



6 August 2023

RVGS Parents and Students:

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 22**. Our regular school day for the morning session is **8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** and **12:40 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.** for the afternoon session (*note that is a change from the prior schedule for PM students*). The building will be open to students by 7:50 a.m. each morning.

Transportation and Parking

Each school district will provide transportation to and from the Governor's School. Contact your home school to determine the location and departure time for the bus, as RVGS does not have fully detailed information for each school division. **If you drop off your student in the mornings, please check the Back to School Center page for drop off location information.**

Students are encouraged to use school-provided transportation, but upperclassmen may request permission to receive an RVGS parking pass by completing the application form (available in the office) and paying \$20.00 (see "Fees" section below for payment options). Students with a parking pass must park in the designated RVGS student parking areas. Students may not park in the RVGS faculty lot (including visitor spaces) or in the grass. 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 are not permitted to use the RVGS parking lot.

First day of school and start of year forms

When students arrive at RVGS on August 22, they can find the location of their first class posted on the lecture hall door (schedule information will also be provided by email). First period teachers will distribute schedules, planners, and other first day materials. **The majority of back to school forms are consolidated within a single online form, which should be completed by August 22.** This form is available at: <https://forms.office.com/r/BeiKbrKABr>
The health information form, acceptable use form, and code of conduct agreement will be provided as paper forms and need to be returned on August 23. Students will return all paper forms to the labeled boxes outside the main office. The planner contains the RVGS Student Handbook, and parents/guardians are asked to review this with their student.

Fees

Fees or payments associated with RVGS can be paid online through the MySchoolBucks link on the RVGS website (will be posted before the start of school), by credit card in the main office, or by check (written to "RVGS"). If any fee or expenses associated with RVGS creates any level financial burden for your family, do not hesitate to reach out to Mr. Levy to have the fee waived. No RVGS family will be required to pay a fee that would create strain on the family.

The annual RVGS lab fee is \$20.00 and should be paid by August 23, using one of the payment methods mentioned above or via checks can be submitted to the student's science teacher.

School Supplies and Calculators

RVGS does not publish a school supply list, as we generally require the same types of supplies as the student's home high school. All RVGS students are required to have a TI-84+ calculator. Contact Mr. Doug Divers (ddivers@rvgs.k12.va.us) if you have any questions regarding calculator requirements. RVGS will provide a calculator if purchasing one creates a burden.

Back to School Night

Back to School Night will take place on Thursday, August 17. See the RVGS website for additional information.

School Calendar

Throughout the school year, a calendar of school events is available by clicking "Calendar" on the RVGS website, www.rvgs.k12.va.us. Recall that we observe the [Roanoke City Schools](#) calendar for holidays, vacations, and inclement weather. There are limited exceptions to our use of the Roanoke City calendar: *February 5 (day following Project Forum) will be a non-student day and the projected last day of classes for underclassmen at RVGS will be May 21. We will also announce some adjustments related to winter break later in the semester.* **The Senior Dinner will be the evening of Monday, May 6 and families of seniors should reserve that date on their calendar.**

Project Forum

Our annual RVGS Project Forum is scheduled for Saturday, February 3 (inclement weather make-up on Saturday February 10). 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 available to participate.

Absences from School

Please provide a note in advance for planned absences. For an unplanned absence, please send a written note on the student's first returning to school. Please schedule discretionary family trips to coincide with the school calendar. Unexcused absences of three days or more may be subject to a 10% grade penalty, and absences without any note or parent contact will result in a grade of zero for missed assignments. If an unavoidable scheduling conflict exists, please directly contact Mr. Levy as far in advance as possible.

Note regarding online attendance system: The only absences that display in the computer system as excused are medical excuses with doctor note, court-related absences, and religious observance. Our notations of a parent note being provided do not display on the computer system, so don't be alarmed if those absences continue to appear as unexcused online.

Cell Phones

Students are required to deposit their cell phone (and smartwatch if relevant) in cell phone caddies at the start of each class period. Please contact the school at 540-853-2116 if you need to reach your student during class time. Students are not permitted to use earbuds during class time. Students are free to use technology before/after school or between classes.

Student Accountability and Assignments

Our goal at RVGS is to support students as they grow and develop and that includes cultivation of work habits appropriate for academic and professional pursuits. Students are expected to meet the due dates for their assignments at RVGS. In general, students should not expect to receive credit for daily assignments submitted after the due date (longer term assignments like labs are often accepted at 10 points off per day late). When unique circumstances arise and a student

anticipates difficulty meeting a deadline, students should reach out to their teacher in advance by email or Remind. Students should not expect flexibility regarding a due date if they do not proactively contact the teacher. The guidelines above are typical for RVGS classes, but the specific procedures for each course will be clearly articulated in the syllabus. Please recognize this focus on accountability has a productive, rather than punitive, goal. The expectation to remain on the proper timeline of assignments is ultimately better for the student than allowing their quiz and test performance to suffer by the school not re-enforcing basic expectations. Students who need help managing their time and tasks should meet with Mrs. Sebolt for assistance.

Grades and Online Gradebook

RVGS letter grades use a 10 point scale (details provided in the class syllabus). RVGS reports semester grades with three interim reports each semester. The online gradebook can be accessed through the ParentVue/StudentVue system. ParentVUE login information from prior years remain active. Parents of new students will receive an activation key and login information by email (Roanoke City families use their existing login). If you are unable to get the activation key to work or otherwise cannot access the online gradebook, contact Mr. Levy for assistance.

Dual Enrollment Courses

RVGS will offer Dual Enrollment credit in the following courses this year: Biology, Accelerated Calculus (ALC), Statistics, and Multivariable Calculus. Mrs. Sebolt will distribute additional information for Dual Enrollment registration on the first day of school. *Paperwork and payment for these courses needs to be submitted promptly*. Students taking these courses are not required to dual enroll, and students/families can consult Mrs. Sebolt regarding this decision.

RVGS T-Shirts

Each student will receive an order form to receive an RVGS t-shirt. You are encouraged to submit a \$10 donation to the RVGS Foundation to offset the expense of the shirt, but this is not required for a student to submit a shirt request. To complete the suggested donation, you can click on “Giving” on the RVGS website and click the yellow Donate button.

RVGS Foundation

The RVGS Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides support to RVGS (analogous to the fundraising aspects of a PTA). You provide support the RVGS Foundation by linking the RVGS Foundation to your Kroger Rewards and/or Amazon Smile accounts (additional information on the Back to School Center page). You also have the option to give a \$5 start of year ‘membership’ through an envelope your student will receive with back to school paperwork. The single significant RVGS Foundation fundraiser each year is the Annual Appeal during January. More information will be provided when appropriate.

Please contact us with your questions or concerns

You should always feel free to call the school or email Mr. Levy (mlevy@rvgs.k12.va.us), Mrs. Sebolt (ksebolt@rvgs.k12.va.us), or Mrs. Buch (pbuch@rvgs.k12.va.us) if you have any questions or concerns.

All of us at the Governor’s School are looking forward to the start of a successful school year!

Thanks,

Mark A. Levy
RVGS Director