



September 3rd, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is my pleasure to welcome our Royals to the beginning of what we hope will be another great school year. Whether your son or daughter is entering Riverview High School for the first time, beginning his or her senior year, or somewhere in between, we want all of our students to have the best year possible. All of our efforts are focused on making sure that this happens for your son or daughter.

As a graduate of Riverview High School and a former RHS teacher, I know that as a school and community we take great pride in helping our students prepare for whatever comes next in life. Whether our Royals go on to further studies or directly into a career, we work hard to provide the experiences necessary for our students to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes they need to be successful. We aim to accomplish this through our strong focus on learning in the classroom each day, extended learning opportunities such as public speaking or participation in the arts, additional support to students within our Directed Study Block, or life lessons learned through extracurricular activities. This year, we will continue to build on an already strong record of ensuring students develop appropriate literacy skills.

Except for some improvements to many of the exterior windows and doors, we are pleased to say that we have not had any other major changes over the summer. Our strong focus on learning, collaboration of teachers to support students, bell schedule, day-to-day details, and community involvement will remain the same at the beginning of this school year. Teachers and support staff have spent last week preparing for the return of our Royals by planning for engaging learning and appropriate assessment activities while creating a welcoming environment. Our custodians and District facilities department have also worked hard to prepare the school so that it looks as good as the first day it opened over thirty years ago. All of these efforts are made to support your son or daughter as they return to school today.

We hope each and every Royal has a great year!

Periodically I will write to update you on some important items as they pertain to our school and your son or daughter. In my correspondence today, I would like to bring your attention to five items as they relate to RHS: communication, the meet the teacher night, PSSC elections, electronic payments and upcoming events.

Communication

We know that communication with our students and parents is an important part of our work. Through this communication, we aim to provide you with the necessary information so that we can work together in supporting your son or daughter with his or her learning. We have a number of avenues we will use to communicate with you.

Face-to-Face Meetings or Individual Phone Calls

The most effective form of communication for us when dealing with a complex situation is either meeting face-to-face or by calling the school directly. We make every attempt to return phone calls by the end of the next business day and will setup meetings at mutually agreed upon times as needed.

School Connects - TalkMail and Email

Our School Connects system allows us to send talkmail and email messages on important matters that can be sent to large audiences all at once. We will typically use these methods when sending notices home. If you would like to receive email messages, please ensure you have included an email address on the demographic / profile form sent home with your son or daughter during the first week of classes.

Web Site

We have a web site that allows us to provide regular updates online. Similar to talkmail and email messages, we will use this form of communication for notices and sharing information with large audiences. Please visit <http://rhsroyals.nbed.nb.ca/>

Letters and Print Notices

Periodically we will send printed letters home with our students. In our attempt to be environmentally and financially conscious, we will sparingly use this form of communication.

Meet the Teacher Evening

On Wednesday, September 17th, we will host our annual Meet the Teacher evening at the school starting at 6:00 PM. This is a great opportunity to visit the school, see the excellent work of staff and students, and meet your son's or daughter's teachers. As you will have an opportunity to follow a shortened version of your son's or daughter's schedule, please ask him or her to write down the subject, teacher's name, and classroom number in order from the 1st to 5th period. We will also have student volunteers to help direct you to teachers' rooms that evening. A small cash based canteen will be open that evening for light refreshments. We hope to see you there.

Parental School Support Committee (PSSC) & Elections

The PSSC is a group of elected parent volunteers who work in an advisory capacity with me, the principal. This group's work focuses on providing input on the school improvement plan, educational issues, and policies. At 7:30 PM on Wednesday, September 17th, immediately following the Meet the Teacher evening, we will hold our elections for the PSSC in the school theatre.

Electronic Payments

As with the start-up of each school year, we must collect money from parents and guardians for items such as student government fees (which goes towards school agendas, locks, and general student activities) and sports team registrations. We are pleased to let you know that once again we have the secure and efficient online payment option. We are setup to collect fees electronically using the following web site: <https://district2.schoolcashonline.com>. In creating an account on this site, you can either link to a personal bank account or use a credit card to make payments as requested by the school. This site will track all of your fees and payments while making receipts immediately available. We have received favourable feedback on this system and would prefer all fees sent in to use this online system. If you have any questions, you can call a parent help desk for this site directly at 1-866-961-1803.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 1 st	1 st Round of Directed Study Block
Thursday, October 9 th	Professional Development Day – No School for Students
Friday, October 10 th	Professional Development Day – No School for Students
Monday, October 13 th	Thanksgiving
Wednesday, October 15 th	Progress Reports
Thursday, October 16 th	Parent Teacher Interviews (6PM – 8:30PM)

So with a lot of information in my first letter of the year, it is time to draw this to a close. I hope this letter is helpful to you.

I look forward to working with you and your child for what we hope is another great school year.

Sincerely,

Jason Reath
Principal