

Rockingham County Middle School
182 High School Rd.
Reidsville, NC 27320

August 25, 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year at Rockingham County Middle School (RCMS). The faculty and staff are looking forward to working with you and your child this year. We strongly believe that working together with parents and students will result in experiences that will benefit your child for years to come. Educating children is a serious task and I am committed in ensuring that RCMS provides the best learning environment for all students.

The goal of RCMS is student success, and striving to reach this goal must be a cooperative effort on the part of the students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community. We want every student to be successful in all of their endeavors - academically, athletically and socially.

Please take the time to sit down with your child and review this student handbook. We want your child's experiences to be positive and rewarding this year. Knowledge of the expectations of the school will help to contribute to this goal. If you have questions after going over the materials, please feel free to contact the school. Our faculty and staff are committed to making this school year one of your child's best!

RCMS encourages you to volunteer in the school. We have needs for many talents and your support of the school is welcome at all times. Please contact the guidance secretary at 336-616-0638 and give us the information needed to get in touch with you.

We want this to be a wonderful school year for our students and their parents. If you have any questions at any time during the school year please contact your child's teacher, guidance counselor, or administration.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Moriah Dollarhite
Principal



Welcome Back **RCMS 2014-2015**

RCS Mission Statement

“Teaching all students to become productive citizens and life-long learners.

RCMS Mission Statement

Rockingham County Middle School's mission is to provide learning experiences in a safe, inviting environment in order to meet the needs of all children and prepare them to be productive citizens of the world.

RCMS Belief Statement

Rockingham County Middle School administrators and staff believe that all children can perform at high standards that are appropriate for them. Believing that it is the school's responsibility to provide opportunities for high performance, we recognize the need to work collaboratively to support our students. Additionally, we assert that teaching and learning make a profound difference in students' lives.

RCMS Vision

J.A.G.S. -Jointly Achieving Goals and Success

RCMS Theme for 2014 – 2015

“It’s All About Respect” – respect yourself, respect others, respect the environment, and respect learning

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES:

Arrival

Students may enter the building after 7:00 am. Any time before that would not be advisable as the majority of the staff members are not expected to arrive until 7:15. All morning duty staff members usually arrive at 7:00-7:15. Please do not drop your child off as we want to provide sufficient supervision for all students. Students are released to their hall at 7:15 and most of our buses will begin to arrive around this time as well. If a student chooses to eat breakfast they may do so between 7:15-7:40 am. Students are not allowed to charge for breakfast. At 7:45 all students are expected to be seated in homebase or otherwise they will be counted tardy.

Tardy Policy

The school day begins at 7:45. A 5 minute window of time is allowed for students whose car may pull into the parking drop off area at this time. However, students are counted tardy at 7:50. A student who comes in after 7:50 is tardy and must be escorted by an adult to be signed in.

- 1-2 tardies –Conference/warning
- 3 tardies - Lunch detention
- 4-6 tardies –Lunch detention and loss of privilege including (athletic & social participation).
- 7 tardies – Social Worker contact and school administrator consequences, up to and including possible ISS.

***Consequences start over at the beginning of each six-week grading period.*

****This is a county-wide policy that applies to all middle schools in Rockingham County.*

Dismissal

CAR RIDERS - If your child is a car rider, it would be most advantageous for you to remain in your car and follow the flow of traffic to pick your child up in front of the building. Please do not get out of your car in the pick-up lane or attempt to park your car there. This lane is for pick up only. If you come into the building, please make sure to cross over to the crosswalk where a faculty

member is monitoring the traffic and directing pedestrians. We are only looking out for the safety and well-being of our students and parents. Parents who have car riders, please encourage your child while waiting for you to pick them up, to turn and face the pick-up line in order to be able to spot you quickly and move to your car quickly. You may pull into the parking lot area in the afternoon and pick your child up by coming to the crosswalk area. **YOU MUST COME TO THE CROSSWALK AREA AS STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO WALK UNESCORTED TO CARS.** This is for the safety and security of our students as we are doing our best to ensure that our students go with individuals that have been cleared by you, the parent, to pick them up.

BUS RIDERS - Our instructional day ends at 2:55 pm. At that time our Bus riders only are dismissed. At 3:01 our car riders and our athletes for sports will be dismissed. **Students may not walk to the high school from the middle school.** We have a bus that runs from the middle school to the high school for students catching a ride with a sibling. **They may only do so with a parent's consent and with a bus pass issued by school administration.**

Bus Discipline

As a bus rider students are to follow all Rockingham County rules and regulations regarding the bus code of conduct. Bus safety is very important. Parents have the responsibility to encourage their child to obey all safety rules of the bus and to respect the authority of the bus driver. It is a privilege to ride the bus and that right may be evoked if bus rules are not followed. The principal or the principal designee has the responsibility of disciplining students for misconduct on the bus. The disciplinary action can include the suspension of the bus riding privileges or suspension from the bus or from school. An assistant principal at RCMS will work with the bus drivers closely and oversee the daily operations of bus transportation at Rockingham County Middle School.

Checking Your Child Out

In order to protect our instructional time, especially our last class period of the day, students will not be allowed to be released early from class after 2:40 PM other than for emergencies. If dental or doctor appointments are made please make an effort to check your child's schedule and pick them up before 2:40.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENT DRESS CODE:

We ask our students to dress in an appropriate manner for school. Clean, neat, comfortable clothing, which allows your child to participate in all events of school without undue concern, will be most appropriate.

- Appropriate size of student dress and footwear is necessary to maintain a positive and safe school climate. Any clothing or accessories that endanger the safety of others is prohibited.
- Clothing must be age appropriate, must not distract from the learning process, and cannot be provocative, revealing, indecent, or vulgar.
- **No short shorts or short skirts are allowed. Shorts/skirts must be KNEE LENGTH.** Leggings may be worn under skirts that are at least fingertip length. Sheer hose do not count as leggings!
- No headgear - including but not limited to hats, earmuffs, bandanas, sweatbands or sunglasses - will be worn inside the school buildings.
- All sleeveless tops must have shoulders, and all tops must have fitted arm openings. No spaghetti tops or tank tops are allowed. All tops must cover the waistband of the bottom garment. (Upper garments must cover the midriff at all times.)
- Clothing will not be allowed which promotes alcoholic beverages, tobacco, the use of controlled substances, depicts violence, is of a sexual nature, is racist, is mesh or transparent, or is of a disruptive nature.
- Heavy chains or accessories or any attire that has the potential

to be used as a weapon is prohibited.

- No sagging pants are allowed. All pants must be worn at the waist.
- Any clothing or accessories recognized as being gang related are prohibited.
- **No rips or tears above the knee.**
- No undergarment should be visible.
- Sleepwear is prohibited
- All shirts and tops must be no longer than the top of the leg.
- No body piercing is permitted that are visible except the ears.
- Students are prohibited from wearing clothing that:
 1. violates a reasonable dress code adopted and published by the school,
 2. is substantially disruptive or inappropriate, or
 3. endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

The ***Dress Code*** form will be sent home **for both student and parent signatures** at the start of the school year.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS DISCIPLINE POLICIES

All students of Rockingham County Middle School are expected to comply with the rules and regulations of the Rockingham County School district's Code of Conduct. The administration of Rockingham County Middle School works diligently to investigate, to the best of our ability, the actions and mitigating circumstances surrounding a student's violation of the code of conduct as outlined in the RCS Student Handbook. **All students receive the handbook at the beginning of the school year along with this Rockingham County Middle School Student Handbook.**

Public Display of Affection

Public displays of affection (PDA) – Kissing or other inappropriate actions are prohibited and disciplinary action will be taken by administration.

No Bullying

One of the most important things for you, as a parent, and for us, as a school staff, is to ensure that your child feels comfortable and safe in our school environment. While all acts of verbal or physical aggression are difficult for us to monitor, it is not something that the staff here at Rockingham County Middle School condones or accepts as appropriate behavior. Aggression, both verbal or physical, is considered bullying when it meets the criteria of being **POP** - **Purposeful**, **O**ver a prolonged period of time and **P**rovides a position of power for the aggressor.

As you know, the sheriff's department provides classroom instruction to our students in the form of **GREAT** – **G**ang **R**esistance **E**ducation and **T**raining by Officer Bullins and **DARE** – **D**rug **A**wareness and **R**esistance **E**ducation by Officer Thompson. In addition, our school counselors offer information and guidance to our students regarding bullying and our technology department works with those students in computer classes to inform them about cyber bullying.

To be proactive and to put a stop to bullying before it gets out of hand or becomes physical, our school counselors have put together a referral form for students to report to teachers and teachers to report to the school counselors that can result in their intervening in and perhaps offering mediation between students in order to provide one more opportunity to assist students before office referrals are made. Obviously, physical aggression cannot be tolerated however, if we can assist students in discovering the “why” and “how” it is going on and teach them to make better choices, then we are moving in the right direction to cutting down on unkind words or actions.

Our school counselors, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Graves have talked with our students and our teachers to make them aware of how to make referrals and to identify the actions so as to determine if bullying is truly taking place and to offer interventions when needed. Many students make the mistake of participating in actions that can be considered bullying or harassment. Please encourage your child to report when they perceive themselves to be the target of actions that are not kind or make them feel uncomfortable and embarrassed, especially if it meets our POP requirement. If they report it to an adult in the building, then we have a chance to try and correct the situation. If they don't tell an adult, there is no way for us to try and make the situation better and students have to try and use their own coping devices.

Crime Stoppers

In order to maintain a safe school environment, we rely on our student's sense of citizenship and responsibility. Any student that has knowledge of criminal behavior or behavior that would threaten the safety of students at school should report the information to the school principal. You may also report safety concerns to Crime Stoppers at 349-9683 or to the WAVE Tip Line at 1-888-960-9600.

Smoke Free District

The Rockingham County School District is 100% Tobacco Free. Smoking in school facilities and on the grounds of any of Rockingham County School including athletic fields and parking lots is prohibited.

REPORT CARDS:

Report cards are issued **each six weeks**. Progress reports are issued to students in each subject at the middle of each grading period. These reports are designed to help parents monitor their child's progress before official grades are assigned. It should be signed by a parent and returned within three school days. Please look for other flyers, newsletters or forms of communication to keep you informed of school-wide events, activities or information of importance.

The grading scale is as follows:

93 – 100 – A

85 – 92 – B

77 – 84 – C

70 – 76 – D

0 – 69 – Failure

Honor Roll

A Honor Roll – **All A's**

AB Honor Roll – **All A's and B's**

CAFETERIA:

- All students are required to go to lunch at their assigned time. Students may buy lunch or bring it from home. Extra items may be purchased in the cafeteria.
- Free and reduced price breakfast and lunch programs are available. Students may obtain application forms from homeroom teachers or the office.
- Glass containers are prohibited. In addition, only the food or beverage to be consumed by the student during his/her designated lunch period should be brought to school; all other food or drink is prohibited.
- All food must be consumed within the cafeteria. Students may not take food or drinks out of the cafeteria. Students are responsible for keeping the cafeteria clean. Tables are to be left clean and all trash, trays, and eating utensils are to be cared for properly. Students are to remain in assigned areas until directed to leave by the supervising teachers.
- Teachers will escort students to the cafeteria, monitor behavior, supervise clean up, and dismiss students.

Snacks and Drinks

Snacks and drinks may be brought to school. When students may eat snacks, is determined by each grade level and depends on the time of the day in which that grade level eats lunch. The following snacks and drinks are allowed at school: bottled water, Gatorade, crackers, fruit snacks, or other items of substance. Snacks that are not allowed and should not be brought to school: soda drinks, tea, coffee, AND gum. Open containers are not to be brought into the school building in the morning and drank in the open area. Students are NOT allowed to purchase drinks from the teacher center machines. Students are not allowed to purchase items from the vending machines in the cafeteria after lunch, between classes or at the end of the day during dismissal.

Cafeteria Prices

Rockingham County Schools provides healthy and appealing meal choices for students. All schools serve breakfast and lunch daily, along with after school snacks to after school educational enrichment activities.

All of the meals we offer meet the nutrition requirements set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food & Nutrition Service to support children's healthy growth and development.

This year Rockingham County Schools is participating in Community Eligibility Program. Through this federal program, breakfast and lunch are available to all students in all schools at no cost, regardless of family income.

Students and parents may NOT bring items in to the cafeteria from a fast food establishment (ex. McDonalds) as the Child Nutrition Department is the one and only vendor providing food to the students of Rockingham County Schools.

STUDENT SCHEDULE:

Students at Rockingham County Middle School will have their academic periods scheduled in blocks of time on their grade level. Elective classes will also be scheduled at designated times pertaining to grade level. Electives will include Keyboarding, Career Decisions, Art, Band, Chorus, Spanish, Exploring Technology, Life Skills, and Computer Technology. All classes will be offered without regard to race, national origin, sex or handicap.

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS:

Rockingham County Middle School's Certified School Counselors are Leslie Graves and Donna Carter. They are trained to help children solve many kinds of problems both at home and in school. The counselors are an integral part of the school team because children can experience problems or changes in their daily lives that can affect them emotionally, physically, and academically. Because we want them to grow and develop in a positive way, finding solutions to their problems or helping them to adjust to changes is very important.

Parents, teachers, other school personnel and students can make referrals to see the counselors. Counselors talk to students individually, in a small group, and in classroom presentations. Examples of topics frequently dealt with in counseling sessions are making friends, self-awareness, home life, and concerns about grades and school, developing study habits, and getting along with others.

Mrs. Carter (Students with last name beginning A-K)
Ms. Graves (Students with last name beginning L-Z)

STUDENT MEDIA GUIDELINES:

Local Newspapers, School Newspapers, and Yearbooks

Student pictures and names are sometimes published in local newspapers, school newspapers, and yearbooks. Awards, sporting events, and other special activities are often highlighted by the media to recognize your child's accomplishments. Students' full names will be released to newspapers and will be in the yearbook.

Presentations, Slide Shows and Videos

Student pictures are sometimes displayed in slide show presentations and videos at the end of the school year or at other times. These may be made available in digital format as supplements to the yearbook or in a separate format.

Student Art Work, Poetry, Fiction and other Student Work

Work done by the student may be displayed within the schools or sent to places outside the school for viewing by the public. It may be published in literary magazines or other forms. The intent is to honor and recognize outstanding work of our students. Students' full names will be used with their work.

School Web Site

Technology plays an important role in our schools. Students are exposed to a number of programs that will help them improve in academics. Our school has a web site that features the faculty and staff, our classrooms and the many programs that are offered to our students and their families. We would like to celebrate student achievement by posting student work and pictures of students working together in the classroom and participating in school activities on our web site. ***We will not put any student's last name on our web pages. No personal information will be given regarding those featured on our web site. The material will not be used for any commercial purposes and no payments will be made to the participants.*** If you do not want your child's pictures or work used with the media, you should complete the *No Pictures Please Form* that is sent home at the start of the school year. Please visit the website for useful information such as schedules, classroom documents, upcoming events, & more!

SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER:

The Rockingham County Middle School Media Center is open to all students and staff. We hope you will visit the Media Center and make use of the many types of materials we have. In order to use the Media Center fully, there are certain guidelines to be followed.

Circulation

Book - limit of two books

Borrowing period - two weeks

Renewing books - It is not necessary to bring your book in order to renew it.

General Rules

Each student must have a Library Pass from his/her teacher when coming to the Media Center. All the rules of the school and classroom apply in the Media Center. Gum chewing, loud talking, and misbehaving are not allowed.

Silent Sustained Reading

Students at Rockingham County Middle School will participate in the Silent Sustained Reading Program (SSR) during their Language Arts classes. A daily block of time is scheduled for students to engage in reading. This reading time is an integral part of the reading program here and challenges students to reach beyond what they normally have read and excel. Lexile levels are derived from their End of Grade Reading Tests each spring for students. Students are expected to read at or above their lexile level.

Computer Lab

You may use the computer lab and/or computers in the media center when your teacher signs up for it or if you have special permission.

LOST AND FOUND:

Items that are left in classrooms, buses, and other areas of the school will be placed in the Lost-and-Found box which will be located in the **Cafeteria**. Students who are missing things may check the box during their lunch. Please do not ask teachers to leave class to go and check for your items. The Lost and Found will be emptied **Every Friday** afternoon, so please be prompt in checking!

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Athletics

RCMS offers the following athletic programs:

<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Softball	Basketball	Baseball
Football	Wrestling	Golf
Boys Soccer	Wrestlerettes	Girls Soccer
Tennis	Cheerleading	Girls Volleyball
Cheerleading	Dance Team	
Dance Team		

Athletics are open to seventh graders and eighth graders who have passed 5 out of 6 subjects the previous semester, and a student can not miss more than 13 days of school. Our athletic programs are designed to assist students in improving their athletic ability as well as their ability to work well with others and to build character. Students who have repeated behavior offenses may be removed from the team if the school administrators and coach feels that the student's continual presence on that team is detrimental to the team spirit and good will of all members.

Try-out times for sports teams are made available and advertised in order for every student to have the opportunity to try-out for any one of the sport teams listed above. Coaches make necessary team cuts to teams and select the final team members based on their understanding of that sport and their selection criteria. It is regrettable when students are not selected, but not all students will be selected for a team. The coaches have the final say as to who are members of their teams and are supported 100% by school administration.

School Sponsored Clubs and Activities

- The Yearbook staff is made up of interested students who are able to work with the advisor to design and assemble the Yearbook.
- The JAG News Crew is made up of interested students who provide a variety of topics on the morning news program and announcement time.
- The Student Council gives the student body input into decisions affecting the students and sets up activities for the school. Students are elected from each homebase.
- FCA – Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Advocacy Team
- Beta Club
- Battle of the Books
- Fitness Club
- Running Club
- Peer Mediators
- Recycling Crew

Building relationship with students is important to this faculty. A variety of activities where students and faculty participate in a friendly, competitive game of rag ball, basketball, dodge ball, etc. are scheduled throughout the school year. A good time is had by all.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE
STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Principal: Moriah Dollarhite, mdollarhite@rock.k12.nc.us

Assistant Principal: Steve Scott, sscott@rock.k12.nc.us

Assistant Principal: Nancy Mark, nmark@rock.k12.nc.us

Bookkeeper: Sandy Fabian

Data Manager: Janice Beville

School Counselors: Donna Carter and Leslie Graves

Drop Out Prevention/Family Liaison: George Barber

Guidance Secretary: Penny Howerton: Guidance Secretary

School Nurse: Corrine Ore: School Nurse

School Secretary: Gail Brewer: School Secretary

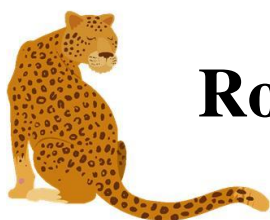
School Resource Officer: Shane Bullins: SRO

School Office Hours: 7:00-4:30 PM

School Phone Number: 616-0073

School Fax Number: 616-0870

<http://www.rock.k12.nc.us/rcms/site/default.asp>



**Rockingham County
Middle School
Home of the Jags!**

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