Rocky River
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Rocky River High School

PIRATE NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2026

20951 Detroit Rd., Rocky River OH, 44116
440-356-6000
www.rrcs.org

MRS. CARRIE KNAPP, PRINCIPAL
MR. KEVIN HOGAN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
MRS. MOLLY KRIST, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
MR. MARK WAGNER, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS / ACTIVITIES

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Rocky River Students and Families,

We hope you are enjoying the final days of summer! As we begin a new school year, I am excited to join the Rocky River family. I look forward to getting to know our students and families and partnering with you to make this a successful, positive, and rewarding year for every student. High school is a time when students continue to grow as learners and individuals, developing independence, responsibility, time management, and self-advocacy. These skills are nurtured through the daily support of our teachers, staff, and administrators and are strengthened by the partnership we share with you. Together, we can help every student thrive.

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 19th, 2026. School starts at 8:55 a.m. every Wednesday (delayed start) and at 7:55 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. **Although it is a Wednesday, we will ask the students to arrive at 7:55 a.m. on August 19 for PLC/class meetings. Students in grades 10–12 should report to the auditorium. Ninth grade students can report to the main gym.**

To help keep you informed, our team will send a monthly newsletter at the beginning of each month with important dates, updates, and resources. If there is anything we can do to support your student, we encourage you to reach out to our administrative team, school counselors, office staff, teachers, and support staff. We are here to help and look forward to partnering with you and your family throughout the school year.

We look forward to a wonderful year of learning, growth, and success. We can't wait to welcome our students back to the building!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carrie Knapp
Principal, Rocky River High School
knapp.carrie@rrcs.org
440-356-6800, ext. 6811

IMPORTANT DATES

AUGUST 11
BOOSTER BASH, 6:00 P.M.

AUGUST 17
9TH GRADE ORIENTATION, 8:00 AM-10:00 AM
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

AUGUST 19
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
SENIOR SUNRISE (OPTIONAL), 6:30 AM
GRADES 10-12 PLC, 7:55 AM
GRADE 9 PLC, 7:55 AM

AUGUST 21
PICTURE DAY

AUGUST 25
SENIOR PARENT MEETING, 6:00 PM-7:00PM

AUGUST 26
SENIOR PLC, 7:55 AM

AUGUST 27
ADJUSTED BELL SCHEDULE (SEE NEXT PAGE)
PARENT MEETING, 6:00 PM
OPEN HOUSE, 6:00 PM-8:00 P.M

COMMUNICATION AT RRHS

Both the district and the high school webpages include an abundance of information. The links below are useful as we start school. If you have questions, the best way to contact any staff member, administrator, or employee at RRHS is through email. All email addresses can be found on the high school website. The contact information for the RRHS administration and counseling teams is listed below:

Name	Title	Email
Mrs. Carrie Knapp	Principal	knapp.carrie@rrcs.org
Mrs. Molly Krist	Assistant Principal: Last Names A-K	krist.molly@rrcs.org
Mr. Kevin Hogan	Assistant Principal: Last Names L-Z	hogan.kevin@rrcs.org
Mr. Mark Wagner	Director of Athletics and Activities	wagner.mark@rrcs.org
Mr. Jeff Petrulis	Counselor: Last Names A-G	petrulis.jeffrey@rrcs.org
Ms. Sarah Blatnik	Counselor: Last Names H-O	blatnik.sarah@rrcs.org
Ms. Candace McMahon	Counselor: Last Names P-Z	mcmahon.candace@rrcs.org

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Any major updates (snow days, emergencies, etc.) will be communicated through email and phone. If you are not on the call list of these communications, please contact Amber Easler at easler.amber@rrcs.org.

RRHS DAILY SCHEDULE

Rocky River High School operates on a 7 (seven) period day and school begins at 7:55 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. For security purposes, no entrance doors will be unlocked until they are staffed by RRCS employees. School doors open at 7:15 a.m. Students who need to arive before 7:15 a.m. must arrange that with a school staff member. Each Wednesday, RRHS operates on a 1-hour delayed start schedule, meaning school begins at 8:55 a.m. The reason for this delayed start is to provide collaboration time for staff development through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Teachers meet during this hour each week to interpret data, work on curriculum initiatives, and discuss student achievement.

STUDENT PLCS

Oftentimes, class meetings/student PLCs are held on Wednesday mornings. Attendance at student PLC meetings is mandatory unless otherwise communicated. Attendance is taken, and failure to attend a PLC is treated the same as an absence from class. The first student PLC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 19**, the first day of school. These meetings are not held during the regular school day because we are committed to protecting instructional time and do not want to pull students from their academic classes. We ask for your partnership in ensuring that your student attends these important meetings. PLC meeting dates and times will be communicated in the monthly newsletter.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

Drop-off and pick-up times can cause congested parking lots. Please be aware that if you pick up your child in the Wagar lot, there is one lane for pick-up and one lane for exiting the premises. Students can also be dropped off and picked up in the Detroit Road parking lot. Utilizing both parking lots helps create a smoother arrival and dismissal process.

IMPORTANT LINKS FROM ABOVE:

Code of Conduct
Daily Announcements
RRHS Bell Schedule
RRHS Supply List

RRHS Website
Student and Parent Handbook

NINTH GRADE/NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Ninth grade orientation will take place on **Monday, August 17, 2026 from 8:00–10:00 a.m.** in the Main Gym of Rocky River High School. This is a student only event. Please reach out to Mrs. Kalinowski with any questions at kalinowski.kristen@rrcs.org. New students who are in grades 10-12 are invited to attend our **new student orientation at 10:00 a.m., also on August 17th.** Families of new students may contact the school counseling office with any questions. Students should enter the building through the Wagar lot. We look forward to meeting all of our new RRHS students!

AUGUST 27 ADJUSTED BELL SCHEDULE

Due to RRHS Open House on the evening of the 27th, students will be dismissed from school early. The schedule is below:

Open House School Day Bell Schedule		
Period 1	7:55 - 8:44	49 minutes
Period 2	8:48 - 9:37	49 minutes
Period 3	9:41 - 10:30	49 minutes
Seminar	10:34 - 10:58	24 minutes
Period 4 A	11:02 - 11:24	22 minutes
Period 4 B	11:28 - 11:51	23 minutes
Period 5 A	11:55 - 12:17	22 minutes
Period 5 B	12:21 - 12:44	23 minutes
Period 6	12:48 - 1:37	49 minutes
Period 7	1:41 - 2:30	49 minutes

PARENT MEETING / OPEN HOUSE

Rocky River High School Open House will be held on **Thursday, August 27 beginning at 6:00 p.m.** Below is the schedule for class period rotations. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the main office at 440-356-6800. You will need a copy of/access to your child's schedule for open house. You can access this through PowerSchool. We are unable to print those on the evening of open house. If your child has a study hall or Option period, there will be no classroom meeting but all parents are welcome to visit the Commons area to pass the time.

The evening will begin with an optional parent meeting in the RRHS Auditorium. During this meeting, administrators and school counselors will introduce themselves and share important information about school practices, policies, and expectations for the upcoming school year. We look forward to seeing you there!

Open House Schedule	
Parent Meeting	6:00 - 6:25
Period 1	6:30 - 6:38
Period 2	6:43 - 6:51
Period 3	6:56 - 7:04
Period 4	7:09 - 7:17
Period 5	7:22- 7:30
Period 6	7:35 - 7:43
Period 7	7:48 - 7:56

IMPORTANT LINKS FROM ABOVE:

REMINDER REGARDING FOOD DELIVERIES / SUPPLY DROP-OFF PRACTICE AT RRHS

As a reminder from last year's communication, food deliveries should not be sent to / ordered for / ordered by students during the school day.

To help support students who may forget items at home, we have cubbies located in the vestibule for forgotten belongings. Families may drop off items there, and students can retrieve them at a convenient, non-instructional time during the school day.

Please do not leave money or valuable items, such as phones, computers, or other electronics, in the cubby. While the area is monitored by cameras, we ask that any valuable items be delivered directly to school personnel for safekeeping.

RRHS PARKING PASSES

RRHS uses Local Level Events to purchase student parking tags online. Students wishing to purchase a parking tag must have their school fees paid in full and a valid driver's license. A temporary driver's license will not be accepted and tags may not be held for future purchase. The price of the parking tag is $30.00.

- Purchased tags will be assigned to a specific spot number during the first few weeks of school. Once the spot number is assigned, that will be the only spot the student will be allowed to park in for the entirety of the school year.
- Students may start the year driving to school and parking in any spot until spots are assigned.
- Parking Tags will only be released if all school fees have been paid.

SENIOR T-SHIRTS

Senior t-shirts will be distributed on **Monday, August 17 and Tuesday, August 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. both days** from the Wagar entrance. Students who can't attend either of these days can pick up their shirts at Senior Sunrise.

Senior students are asked to wear their class shirts on the first day of school where a class picture will be taken. Senior Sunrise will take place on the first day of school, August 19th, from 6:30 a.m.–7:50 a.m. A mandatory PLC meeting in the auditorium will follow.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR OPTION

As communicated in the spring, juniors and seniors who participate in Option must meet the following criteria during the preceding quarter:

- Maintain an attendance rate of 90% or higher.
- Have no more than 5 tardies.
- Have no suspensions or in-school restrictions.
- Pass all courses.

The junior/senior Option is a privilege designed to reward students who demonstrate responsibility, strong attendance, and positive academic and behavioral performance. We encourage students to continue making choices that support their success!

IMPORTANT LINKS FROM ABOVE:

Parking Pass

GENERAL INFORMATION

Every Pirate, Every Day!

Ohio law requires school districts to communicate attendance for chronic absenteeism to families no later than when a student has missed 45 hours regardless of the reason. **All excused, unexcused, and medical absences are counted.** Districts are also required to communicate habitual truancy. Habitual Truancy is determined by the following thresholds of unexcused absences:

a. 30 or more consecutive hours (approximately 5 school days)
b. 42 or more hours per month (approximately 7 school days)
c. 72 or more hours per year (approximately 12 school days)
*Hours include tardy to school and early dismissal as well as class cuts.

IDEA
Individuals with Disabilities Act

Search for Children With Disabilities Underway

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004, the Rocky River City School District is participating in Child Find efforts to locate, evaluate, and identify all children from birth through 21 years of age with disabilities, regardless of their situations, who have significant, individual needs and require intensive interventions through special education and related services.

A disability, in this instance, means such conditions as autism, deaf/blindness, multiple disabilities, deafness/hearing impairment, orthopedic impairment, visual impairment/blindness, specific learning disabilities, preschoolers with a disability, emotional disturbance, cognitive disabilities, speech and language impairments, orthopedic and other health impairments, or traumatic brain injury.

Although many school-aged with disabilities are identified and are currently being served by the Rocky River City School District, preschool children ages 3-5 with disabilities may be unidentified because parents may not be aware that programs and services are now available through the public school. Community members can help us with this important effort. If you know of a child in our district with a disability that is not presently attending school or receiving services from another agency, please contact the Executive Director of Pupil Services at 440-356-6006.

In addition and in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment of 2008, Rocky River City School District is participating in Child Find efforts to locate, evaluate and identify all children with a disability. In this instance, a student with a disability who has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity who, because of that disability, needs or is believed to need special education, related services or aids or accommodations/modifications. If a parent or guardian suspects that a child may be eligible under this federal definition, please contact our District Compliance Officer.

IMPORTANT LINKS FROM ABOVE:

COUNSELORS' CORNER

We encourage you to visit the Counselor Tab and the Counselor Corner page on the RRHS website throughout the school year for valuable resources and information.

RRHS COUNSELORS

Jeff Petrulis
Counselor for last names A-G
petrulis.jeffrey@rrcs.org

Sarah Blatnik
Counselor for last names H-O
blatnik.sarah@rrcs.org

Candace McMahon
Counselor for last names P-Z
mcmahon.candace@rrcs.org

RRHS FAMILY LIAISON (CONTRACTED THROUGH MCKEON EDUCATIONAL GROUP)

Mrs. Laura Phenney
phenney.laura@rrcs.org

We know there is a lot of information included in this newsletter. Our goal is to provide you with the information you may need throughout the school year and to create a resource you can return to whenever questions arise. We hope each monthly newsletter will help keep you informed about important dates, events, practices, and information at RRHS.

We are looking forward to a great school year and to welcoming our students and families back to RRHS. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carrie Knapp, Principal
Mr. Kevin Hogan, Assistant Principal (L-Z)
Mrs. Molly Krist, Assistant Principal (A-K)
Mr. Mark Wagner, Director of Athletics and Activities

IMPORTANT LINKS FROM ABOVE:

COUNSELOR TAB

COUNSELOR CORNER (NEWSLETTER)