RHS STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

Rockmart High School
Home of the Fighting Yellow Jackets

School Address:
990 Cartersville Highway
Rockmart, GA 30153

Robyn Teems
Principal

Katherine Thomas
CEO Polk County College and Career Academy

Shea Floyd
Assistant Principal Curriculum

Barry Williams
Assistant Principal / Athletic Director

Angela Shuman
Assistant Principal PCCCA
Principal's Message

My goal after twenty-eight years in education has never changed. I want to see all my students graduate from high school and be able to live productive, happy lives. I believe that the key to attaining this goal starts in elementary/middle school and continues in high school. Students must develop a love of learning and of school during this important time. This is done by promoting success and pointing out the positives. Every student should experience success in some way every day. I will work hard to make sure this is the case with your Rockmart High School student.

I know that you are aware that we are at a critical point in education. We are asked every day to do more with less. Personally, I believe that this is when evolutions in education occur. The biggest transformations can occur when we pull together during hard times. I pledge to you that we will always strive to provide your student with a superior education. Rockmart High School will focus on literacy in all subjects as we begin to infuse more math, science, engineering and technology into our curriculum.

Parents are always welcome and needed at Rockmart High School. We could not do our job without you and our school values your help. Students retain so much more when concepts are reinforced at home.

We are planning many great opportunities for you and your child this school year. Thank you for everything that you do and for the wonderful students that you send to RHS!

Robyn Teems

GO JACKETS!
**Vision Statement**
Through passionate teaching and rigorous learning opportunities utilizing research-based instructional practices, Rockmart High School is developing well-rounded, empowered, life-long learners with the foundational skills, employable work ethic, and creative drive to be successful in education and career.

**Counselors**
Audra Wigley - Freshman and Sophomores
Charlene Davenport - Juniors and Seniors

**Media Specialist**
Dena Lumpkin

**Administrative Secretary**
Laci Hayden

**Bookkeeper**
Traci Thompson

**Parent Involvement Coordinator**
Debbie Hughes

**Receptionist**
Lorie Allred
Libby Hise
Absences and Attendance
Regular attendance is essential to a student’s success in school. Students who are absent from class are deprived of a variety of educational opportunities. Regular attendance and punctuality are two important life skills that students must learn in order to obtain and maintain meaningful employment. Therefore, please read the PSD attendance policy carefully. It can be viewed in its entirety by going to the PSD website www.polk.k12.ga.us.

RHS Alma Mater

On the city’s central hilltop,
Reared against the sky;
Proudly stands our Alma Mater,
As the years go by.
Forward, ever be our watchword,
Conquer and prevail;
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,
Rockmart High, All Hail!

Announcements
Announcements are made at the beginning of every school day. Announcements are delivered daily over the intercom in first period. In between classes, the office staff will make specific announcements that may arise after the morning announcements are delivered. Please listen and pay close attention to these announcements. The information is very important and needs to be addressed before the next day. Important information regarding sports, schedules, scholarships, meetings, policies, and other topics pertaining to you are being discussed. Some announcements will also be available on the school website and Facebook. Please sign up for the RHS remind by texting @RHSinform to 81010.

Automobile Registration
All students who drive to school must obtain a parking permit. The permit must be displayed in the vehicle at all times. In order to become eligible for a permit, you must obtain a parking application in the Main Office. The application must be filled out completely and signed by a parent/guardian. The application must be brought to the Main Office, and upon showing a valid Georgia’s driver license and proof of insurance, the student will be sold a parking permit. The cost of the permit is $30.00. All vehicles parked on the RHS campus are subject to search and seizure as outlined in the Polk School District Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. For more information please see the Polk School District Code of Conduct at www.polk.k12.ga.us

NEW FOR 2018 – All parking places will be numbered and students will be assigned a numbered spot. We will begin selling parking decals during the week of July 30th through August 3rd from 8am-3pm each day and during open house. Please see Mrs. Allred in the front office. Spaces will be issued in order. No specific requests for parking places will be taken. There is no student parking out front or in teacher lots. Priority spots have been reserved for students that made ALL A’s during the 2017-2018 school year. All grades will be verified before you are issued a priority parking place. Senior Lot – You must be a Senior in Powerschool to receive a spot in the senior lot. (4th year in school with at least 17 credits.) These will be sold on a first come first serve basis. There are limited spots in the senior lots and once we run out of spots places in the other lot will be issued. Vehicles that require two parking spaces will not be allowed in the senior lot. Hang tags must be visible in the cars at all times. We understand that class time is very important but student safety is top priority – any car with out a parking decal will be investigated and students called to the office to correct parking.
NOTE: RHS reserves the right to tow any vehicle, which does not have a valid parking permit or is in the wrong spot. Parking tickets will be issued with a fine. Students should lock cars and immediately enter the building upon arrival. Loitering in the parking lot is not permitted. The parking lot is off limits during the school day. The privilege of driving on school property and the use of parking lot facilities shall be withdrawn without refund of fees whenever a driver operates his/her vehicle in a manner that is illegal and/or threatens the welfare of the people or property, or violates PSD policies and procedure.

Regular Bell Schedule Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

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Advisement Bell Schedule

We have Advisement every Thursday in which our students participate in our Teachers-As-Advisors program (TAA). The TAA program is used by RHS to enhance students' overall academic success by routinely maintaining in contact with a teacher and completing educational planning activities for guidance while in high school and in post-secondary school. This is the bell schedule for Advisement.

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**Before School Daily**

Before school begins, students are to remain in the cafeteria or in the courtyard area outside the cafeteria. Students cannot loiter in their cars or the parking lot, and should not be in the cafeteria lobby, Commons Area, gym, or in any hallways. Due to supervision, students must enter the school through the lunchroom or front door – not through the gym or other areas. If a student needs to see a teacher before school begins, he/she should report to the commons area so that it can be verified that the teacher is in his/her classroom.

**NEW For 2018** – At 8:00am the gate will be locked to access the lunchroom. Students arriving after 8:00am will have to walk around the building to the front office to sign in before reporting to 1st period. The gate will remain locked all day.

**Car-Riders (NOT students who drive their own cars)**

**Before School:** Parents should use the traffic light entrance and drop off car riders in front of the gym in the gym roundabout and then exit at the traffic light. Students will enter at the lunchroom. **After School:** Students must exit at the “car rider exit” which is on the 300 hall. Students will be picked up at the 400 hall roundabout near the practice fields. Drivers may pick up students by driving behind the gym to the far side of the campus between the 400 and 300 halls. Student may not be picked up in front of the school or in ANY parking lots at the end of the day. There will be maps available at Open House.

**New For 2018**- We are adding awnings at car riders to protect the students from the sun and rain during car rides.
Cell Phones/Electronic Devices
Students are permitted to use cell phones before school, after school, and during their lunch shift. Cell phones/iPads/Electronic Devices are not to be used between classes or at any other time other than those stated in PSD handbook. When a student uses their electronic device inappropriately or at inappropriate times (when the teacher/school has not given permission), the PSD Electronic device policy will be followed. iPads, cellphones, and other electronic devices are to be used at the teacher’s discretion. Students using their electronic devices at times or in a manner other than what the teacher has requested will cause a student to have their device taken away. Parents have to pick up cell phones turned into the office between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm. Students should not have ear buds in during class change or class time.

Cheating
Cheating is not allowed at RHS. A student caught cheating will receive a grade of zero (0) for the assignment and cannot redo the assignment. He/she will also be subjected to administrative discipline.

Clubs/Organizations

Honors Art Club
Sponsor: Kristain Branham
Mission: To prepare juniors and seniors with an interest in art for college. Students will work on creating a college ready portfolio, will organize and complete an art shows, and tour colleges.
Activities: Students have toured Savannah College Art and Design (SCAD) and have built, created, and designed a school art show. They have also participated in various art shows throughout the state of Georgia and have worked with the community on various charitable events. Students have worked on various art work that are college level. This club has helped students gain access to art colleges like Berry College, Savannah College of Art and Design, West Georgia Art Department, Kennesaw Art Department, and Georgia Southern Art Department.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)
Sponsors: Lindsey Campbell, Taylor Simons, & Maria Norris
Mission: To lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and his church.
Activities: Meetings/School Gatherings are held on the last Wednesday morning of every month. Fields of Faith is at RHS every year in October. FCA Leaders attend camps and events in the summer.

Future Farmers of America (FFA) (Sponsors – Polly Baron)

International Thespian Society (Sponsor – Stevie. Reeves)

Kappa Pi Beta (Sponsors – Elizabeth Johnson) is an environmental club affiliated with Keep Polk Beautiful.
Key Club (Sponsor – Melanie Lisk)

National Honor Society (Sponsor – Clint and Ahren Jones)

Beta Club (Sponsor – Stevie Reeves)

SkillsUSA (Sponsors – Allen Ivie, Susie Wood, Erika Bailey and Corey Smith)

Student Council (Sponsor – Cheyene Davenport Mehrkens and Jason Purser)

Future Business Leaders of America-FBLA
Sponsor: Janet Dover
Mission: FBLA inspires and prepares students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. FBLA’s programs focus on Leadership Development, Academic Competitions, Educational Programs, Community Service, and Awards & Recognition.
Activities: FBLA members participate in Community Service Projects throughout the school year. These current and past projects include Rivers Alive Clean Up, Community Clean Up Day, Christmas for Kids, Donations to the Rockmart Homeless Initiative, Festival of Treats, Visiting the Nursing Home, Toy Donations to Children in the Hospital, Valentine Cards for Children in the Hospital, Relay for Life and Run at the Rock for the March of Dimes. FBLA members participate in the FBLA Fall Rally, Fall Leadership Conference, Region Conference/Competition, State Conference/Competition, and National Competitions.
Course Syllabus
At the beginning of the school year, each teacher will give each student a course syllabus that gives an overview of the required work. It will include a description of the course, textbooks to be used, materials needed, units to be covered, grading procedures, and other information of importance. Signing the syllabus indicates agreement of completion as designed.

Credit Recovery
A student who fails a class may be eligible to make up the class by attending Credit Recovery sessions before, during, after school depending on the individual situation. Credit recovery is a computer-based, self-paced program. Any student who is interested in Credit Recovery should see a school counselor.

Detention
Students assigned to after school detention (ASD) are expected to report to the specified location at 3:20 pm. Detention is from 3:50, unless otherwise specified. Failure to attend assigned ASD and/or arriving on time will result in further administrative discipline.

Dress Code
The Polk School District Dress Code will be enforced at RHS at all times. A student who violates the dress code will be sent to the office with a dress code violation slip. For specific approved clothing, please carefully consult the Polk School District Code of Conduct.

Shirts
Shirts must be the appropriate size and adhere to the following:

- Shirts will not be open down the side, under the arm.
- Shirts may not reveal the bare chest or cleavage.
- No pajama tops.
- Shirts must be long enough so that no skin shows between the bottom of the shirt and the top of the pants, even when arms are raised above the head.
- Tank tops with narrow straps, sheer tops, strapless halter tops and spaghetti straps are not allowed.
- Shirts/tops must fit so that there are no exposed undergarments

Pants
Pants must be the appropriate size (waist and length) and adhere to the following:

- Pants or shorts must be worn at the waist level.
- Pants must have no rips, holes, tears, or frays that reveal skin above the fingertip.
- Permanent patches are allowed in order to cover holes.
- No pajama bottoms.
- Dresses may not have a physically revealing neckline.
- Clothing must fit so that there are no exposed undergarments

Accessories

- No hats, caps, or hoods may be worn at any time inside the building unless otherwise approved by the principal. Cases with extenuating circumstances are handled by the principal on an individual basis.
- No towels, shirts, bandanas, or other objects may hang from pants/shorts pockets.
- No piercings that are considered to be a distraction to the learning environment.
- Non-prescription eyewear may not be worn in the building or in the classroom.
- Doo rags, rollers, net stockings or any similar article will not be allowed.
- Clothing, markings and other items related to gang involvement are not allowed.
- Make-up that exhibits an occult nature is not allowed.
- Chains or any type of jewelry that could be deemed unsafe are not allowed.
Shoes

- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Bedroom shoes are not permitted.

Outerwear

Students may wear their choice of outerwear to school; however, any outerwear worn inside the building must follow the dress code policy.

- Outerwear may be worn during school hours.
- Sweatshirts/pullovers and sweaters may be worn during school hours.
- Trench coats may not be worn at any time—before, during, or after school.

Extra-Curricular Day Clothing

Extra-curricular activity participants may wear clothing outside the dress code policy on designated days, if approved by an administrator. It is the sponsor’s responsibility to make the request to an administrator, and he/she will inform the participants of the dates and appropriate clothing.

Additional Items

- Clothing with vulgar or profane graphics or language or that is harassing to other students based on race, religion, gender or disability or that is sexually suggestive is prohibited.
- Clothing advertising or displaying tobacco, alcohol products, weapons and drugs is prohibited.
- Gym shorts (such as jogging shorts, cheerleading shorts, etc.) that are shorter than fingertip length may only be worn if required in a physical education class. Adequate changing facilities will be provided and the students will only be allowed to wear such items for that physical education class. These items must fit appropriately.
**Student Forms and Emergency Paperwork**

In order to provide a safe and orderly environment where teaching and learning can occur, parents are expected to enter into a partnership with school staff and administrators so that our school can operate in this manner. At the beginning of each school year, parents are asked to provide certain information to the school to facilitate in getting in contact with parents for emergencies and otherwise. It is the responsibility of the parent to keep such information current at all times (residence address, mailing address, telephone numbers, persons allowed to sign students in/out of school, etc.). **Polk School District and Rockmart High School does not accept responsibility for the results of delayed communication between school and parent/guardian or treatment of an illness/injury that is a due to out-of-date or inaccurate contact information.** At all times, all students will be required to have a **working phone number** on file through which a parent or guardian can be contacted in order to attend Rockmart High School. **You must show your ID and must be on the sign out list to check out a student. There are no exceptions to this rule. PLEASE TURN IN YOUR SIGN OUT CARDS!!**

**Early Dismissal**

A student who needs to be dismissed early during the school day should follow the procedure below:

1. The student must bring the parent note to the front office before reporting to 1st period on the day of the early dismissal.
2. The student will be given an office slip to verify the dismissal.
3. At checkout time, the student will bring the office slip to the main office where he/she will be allowed to sign out. Please discuss with the teacher whose class you will be leaving from your dismissal and show him/her your office permission slip in order to leave the room.
4. Please make arrangements where the student leaves before/after a class to minimize class disruption.

Leaving campus without following this procedure will be considered skipping and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. Telephone requests for early dismissal will **not** be approved except in cases of extreme emergency and at the principal’s discretion. Students who reached 18 years of age may **not** sign out at will. Students not living with parents or guardians (emancipated youth) are required to see the principal prior to check out. Other students cannot sign out siblings without a note from a parent that morning with both names. Phone calls will not be be accepted for sibling check outs.

**Fines**

Fines must be paid immediately. Should students have fines and/or charges that are unpaid, privileges may be withheld until arrangements have been made to pay the fines. To pay fines, students/parents may contact the RHS bookkeeper, in the main office. **RHS accepts most major credit cards as well as debit cards.**

**Food in the Classroom**

It is a violation of RHS policy for any student to have food delivered onto campus (by an individual or business) or to leave school, excused or unexcused, for the purpose of obtaining food during the school day. Students may not visit vending machines during class to obtain food or drink. Students should bring lunchboxes in the morning. Students will not be called out of class each day to pick up a lunchbox in the office.
Graduation Requirements

Course Requirements:

For students entering RHS in 2009-2010 and subsequent years:

1. 4 credits each in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies (16 total core class credits)
2. Three classes in the same area/pathway taken in sequence - CTAE, modern language, or fine arts
3. 1 Physical Education and Health course
4. 3 Additional Electives (2 Modern Languages are required for most college admissions)

23 units minimum

Hall Passes

Students are expected to stay in class for the entire period. Occasionally, students may have an emergency and may need to leave the room. Teacher permission must be obtained prior to leaving the classroom, and the student must have a hall pass from the teacher in order to leave the classroom. If a student leaves the classroom, the student must have a pass from the teacher stating destination, reason, time, date, and teacher signature.

Illness or Injury

A student who feels ill or injured during the day should tell his/her classroom teacher immediately. Students can fill out a request on the school web page to see the school nurse for non emergency situations (located in the main office). School personnel can only administer immediate first aid – we do not diagnose or treat illness or injuries.

Lockers

Students may rent a locker and lock for $8.00. Each locker has its own combination lock, and this combination should not be shared with anyone else. Locks, other than those rented from RHS, will be removed from lockers. Students may visit their lockers after the first bell rings at 7:50 am, between classes, and after school. RHS will not assume liability for lost or missing personal items contained within school lockers. School authorities may search a locker and seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered in the search at any time.

Lunch/Lunch Shifts

There are three lunch shifts for RHS. Your lunch shift is based on your 4th period class each day. Students at lunch are to stay in the cafeteria. Students may not be in classrooms, the gym, or in hallways during their lunch shift. Students are not permitted to have lunch brought to them at school from outside restaurants or individuals. Please bring lunchboxes in the morning!
**Media Center**
The Media Center at RHS is an important student-centered learning area. A media specialist is available from 7:45 – 3:45 to help students. Students using the Media Center during class are required to have a pass signed by the classroom teacher. No students will be given access to the media center during lunch. Students must sign in as they enter the media center.

**Participation in Graduation Exercises**
Students must be eligible for a diploma order to participate in a high school’s graduation exercises.

**PowerSchool**
PowerSchool, a web-based student information system, allows parents/guardians to track students’ current grades and attendance on a daily basis. PowerSchool passwords can be obtained by parents in the Main Office. PowerSchool may not be accessible to parents during the first and last week of the school year. Please pick up your access letter during open house.

**Prom**
Students in the 11th or 12th Grade are eligible to attend prom and to invite a date. No middle school students or individuals over 20 may attend the RHS prom. In addition, any student who withdraws from RHS during the current school year will not be allowed to attend, nor will he/she be allowed to attend as an invited guest until his/her class graduates. No student in the Alternative Education Program for disciplinary reasons will be allowed admittance to RHS prom. Guest attendants may be asked to submit a copy of their drivers’ license or a valid Georgia photo id and will need to have a form filled out by the home school. Students must have 11 credits to attend the prom and be a third year student.

**Promotion Criteria**
Promotion at the high school level is based on credits earned. All students must meet the following promotional standards.

a. Promotion to 10th: 5 Units
b. Promotion to 11th: 11 Units
c. Promotion to 12th: 17 Unit
Security of Personal Items
Neither RHS nor Polk School District is responsible for students’ lost or stolen personal items. Students are responsible for all personal items brought to school – book bags, purses, wallets, gym bags, books, calculators, phones, musical instruments, etc. The school cannot be held responsible for personal items including clothing. It is the individual student’s responsibility to keep up with all personal items. All lost and found items should be turned into the main office. Students in possession of lost items, which do not belong to them, will be disciplined.

School Cafeteria Prices and Info
For more information regarding PSD Food Services, please visit PSD’s website.

Tardy Procedure

- **3rd Tardy** -
  - After School Detention
  *Students will serve ASD the next school day.

- **4th Tardy** -
  - Pink Slip: 1 day of ISS
  *Students will lose their Exam Exemption privilege.

- **5th Tardy** -
  - Pink Slip: 2 days of ISS

- **6th Tardy** -
  - Pink Slip: Parental Suspension
  *Students are sent home until the student comes back with a parent to meet with administration.

- **7th Tardy** -
  - Pink Slip: Social Restriction
  *Students will not move to the next class until hallways are clear. This will be for a two-week period.
Retest Policy

Re-Test Opportunities for Middle/High Schools:

Re-testing: All departments in both middle and high schools have re-testing opportunities for students.

a. Students are allowed to retest one test per quarter, per subject.
b. Retest can earn full credit.
c. This retest policy does not include final exams or benchmark assessments.
d. Remediation is required from teacher or Directed Studies.
e. If close to half or more of the class fails, the material is to be retaught and the test given again for full credit.
f. If a student chooses not to use the retest option for either quarter, the lowest attempted test grade per class will be dropped at the end of the semester.
g. Retest Policy and dropping of the lowest grade does not apply to Advanced Placement (AP) or Dual Enrollment. Use of either is up to the discretion of the teacher per course

Final Exam Exemption Policy

Students at RHS may earn the privilege of exempting their final exam each semester. In order to be eligible for exam exemption in a particular class, students must have

- An 80 or above average in that class.
- No more than 3 absences.
- No discipline referrals in the class they want to exempt.
- No more than 3 unexcused tardies.