



Rush-Henrietta Central School District

www.rhnet.org

August 1, 2017

Dear Rush-Henrietta families:

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school Tuesday, September 5. I am writing with important information to help you and your student prepare for a successful school experience.

SCHOOL RECONGIFURATION IS UNDERWAY!

More than two years ago, our community voted overwhelmingly to approve the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education's Full-Day Kindergarten and Enrollment Management proposal. After extensive planning and preparation, the time to move forward with full-day kindergarten and our new school structure has arrived. By reconfiguring our schools, we now have the space needed to offer full-day kindergarten, giving our youngest learners a full day of learning. Reconfiguring our schools allows us to improve our school district in many other ways. We will preserve our successful small-class-size initiative, better manage future student enrollment, balance the size of schools, provide wrap-around care service for students in grades K-6, create an enrichment period for students in grades 4-6, give fourth graders the opportunity to take chorus and band, and more. Additional details can be found at www.rhnet.org/welcomeback today!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The printed version of the *2017-2018 School Calendar* will be mailed in August to homes of all children enrolled in the district. The calendar, which also is available on the district website at www.rhnet.org, will help you stay involved in our schools. Please refer to it often to find opportunities for parent and family involvement. The online version of the calendar will reflect scheduling changes that occur throughout the year and can be customized to reflect your specific interests.

BLUE CARDS, E-NEWS, AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

Rush-Henrietta uses an automated phone notification system to record, schedule, and send personalized voice messages to thousands of families within minutes. To make this system as efficient as possible, we will ask you at the beginning of the school year to enter accurate contact information on your student's blue card. Please include home, work, and cell numbers. It is imperative that we have correct contact information in the event of emergency, such as a child illness. In addition, the district posts special alerts on its website as needed. Please visit www.rhnet.org regularly for this and other school information. The district continues to offer its popular E-News listservs, which provide communication from the superintendent and principals. Sign up – or unsubscribe – for the lists of your choice by visiting www.rhnet.org/enevs.

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP

The free R-H mobile app provides quick, easy access to information parents most often seek about our district. It is available for iPhone and Android platforms. Easily navigate news and events postings and quickly retrieve school contact information, sports scores, lunch menus, and more! The app allows you to receive news and information from schools of your choosing, helping you find what's most important to you and your family. Download the app at www.rhnet.org/mobileapp.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation policies are in place to help ensure the safety of each student, and we ask for your continued support. If you have not requested bus transportation to or from a babysitter's house or child care center, the April 1 deadline – set by state law – has passed for established students. Families new to the district should visit www.rhnet.org/busing to download the appropriate form, which should be completed and returned to your child's school as soon as possible. The transportation department will do its best at this late date to accommodate your request. Once school begins, please remember that parents and guardians are responsible for assisting students in traveling safely to and from bus stops. Students should be at their bus stop five minutes before their scheduled pick-up time, waiting in a safe location on the sidewalk or at least 15 feet from the edge of the road. As the bus slows down to stop, students should be in plain view of the driver to help ensure a safe pick-up.

SCHOOLTOOL PARENT PORTAL

Rush-Henrietta offers online access to teacher gradebooks for parents of students enrolled in grades K-12. Using SchoolTool, parents and students will have access to information regarding schedules, attendance, and grades. The tool is geared more toward students (and parents) in grades 7-12, but is available for all students and families. Information about your child's school schedule will be posted on SchoolTool on Friday, August 18, for students in grades K-6, and on Friday, August 25 for students in grades 7-12. If you have questions about logging in once school starts, please contact your school's main office.

SCHOOL MEALS

Families can prepare for the new school year by making payments to a child's meal account quickly and securely using an automated pre-payment system called MyPaymentsPlus, formerly known as MealPayPlus. The system offers round-the-clock access, eliminates the possibility of lost meal money, and allows families to prepay for meals with a credit or debit card or E-Check. A 4.75 percent convenience fee is charged by MyPaymentsPlus, but the fee is waived if charging more than \$100 (even if among multiple children). Just visit www.mypaymentsplus.com, register your child in the K-12 school lunch system, and make a prepayment using the secure website. Or, call 866-727-3053 and prepay on the phone. You will need your child's student ID number to register. For students in grades K-6, the ID is on the placement letter included in this packet. For students in grades 6-12, it is provided on student schedules. The number also can be obtained by calling Food Service at 359-5388. Even if you choose not to prepay, sign up for low-account-balance e-mail notification and review meal purchases for free! Remember, breakfast is available for a fee to students every morning school is in session.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Parent and family involvement in education is essential to your child's success. You are always welcome to visit school. To enhance safety and security, all school building entrances are locked and secured throughout the school day. When you visit, please approach the main entrance at the school. A buzzer system is used to alert staff of visitors. School staff members will welcome you when they hear the buzzer. Our district uses a visitor management system that requires visitors to show photo identification upon entering any Rush-Henrietta school. This is necessary even if the person is well known to staff members. The visitor's photo will be scanned, stored, and printed on a badge that must be worn during the visit. Before you approach the building, please adhere to parking rules and regulations throughout the district. Fire lanes on school grounds are reserved for emergency vehicles. Violators may be ticketed. We need to keep these areas clear in case there is an emergency at school.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

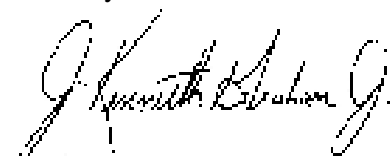
Electronic devices, including cell phones, pagers, DVD players, video game systems, and radios (walkmans, iPods, headsets, boom boxes, mp3 players, etc.), can be a distraction during school hours and may endanger the safety of students and staff members during a building evacuation. At the elementary school level, electronic devices/equipment are not allowed. In our secondary schools, all electronic devices must be turned off and stored in a student's locker until dismissal. Students in grades 10-12 can use electronic devices in designated areas as per school policy. If rules governing electronics are violated, the device will be confiscated. Parents are required to retrieve confiscated cell phones and pagers. Rush-Henrietta is not responsible for damage or loss of personal property. If you need to reach your child during school hours, leave a message at the main office. We will relay important messages between classes. More information is available at www.rhnet.org/conduct.

NEW CHILD CARE OPTION

The new Cub Care Zone program offers fee-based wraparound care for students in grades K-6. Just go to www.rhnet.org/c2z to learn more and to register your child! Before and after school care is available for 3, 4, or 5 days a week at the school your child attends. In addition, care is available non-school days, including superintendent's conference days, school recesses, some holidays, and summer. The law prohibits us from transporting students between home and a daycare, so there will be no transportation to or from the program. Students can only be transported between school and home, or school and a daycare.

These are particularly exciting times. We look forward to a year full of academic and personal growth for all of our students!

Sincerely,



J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools