

August 20, 2020

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome back! That phrase has new meaning this year as we welcome students back to the school building for the first time in 175 days. If there's one thing that last spring demonstrated, though, it is that Rutland HS is not just a building. The learning community was growing and thriving as students and teachers interacted and engaged in the learning process over the internet and through video. Rutland HS is made up of the people who bring our mission statement to life: *We cultivate a passionate, diverse, and resilient community of critical thinkers who learn with purpose, create innovative and responsible solutions, and lead lives of integrity.*

Your teaching and administrative team has been hard at work throughout the summer to *create innovative and responsible solutions* to the challenges posed by the current pandemic. The greatest challenge of course is that in order to maintain a safe distance between individuals in the building, we need to reduce the number of people here at any given time. Our plan therefore, with a few exceptions, is to have freshmen in school every day and sophomores, juniors, and seniors in school every other day.

Included in this mailing is the **student's schedule** and a Red and White day calendar. Please make note on the bottom of the schedule where it states "Blended Learning Group." This will tell you whether the student is:

- Red day on campus / White day remote;
- White day on campus / Red day remote;
- Every day on campus; or
- Every day remote.

On the days that students are learning remotely at home, they are expected to sign onto their Google Classroom meeting at the time of the class period. Their teacher and classmates will be there, ready for class.

The **arrival process** will also be different this year. The doors will open at 7:40, and students being dropped off may enter school at either the front circle or the back circle of the school building. Busses will use the side entrance. Each student's temperature will be taken prior to entering the school building or getting on the bus, and they'll be asked if they're experiencing any flu-like symptoms. Please plan for the extra time that this process will take.

Students will need to arrive at school wearing a **mask** that they can wear for the full school day. Also, students will be expected to maintain a safe, six-foot distance from one another as much as possible. Some classes will use outside spaces such as tents when the weather allows, and lunch will be served in classrooms. Also, upperclassmen will only be assigned a locker upon request. These are just a few of the procedures that we will use to keep all of the members of the school community safe and healthy.

School officially begins for **9<sup>th</sup> grade students on Tuesday, September 8**. Ninth grade students whose schedule says “Every day on campus” are to arrive at 7:40 ready for their first day. The scheduled day will begin at 8:15 and we have a special day planned for just the 9<sup>th</sup> grade where they will meet their teachers, find their lockers, and learn what they’ll need for a great start. Ninth grade students whose schedule says “Every day remote” will receive links to follow the day remotely. This special orientation day for freshmen ends at 1:15.

On **Wednesday, September 9**, which is a White Day,

- students in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade whose schedule says “White day on campus / Red day remote” or “Every day on campus” report to campus at 7:40.
- All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students whose schedule says “Every day on campus” also report to campus at 7:40.
- All 9-12 students whose schedule says “Every day remote” log onto their classes at the time when they start.

On **Thursday, September 10**, which is a Red Day,

- students in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade whose schedule says “Red day on campus / White day remote” or “Every day on campus” report to campus at 7:40.
- All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students whose schedule says “Every day on campus” also report to campus at 7:40.
- All 9-12 students whose schedule says “Every day remote” log onto their classes at the time when they start.

This alternating pattern of Red and White days will continue throughout the year. I suggest that you keep the Red and White day calendar/ bell schedule that is included in this mailing and post it somewhere prominent at home. These first days of school will serve as orientation days for all students as they get used to the new procedures in the building and for remote learning.

**Guidance information:** Please note that schedule changes such as adding a class or moving to a different section will be more difficult this year due to measures already taken with regard to class size. Counselors will be available on a daily basis starting on August 25th to answer any questions regarding your schedule.

School Counselors review students’ schedules to achieve balance and to ensure that courses are appropriately placed. Counselors will not change schedules based on teacher preference. Please contact the School Counselor directly if there is a concern regarding a schedule.

The **PSAT** exam will be offered to juniors and sophomores who wish to take the exam on Wednesday, October 14th. Test capacity is limited and juniors will receive first

priority. The cost of the exam for juniors is \$25.00 and the exam is free for sophomores. Fee waivers are available for juniors who qualify. Students should contact Mrs. Carpenter in the guidance office to sign up, and the deadline is September 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please contact your school counselor. This is the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test for juniors.

Students' last name beginning with:	<b>A–B:</b> grades 9-12	Ms. Jennifer Pros	<a href="mailto:jennifer.pros@rcpsvt.org">jennifer.pros@rcpsvt.org</a>
	<b>C-G</b> grades 9-12	Ms. Kelton Myers	<a href="mailto:kelton.myers@rcpsvt.org">kelton.myers@rcpsvt.org</a>
	<b>H-Man</b>	Mrs. Meghan Carroccia	<a href="mailto:meghan.carroccia@rcpsvt.org">meghan.carroccia@rcpsvt.org</a>
	<b>Mao-Ri</b>	Mrs. Amy Conn	<a href="mailto:amy.conn@rcpsvt.org">amy.conn@rcpsvt.org</a>
	<b>Ro-Z</b>	Mrs. Lesley Copans	<a href="mailto:lesley.copans@rcpsvt.org">lesley.copans@rcpsvt.org</a>

Save the date: October 1 at 6:00 pm. **Open House** will be a virtual opportunity for every parent to meet teachers and ask about classes.

Fall **Sports** information can be found on our website: <https://tinyurl.com/RHS-Athletics>

Communication has never been as important as it is now. Included in this mailing are the username and passwords for your accounts. Please save and use this information to stay informed. Students will be receiving information on a regular basis via their school email account and I recommend that you get into the habit of checking it daily. Parents, get the information you need by keeping your home email up to date. On the Rutland High School webpage is a link to do so, and it is also available here: <https://tinyurl.com/RHS-Update>

We continue to communicate about your student's progress with the grading software ***JumpRope***. Teachers keep their grades in *JumpRope*, and students and families can monitor progress anytime. Freshmen students will receive log-on information as a part of this mailing.

We use *Infinite Campus* for attendance, schedules, census information, formal report cards, etc. The application for a portal account is available on the *Resources* tab of the school's website and here: <https://tinyurl.com/RHS-InfiniteC> If you have questions, please contact Lori Pinkowski at 770-1403, or [lori.pinkowski@rcpsvt.org](mailto:lori.pinkowski@rcpsvt.org) .

Your teaching and administrative staff are ready for a great school year, and all we need is *you*. Together, we are strong; we are resilient; and we are Rutland!

See you soon,

  
Greg Schilling, Principal