago, the RCPS School Commissioners approved a district vision statement toward which we set our goals as a school:

Rutland City Public Schools cultivates a passionate, diverse, and resilient community of critical thinkers who learn with purpose, create innovative and responsible solutions, and lead lives of integrity.

Additionally, the Agency of Education and the state legislature are guiding Vermont's schools to meet the expectations of twenty-first century learning through the Education Quality Standards, complementary to our district vision (<http://education.vermont.gov/state-board/rules/2000>). This document promises Vermont students that curriculum, instruction, assessment will follow what is most current in educational theory, ensuring that our students are prepared for what is a rapidly changing global economic and social landscape.

Part of the state requirements is that schools move toward teaching, measuring, and reporting student growth through clear standards and an individual student's ability to demonstrate mastery of those standards. Rutland High School invested a great deal of thought toward this goal over the last six years. This approach will be a central topic of discussion as we work to meet the state's expectations.

We continue to move closer to the ideal embedded in the district's motto, "Every Student, Every Day." Collaboration and commitment between all members of our community is the path that Rutland High School is taking to meet that ideal.

Sincerely,

Bill Olsen, Principal