



Summer 2022

Greetings Rocky Hill Middle Community,

Happy N.E.W year! New as in one that we have Never Ever Witnessed! It is our sincere hope that this summer you had the opportunity to spend valuable time with family and friends to refresh and renew. I am always impressed with the collective efforts of school and community to thrive in the most challenging circumstances and last year was no different. As we come together as a school community, it is my sincere hope that we will continue to build strong relationships with our students and families. I am excited and honored to begin my 1st year as the proud principal of Rocky Hill Middle School and 23rd year with MCPS. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to work with such a caring and committed community whose hearts are centered on children and learning. The instructional leadership team (ILT) and summer staff members have been working hard to prepare for the upcoming school year. During ILT week, we worked diligently to create conditions for students to thrive by focusing on areas that will guide our work at Rocky Hill in the upcoming year: planning for powerful instruction and equity centered trauma informed education. We are ready to welcome you back for another outstanding year at RHMS, "*Growing Stronger Together*"!

I am also excited to introduce our fabulous new Rocky Hill administrative team! Magdalena Yanes 6th grade administrator, Daniel Miller 7th grade administrator, and Troy Horsley 8th grade administrator. We look forward to working together as the administrative team to serve you in the upcoming year.

Updates and Celebrations:

- 150 students enrolled in a fun and engaging Rocky Hill Middle School summer learning experience.
- We are excited that Rocky Hill was selected as a Maryland Meals Achievement Program School. This means that we will offer breakfast to every student at no cost each morning.
- We now have a RHMS (Wellness Room) "Zen Den" for students and one for staff as well.
- Rocky Hill will follow the MCPS guidelines for [Personal Mobile Devices](#). We will be an "Away All Day" school. Personal Mobile Devices (PMD) will need to be away all day including transitions between classes. Students may use their PMD before school, for a period during lunch, and after school.
- We will have an advisory period each day to focus on building community, Wildcat Wellness, Restorative Justice, Leader in Me, No Place for Hate, school-wide celebrations, and other activities to support student social and emotional well-being.
- We are excited that Rocky Hill has been selected to receive a teacher through an Innovative Support Grant from the Department of Professional Growth Systems in the Office of Human Resources and Development. The Innovative Support Teacher collaborates and facilitates professional development with a special focus on innovative induction support for our teachers centered on national best practices.

Some dates to note on the calendar:

- **Thursday, August 25** - New student orientation will be held from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. 6th, 7th and 8th grade students new to RHMS are welcome to participate and bus transportation will be provided.
- **Thursday, August 25** - Wildcat Welcome is a family event held from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. This event gives new students and families/caretakers the opportunity to meet administration and staff, explore the building, learn about the RHMS middle school experience, and connect with the RHMS community.
- **Monday, August 29** - First Day of School
- **Monday, September 5** - Holiday: Labor Day (Offices and Schools Closed)
- **Thursday, September 8** - Back-to-School Night: Back to School Night will be in person and with a virtual option for families



Rocky Hill Middle School

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Mr. Darryl V. Johnson,
Principal

We are thrilled to welcome new talented staff members to our Rocky Hill family. Please join me to welcome:

Welcome to	the Rocky Hill MS	Family
Name	Position	From
Alexandra Gramatges	Main Office Secretary (Attendance)	New to MCPS
Jeremy Clink	Science teacher	New to MCPS
Melisa Felipe	Science teacher	Loiederman MS
Delaney Gunster	Spanish teacher	New to MCPS
Elizabeth Hall	Art teacher	Fields Road ES
Michael Hinsvark	Special Education teacher	William B. Gibbs ES
Gail Jackson	Science teacher	Montgomery Village MS
Darryl Johnson	Principal	Gaithersburg MS
Daniel Miller	Assistant Principal	Churchill HS
Fairley Nickerson Tyeryar	8 th Grade Team Leader, English	Alternative Programs
Nicole O'Malley	Counselor	Lakelands Park MS
Abygail Owen	7 th Grade Team Leader, Social Studies	Kingsview MS
Maria Pellot-Rosario	Spanish teacher	New to MCPS
Cynthia Purich	Counselor	Parkland MS
Brian Sims	Social Studies teacher	Richard Montgomery HS
Martha "Paty" Williams	Parent Community Coordinator	
Misty Wine	Special Education teacher	Lake Seneca ES
Magdalena Yanes	Assistant Principal	John T. Baker MS
Elizabeth Zhu	ESOL teacher	Silver Spring Int'l MS

We are glad to welcome, Ms. Kelly Phebus as our new PTA president. I am confident that the partnership between parents and staff will continue to help our students thrive! Please strongly consider joining our [PTA](#)!

For additional Back to School information and details, please refer to the [Rocky Hill Middle website](#)

I am looking forward to an EPICC (Excellence, Professionalism, Integrity, Children, Community) year!

With Wildcat PRIDE!

Respectfully,

Darryl V. Johnson

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