



David Seipp • Principal

Roy C. Ketcham Senior High School

99 Myers Corners Rd. • Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 • (845) 298-5100 x31004 • Fax (845) 298-5099

Dear Ketcham Nation:

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and that you were able to enjoy the summer and get some well-deserved rest and relaxation. We welcome you back to the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

The end of the last school year and the start of our upcoming school year have been like no other we have experienced. There are still so many questions to be answered. As you know, things are often changing, and we will make sure to stay in constant communication with you. The district will continue to update you with the changes that are coming from the CDC and Department of Education. Please know that your partnership is key in navigating through these difficult times.

As we begin another school year, the faculty, staff and administration would like to welcome back all our returning students and extend a very warm welcome to our new ninth grade students, the RCK Class of 2024.

In starting the year off remotely, there will be different challenges for our students and families. We would like to encourage a few things for your child(ren)'s success and provide you with helpful information.

Be Punctual - Here at RCK, we have made it a priority to make sure your child(ren) arrive at school and class on time. 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! This is particularly important in our new remote learning environment. Please make sure that your child(ren) sign on to their Google meet with their teacher on time.

Be Present - Student attendance will continue to be taken every period, every day. Attendance and punctuality are essential in order for your child to get the education they deserve, especially since synchronous learning will be 10-25 minutes daily. Please emphasize this with your child before school starts so that positive behavior becomes a habit and regular attendance and punctuality in all classes are uniformly encouraged by parents and school staff. Also, please have your child(ren) check their email for a Google link from their teacher. This will give your child(ren) access to attend live classroom discussions. Please remind your child(ren) that they are not to share the link with anyone.

Administration - As always, the RCK administrative team is here to help and assist you or your child(ren) with any questions or concerns. We are happy to help where we can during this difficult time and look forward to continuing the partnership and relationship with our families and community members. Please feel free to contact us directly as needed. We are committed to supporting you!

Freshman Orientation - As you know, we were unable to host our traditional freshman orientation, but welcome all students and families to view our welcome messages on the RCK website

Communication - We strive to maintain an open line of communication with students and their families. Announcements will be made throughout the school year via e-mail, our website and social media. WCSD also utilizes a phone/text system to apprise you of any urgent matters. Please make sure your contact information is correct with RCK and WCSD. Remember, if you have concerns, please contact your child's teacher first. If you still have concerns regarding grades or another issue, please contact your child's guidance counselor and then their grade-level administrator.

Grade-Level Support - Our building will continue the cohort model. Our current administrative set-up is listed below by grade. RCK always encourages you to reach out to your grade-level support group as they are here to help with any questions or concerns you may have. We are excited to welcome two new Assistant Principals to RCK - Mr. Michael Lopez and Ms. Nicolle Strang. We look forward to seeing all that they share with our amazing community.

Please note, all guidance offices are located in the second-floor Guidance Suite.

Class of 2024

9th Grade Counselors

Ms. Kate DeGroat (A-K) katherine.degroat@wcsdny.org

Mr. Phil Toretta (L-Z) philip.toretta@wcsdny.org

9th Grade Administrator

Ms. Nicolle Strang (Room 185)

Class of 2023

10th Grade Counselors

Ms. Kathy Leonard (A-Li) katherine.leonard@wcsdny.org

Ms. Antoinette Sarna (Lo-Z) antoinette.sarna@wcsdny.org

10th Grade Administrator

Mr. Michael Lopez (Main Office)

Class of 2022

11th Grade Counselors

Mr. David Townsend (A-H) david.townsend@wcsdny.org

Ms. Kalah Boscia (I-Z) kalah.boscia@wcsdny.org

11th Grade Administrator

Ms. Kathleen Schenck (Room 228)

Class of 2021

12th Grade Counselors

Ms. Laura Margini (A-H & ENL) laura.margini@wcsdny.org

Ms. Jennifer Soltish (I-Z) jennifer.soltish@wcsdny.org

12th Grade Administrator

Ms. Megan D'Alessandro (Room 194)

RCK has experienced much success with the house cohort model which has many advantages for our students. Again, please contact your cohort with questions and concerns. Their contact information can be found on the RCK website and, as always, I am here to help and assist in any way I can.

Pupil Personnel Services - Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) staff includes school counselors, school psychologists and social workers. These professionals are in an ideal position to protect the health and safety of all students. Roy C. Ketcham High School has a complete PPS staff to assist in student success. They are highly skilled and have been trained to evaluate factors that contribute to student difficulties with behavior and academic achievement. Now more than ever students are experiencing higher anxiety, stress, and the feeling of detachment. While difficult, we encourage students to reach out to our support staff as needed. The PPS staff can make unique contributions because they work in different ways and in different settings with students and their parents. Specialists in PPS can work cooperatively with other specialists to enhance the intellectual, as well as social and personal development of each student. These professionals are available to assist all students and can be contacted using the information provided below.

Please see each professional's website for additional resources.

School Psychologist Robert Furlong (A-K) e-mail: Robert.Furlong@wcsdny.org

School Psychologist Jennifer Walis (L-Z) e-mail: Jennifer.Walis@wcsdny.org

Social Worker Carolyn Ryan e-mail: Carolyn.Ryan@wcsdny.org

Social Worker Deborah LoCicero e-mail: Deborah.LoCicero@wcsdny.org

Student Services (IEP & 504) Assistant Directors of Special Education, along with their respective offices, will contact families and teachers via phone or email to schedule Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings. These meetings will be held in a virtual platform that will be communicated to you through each office.

Any family considering a 504 plan, please contact your guidance counselor. The grade-level counselor can review your concerns and discuss any interventions that have been implemented. A current medical diagnosis along with treatment

plans can assist committees in determining what impact there may be in your child's educational setting. If your child continues to struggle, the documentation along with a written request to convene a 504 committee can be emailed to Mr. Lopez at Michaelj.Lopez@wcsdny.org. His assistant, Ms. Dawn Cavaccini, will contact you to schedule a virtual meeting.

If your student has an existing plan that you feel needs to be amended, please contact Mr. Lopez in the same manner; copy the guidance counselor and/or grade-level administrator and Ms. Cavaccini will schedule a meeting with you. As previously stated, any/all documentation that describes the change and thus the need to amend should be attached to the request.

Council on Addiction Prevention and Education (CAPE) - CAPE is a Dutchess County prevention agency that provides support to students with at-risk behaviors and their families. If you have a concern about your child's risk-taking behaviors, we will continue to provide CAPE resources. CAPE will offer prevention and education services utilizing Telehealth apps and services during the COVID-19 state of emergency. These apps are temporarily approved by NYS OASAS and the U.S Dept. of Health and Human Services to ensure best practices and confidentiality. Students can continue to receive the following services by contacting their Student Assistance Counselor, Ms. Jessica Sirianni (e-mail: Jessica.Sirianni@wcsdny.org):

- Individual Prevention Counseling (Project Success)
- Group Education Counseling (Project Success)
- Teen Intervene Sessions

Students will need parental consent. CAPE will provide all appropriate consent forms. Students will also need reliable internet/telephone access and a device that allows for video and audio capabilities. If you need further assistance, please contact Ms. Sirianni.

Student Schedules - Student schedules were released on September 3 and we are currently in the process of working through student requests. If you would like to add or drop a course, we ask that the electronic add/drop form be filled out. Our school counselors will contact you once your request has been completed. Prior to making any requests, I suggest that you speak with your school counselor. Many times, there is a reason that you have been scheduled for the class that is in your schedule. We want to be sure that all students are on track to receive the amount of credits and electives needed to graduate on time. The schedule change form was shared with students in Google Classroom and can be found online. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfLK_52sDnjZIPpccNIPa8lcJnulOMTkClqCtGigXyw3Q75rQ/viewform

Grading Policy - The Wappingers Central School District will revert to its previous grading practice. Each teacher will provide a syllabus to students allowing them to see how grades will be calculated for each class. We ask that if you have any questions with grades received that you follow the following process. First, please contact the teacher and speak with them directly to determine why a grade was received. 2nd please contact your school counselor who may be able to help further resolve any differences you and the faculty may have. 3rd please contact your house principal who will be able to help resolve your concern. While we remain remote and phase into a hybrid model, it is important to stay involved in your child's education. The faculty at RCK is here to work with you and your child. One way to help monitor your child's progress is through Parent Portal.

Parent Portal - We strongly encourage you to register and monitor Parent Portal. With your password, you can log onto SchoolTool and access your child(ren)'s data including progress reports, report cards, daily attendance, etc., online. To register, please call the school at 298-5100, ext. 31000. You will need to provide us with an email address. In 24-48 hours, you will receive your temporary password in your email. Both WCSD high schools will continue to issue four report cards covering 10-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.

Stay Involved - All families, including students, are encouraged 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. You can join the PTSA online. Details are available on the PTSA webpage. <https://www.wappingersschools.org/domain/1415>

Athletics/Extracurricular Activities - We know there are many questions regarding the start of athletics, clubs and other activities for our students. While the NYSPHSAA has ruled that fall sports can begin on Sept. 29, we will await final guidance from the WCSD Athletic Department and our Board of Education before announcing any plans for

extracurricular activities for 2020-21.

New BELL SCHEDULE for the start of the 2020-2021 School Year, Remote Learning: Our new bell schedule can be found at the end of this document as well as online: <https://classroom.google.com/u/5/c/NzQwNTE0NjgwNDNa>

Student Forms If you haven't already done so, please fill out all required student forms which can be found online. <https://sites.google.com/wcsdny.org/rckstudentforms/home>

As always, we will continue to provide updates on our website, via e-mail and through social media. We know communication is key and look forward to keeping in touch with the RCK Community in all ways.

David Seipp
Principal



2020-2021 Remote Learning Schedule

High School Schedule for Full-Time Remote Instruction		
7:25 - 8:10	Teacher Preparation Period	
Period	Time	Instructional Guidance
Period 1	8:10 -8:35	Students will log in to each period.
Period 2	8:40 - 9:05	Attendance will be taken.
Period 3	9:10 - 9:35	Teachers will provide students with synchronous instruction ranging from 10 to 25 minutes in length. The length of the synchronous learning lesson will be determined by the teacher and should be based off of the lesson for the day. It is understood that on some days, the amount of synchronous time may vary depending on the lesson. Please refer to the instructional framework for guidance on which pedagogical approaches lends itself best to synchronous vs asynchronous learning.
Period 4	9:40 - 10:05	
Period 5	10:10 - 10:35	
Period 6	10:40 - 11:05	
Period 7	11:10 - 11:35	
Period 8	11:40 - 12:05	Students may log off after the teacher has completed the synchronous lesson and begin the asynchronous learning until the next period begins. Teachers may schedule a shorter whole class synchronous lesson to allow for small group synchronous learning.
12:05 - 12:50	Teacher Lunch Period	
12:05 -2:25	Students: Students work on asynchronous learning opportunities, as assigned, to complete independent/practice work. Students can schedule time to speak/meet with the teacher or support staff to discuss work or to ask questions. Students may also participate in small group follow-up lessons as arranged by a teacher.	
12:50 - 2:25	Teachers: During this time period, teachers will be available to speak/meet with students individually or in small groups to answer questions. Teachers will work on asynchronous learning opportunities for students, provide students with feedback, participate in google discussions, etc. Teachers may also participate in administrative scheduled meetings, team meetings, RtI meetings, etc, as appropriate.	