

RVGS students and families,

With the start of the school year just around the corner, I wanted to reach out with some back to school information. On behalf of the RVGS faculty, we hope you have enjoyed a great summer and are ready for an exciting new year at RVGS. The first day back to school is **August 24**. Our regular school day for the morning session is **8:30 AM to 11:00 AM** and **12:55 PM to 3:30 PM** for the afternoon session. The building will be open to students by 7:50 AM each morning.

COVID Protocols

We are committed to take all appropriate steps to keep our students, staff, families, and communities safe during the pandemic. All students and staff will wear acceptable face coverings (covering nose and mouth fully) throughout their time in the school building. We will observe 3 ft distancing, which allows all students to attend 5 days/week in person. All classes will be fully in person and we will not offer a virtual option for RVGS classes.

Temperature checks will be discontinued this year, but families need to contact Mr. Levy immediately if they become aware that their student has cold/flu symptoms or had a direct COVID exposure and the student will need to stay home. Our ability to stay open in a full capacity while keeping our community safe relies on you providing this notification and keeping your student home when needed. An exposure is described as 15 minutes or more within 6 ft of someone who tests positive, however the CDC has different guidelines for exposures in a school setting and any exposures in the students base high school will be communicated to you by that school system (we still need you to report those exposures to RVGS if they occur). RVGS will promptly notify you if there are any exposures in our building that involve your student.

If a student needs to miss school due to quarantine or cold-like symptoms, our faculty will be attentive to ensure the student is able to keep up with their work and isn't penalized for the absence. Students will need to be proactive in keeping up with their work during an absence and are responsible for contacting their teachers for clarification or assistance if they don't understand their assignments or the course content during an absence.

In addition to masking and distancing, we encourage students to take advantage of all other health protective practices available, such as vaccination, frequent handwashing, refraining from touching their face, and other hygiene practices suggested by public health officials.

Back to School Night

Back to School Night will take place on Thursday, August 19 at 6:00 PM. Due to our limited space in the building and the need for social distancing, the event will take place virtually. Students and parents will have the opportunity to virtually 'meet' their teachers during real-time sessions, along with receiving back to school information from Mr.

Levy. The event will begin at 6:00 PM on 8/19. Full details and information to access the sessions will be emailed and posted on the RVGS website next week. Student schedules will be distributed by email prior to Back to School Night.

Transportation and Parking

Each school district will provide transportation to and from the Governor's School this year. Contact your home district transportation office to determine the location and departure time for the bus to RVGS. *Students are encouraged to use school-provided transportation when it is provided*, but upperclassmen may request permission to receive an RVGS parking pass through the main office and paying \$20.00 (checks payable to RVGS). Students with a parking pass must park in the designated RVGS student parking areas. Students may not park in the RVGS faculty lot. Cars parked outside of the designated area or in the teacher parking lot are subject to tickets and/or fines. Patrick Henry High School/RVGS students must obtain a PHHS parking pass and park in the appropriate PHHS student parking lot.

When dropping off or picking up a student from campus, do not pull up to the front of the building or drive through the Patrick Henry bus loop. Instead, please turn onto the side road that runs beside RVGS and drop the student off at the side or rear of the school. The student can then follow the sidewalk to the front entrance.

First day of school

When students arrive at RVGS on August 24, they should check the information on the lecture hall doors for the location of their first class (schedules will be provided in advance, but these postings will be provided as a reminder). First period teachers will distribute student planners and forms that need to be completed and signed by students and parents. To simplify this process we are consolidating several of the forms into a single online form, which will be emailed to parents soon, but forms will still need to be completed on paper. All forms (paper and digital) should be returned on August 25, and are due no later than August 26. Students will return all forms to the labeled boxes outside the main office. Please note that RVGS needs these forms submitted in addition to any forms completed for the home school so we can have the information on file. The planner contains the Student Handbook. Parents and students are asked to carefully read this handbook. Locker application forms are available in the office by request.

Fees

All students are requested to pay a \$20.00 lab fee. We have a new system that will allow fees to be paid online, and instructions will be provided when that option is available. If you prefer to pay by check or cash, this can be brought to Mrs. Buch in the office. Make checks payable to RVGS. If this fee creates a financial burden for your family, we will waive the fee on request (contact Mr. Levy at mlevy@rvgs.k12.va.us for more information).

Calculators

All RVGS students are required to have a TI calculator. Students who have a TI-84 can use it, but if you are getting a new calculator, purchase a TI-84+ calculator or a TI NSpire calculator with an 84+ faceplate. Contact Mr. Doug Divers (ddivers@rvgs.k12.va.us), math department chair, if you have any questions regarding calculator requirements. If purchasing a calculator presents a financial burden to your family, a loaner calculator can be acquired from Mr. Divers.

Project Forum

Our annual Student Project Forum is scheduled for Saturday, February 5 (inclement weather make up on Saturday February 12). All RVGS students are REQUIRED to attend the Project Forum. Please mark these dates on your calendar and make the appropriate arrangements so your student will be at the Forum.

School Calendar

Throughout the school year, the RVGS calendar information will be available on the school website, www.rvgs.k12.va.us. We will follow the [Roanoke City Schools calendar](#) for holidays, vacations, and inclement weather. We do not plan to have ‘virtual days’ when school is out for inclement weather unless a notable number of days have already been missed for snow.

One exception to the Roanoke City calendar is that the Parent-Teacher Conference day listed for Feb 7 will instead take place on March 8 to allow sufficient time for classes to pick back up after Intersession. Feb 7 will remain a non-student day as a courtesy to students following their work to prepare for Project Forum. There will not be on-campus classes on March 8, but students may still receive materials from their teacher to complete from home.

We recognize that there are a number of mismatches this year regarding spring break timing. More information about how we will handle those situations will be provided toward the beginning of second semester.

Absences from School

For an unplanned absence, please send a written note on the student’s first returning to school. Mrs. Buch is the primary contact for reporting absences or receiving notes. Please schedule discretionary family trips to coincide with the school calendar whenever possible. Unexcused absences of three days or more will be subject to a 10% grade penalty, and absences without a note being submitted will result in a grade of zero. If an unavoidable scheduling conflict exists, please directly contact Mr. Levy as far in advance as possible. Communication is key in handling absences.

Note regarding online attendance system: The online system accessible through ParentVue doesn't provide full notations about absences and school notations that a parent note was provided do not display an excused code in most cases. If you have contacted the school about the absence, don't be alarmed if those absences still appear as unexcused online.

Online Gradebook

ParentVUE login information from prior years will remain active. Parents of new students will receive an activation key and login information via email as we approach the start of school. If you have difficulty activating your account after you have received your login information, please contact Mr. Levy (mlevy@rvgs.k12.va.us).

Dual Enrollment Courses

RVGS will offer Dual Enrollment credit in the following courses this year: Biology, Accelerated AB/BC Calculus, Statistics and Multivariable Calculus. Mrs. Sebolt has distributed additional information for Dual Enrollment registration.

Please contact us with your questions or concerns

Please call the school or email Mr. Levy (mlevy@rvgs.k12.va.us) or Mrs. Sebolt (ksebolt@rvgs.k12.va.us) if you have any questions or concerns. Questions about attendance, parking, and back to school forms can be directed to Mrs. Buch (pbuch@rvgs.k12.va.us). All of us at the Governor's School are looking forward to a successful school year!

Thanks,

Mark A. Levy

Director

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