



**WAPPINGERS** | Empower  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT | Challenge  
Grow

David Seipp • Principal

**Roy C. Ketcham Senior High School**

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## August 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

We hope that you are enjoying a relaxing summer vacation. September is rapidly approaching and another school year will soon begin. The faculty, staff and administration would like to welcome back all of our returning students and extend a very warm welcome to our new ninth grade students, the RCK Class of 2021.

A key to success in life is showing up for it! **This means that our students' first priority is getting to class on time and being ready to work!**

Student attendance will continue to be taken at the beginning of every class, every period, every day. Punctuality is essential in order for your child to get the education he or she deserves! Please emphasize this with your child before school starts so that positive behavior becomes a habit and regular attendance and punctuality in all classes is uniformly encouraged by parents and school staff.

As we begin the 2017/2018 school year, it is important that parents and students are aware of policies and procedures that will be in effect when school starts. Both high schools will continue to issue four report cards covering ten-week marking periods and four interim progress reports covering the five-week interval time periods, as was done last year. These reports will be available via the parent portal.

The Wappingers Central School District has moved to a "house cohort plan" for delivering improved counseling and administrative services. In this organizational plan, the grade level school counselors are "housed", 2 counselors per grade, in the grade level administrators' offices. This plan is now being utilized by both Roy C. Ketcham and John Jay High Schools.

**For the class of 2018 (current 12<sup>th</sup> graders)**, the counselors are Mr. David Townsend and Mrs. Kalah Boscia who will be housed in Ms. Chanté Brooks' office, (Room 228), the administrator for the class of 2018.

**For the class of 2019 (current 11<sup>th</sup> graders)**, the counselors are Ms. Suzanne deSimone and Ms. Antoinette Sarna, who are housed in Mrs. Lisa Talaber's office, (Room 185), the administrator for the class of 2019.

**For the class of 2020 (current 10<sup>th</sup> graders)**, the counselors are Mr. Phil Toretta and Ms. Kate DeGroat, who will be housed in Mr. David Maffei's office, (Room 114), the administrator for the class of 2020.

**Grade 9:** 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselors are Mrs. Laura Margini and Mrs. Jennifer Solitsh, who will be housed in Mrs. D’Alessandro’s office, (second floor, former guidance suite), the administrator for the class of 2021.

We believe that this “house cohort model” has many advantages for our students.

Many questions have arisen about parking privileges for the coming school year. Please be advised that **ONLY SENIORS** will be permitted to park on campus at the opening of school. Seniors **MUST** pick up their parking permits, prior to the opening of school, beginning on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Parking permits will be available in the office of Assistant Principal, Ms. Brooks. Beginning on September 6<sup>th</sup>, only students with a current parking permit properly affixed to their vehicle will be allowed into the RCK parking lots. Please remember that if your vehicle does not have a permit, **you will not be permitted enter** school grounds. Any car parked without a proper permit will be booted or towed. Any cost associated will be the sole responsibility of the vehicle owner.

Specific information regarding parking privileges is found in the parking application packet and parking agreement signed by students and parents. It is the responsibility of students who are granted parking privileges to familiarize themselves with and to abide by all parking regulations and requirements. In addition, please note that **if a senior is late to school FOUR or MORE times in a semester (example: September through January), that senior will lose his/her parking privilege for one marking period. If a driver continues to be tardy to school, he or she will lose their permit for the remainder of the school year.** Parents, please make sure you discuss these requirements with your senior child in order to avoid any potential eligibility issues regarding parking permits at RCK.

Please keep in mind the following safety guidelines for all visitors:

- All visitors (parents, non-RCK students, community members, and guests) **must** use the main lobby entrance, sign in and **show photo ID** as they enter the main lobby, as required by New York State Law.
- Visitor passes must be worn at all times while in the building. Visitors must also sign out when leaving the building.
- Prior written approval must be given by both teacher **and** principal in order for anyone to visit teachers, classes or classrooms at RCK. Please call Darlene Seckler in the Principal’s office **in advance** to schedule an appointment.
- Please be aware that “earbuds” and headphones are not safe to wear in school and are therefore prohibited in the classrooms and hallways at RCK!

By following these procedures together we will foster a safe and successful learning environment for our students.

All parents are cordially invited to join the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and to maintain an active open relationship with our faculty and staff by email, telephone, or scheduled meetings. Please express your interest in joining the PTSA by sending an email to [Darlene.Seckler@wcsdny.org](mailto:Darlene.Seckler@wcsdny.org).

In addition, parents are encouraged to register for the **Parent Portal**. With your password, you can log onto SchoolTool and access your child’s data including progress reports, report cards, daily attendance, etc., on-line. To register, please bring photo ID to any RCK office staff so that information can be verified in our system. You will need to provide us with an email address. In 24-48 hours you will receive your temporary password in your email.

**Bus Schedules will be available for viewing through Parent Portal in late August**

Bus Schedules will be made available online through Parent Portal. If you do not already have a Parent Portal account we urge you to register for one by visiting our Parent Resources web page at: <http://www.wappingersschools.org/Page/267>. If you do not have access to a computer at home, you may request a copy of your child's bus schedule by contacting the transportation office at 298-5225.

**Meal prices for breakfast and reduced meals remain unchanged. Lunch price has changed.** Meal prices are as follows: Breakfast \$1.50, Lunch \$3.00, reduced meal price remains unchanged at \$.25.

**Below are some important dates as we begin the school year:**

**School Opens for Students – Wednesday, September 6, 2017**

**September 14 – Senior Info Night**

**September 21 – Rosh Hashanah – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**September 29 – Bonfire**

**October 2-6 – School Spirit Week**

**October 6 – Pep Rally & Homecoming Game**

**October 7 – Homecoming Dance**

**October 9 – Columbus Day – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Please plan on joining us for:**

**~~ Back to School Night ~~**

**Thursday, October 5, 2017 – Grades 9 – 12 - 7:00-9:00 pm**

***Enjoy the remainder of your summer vacation and we will see you on Wednesday, September 6, 2017.***

Respectfully,

*David Seipp*

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Principal