

Rocky Hill High School

Principal's Newsletter

October, 2011

WELCOME

Welcome to the start of the 2011-2012 school year. An important factor in a student's success relies on the "cooperative effort" between the school and home. One of the ways we will communicate is through the Principal's Newsletter. The newsletter's primary intent is to keep our school community informed of current and future events at RHHS. **In order to cut postage costs and save some trees along the way, we are sending newsletters and other pertinent information through email. If the school does not have your email, we will mail out the newsletters as we have done in the past. Please notify the school if you want to be added to our email distribution list.**

NEASC ACCREDITATION

It has come to our attention that several members of our community are under the impression that RHHS lost its accreditation. This is simply not true. The commission on Public Secondary Schools reviewed our decennial evaluation report from last year's visit to our high school and voted to award the school continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The Commission shared some concerns, as well as recommendations which the school is currently addressing.

SCHOOL MESSENGER-ATTENDANCE CALLS

As you all know, regular school attendance is critical. This year we introduced an electronic call system that makes daily contacts to parents/guardians at home informing them of the student's absence. Even if a parent provides a note or calls in an absence, the electronic calls will still be made. The calls do not identify how many classes or which period a student was marked absent. Parents can access specific attendance data by visiting the Parent Portal.

PSATS/SAT'S

The PSAT's will be administered at RHHS on **Wednesday, October 12, 2011**. Sophomores will take the exam in the gymnasium and juniors will take the exam in the cafeteria. Students should arrive on time and be ready to begin at 7:30 AM. The test will last approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes. We will continue registration for juniors until **October 7**. The fee, payable upon registration (cash or check) is \$16.00 for juniors. There is no fee for sophomores. If paying by check, please make checks payable to RHHS Student Activity Fund. Students will receive a bulletin containing test information and a practice test upon registration. Prior to the test, students should study the test-taking tips, sample questions and explanations and schedule time to take and score the practice test. Students are responsible for bringing their own sharpened #2 pencils, eraser, and an approved calculator (if you desire). Again this year, students may use a calculator to solve math problems. Only four-function, scientific or graphing calculators are permitted. In December, students will receive their PSAT/NMSQT score report and test book. The report will include

verbal score, mathematics score, writing skills score, score ranges, percentiles and selection index which are used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a screening process and will provide valuable information to parents, students and educators..

PROGRESS REPORTS/REPORT CARDS

Progress reports will no longer be mailed home, as parents and students can easily access grades and email teachers with questions through the Parent Portal. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact your counselor for a copy of the grades. Report cards will be sent home with students around the following dates: **11/15/11, 2/1/12, and 4/10/12**. The final report card will be sent home after school ends. Parents and students can check PowerSchool using the Parent Portal (<http://web.rockyhillps.com/resources/ForParents.htm>) for more information on student grades and absences.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT OFFERINGS

Financial Aid Planning Night: On **Thursday, November 3rd at 6:30 p.m.** in the Auditorium, the Guidance Department is hosting college funding expert Charles Wareham of LPL Financial, who will present "How to Pay for College." All parents are invited to attend, especially junior and senior parents.

Post-Secondary Mini Fair: The Guidance Department will sponsor a Post-Secondary Career Fair on **Friday, November 4th from 8:15 - 10:30 a.m.** Representatives from over 40 businesses, local schools, and the military will be available to meet with interested students in the gym. Students can attend with classes or they can get a pass from Guidance before 11/4.

ATHLETICS/CLUBS

Student athletes may begin to register for the winter sports season which officially kicks off on November 21, 2011 for Girls Basketball. Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Boys Swimming and Diving, Ice Hockey, Indoor Track and Winter Cheerleading will begin the week of November 28, 2011. All students must have a recent sports physical on record and must turn in the sports permission form and sports emergency form before participation. Parents are encouraged to go to the Rocky Hill Public Schools external webpage which is now updated with upcoming events and dates. All the sport forms, fall sport schedules and other pertinent information about sports and club activities can be located on the web site.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Beginning Time</u>
10/8	Band Competition-Lyman Hall	
10/12	PSAT	7:30 AM
10/15	Band Competition-Cheshire High	
10/17	Project Graduation Meeting	7:00 PM
10/29	PAC Meeting	7:00 PM
10/29	Band Competition-Southington High	
10/27	Mr. Rocky Hill Pageant	7:00 PM
10/28	RHHS Coffee House	7:00 PM

PAC

All parents are encouraged to become members of our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) which meets monthly on the third Wednesday of every month. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 19**. All meetings are at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. Your support and input are always welcome.

Mario J. Almeida