

ROCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL



THINK ♦ **COMMUNICATE** ♦ **RESPECT** ♦ **SERVE**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In order to foster the best possible learning environment for all students, I'd like to take this time to highlight a few of our most important policies as outlined in the 2019-20 Student Handbook. As we know, the school/family partnership is essential for the long-term success of all students. The details of these policies are available at length in the 2019-20 student handbook. The purpose of this document is to allow parents an easy way to review these most important expectations at a glance.

1. **Cell Phone Policy:** Each classroom is equipped with uniform cell phone holders. All students are expected to place their cell phones in the designated locations as they enter each classroom. Cell phones are only permitted for classroom use if the teacher instructs students to do so. Research has shown that students (and people in general) have become overly reliant on this technology. The mere buzz of a phone is enough to distract a child from thinking or engaging in anything else. If you need your child for any reason, please call the main office at 978-546-1234 and we are happy to get a message to your child if necessary.
2. **Grading Policies:** At Rockport High School, we believe that it is our mission to prepare students for life after high school. As part of this preparation, we must hold students accountable in order to teach and foster life skills for all students in our building. This often means that students must fail (in a safe and supportive environment) in order to understand the impact of their choices/actions. Teachers will be enforcing clear and consistent grading practices that involve holding students accountable for turning in work on time. This falls into two different categories in our handbook.
 - **Homework:** Rockport High School will not be accepting late homework unless students have made arrangements in advance with a teacher or your child has an established plan that allows them to do so (i.e. IEP or 504). Rockport High School believes that effective homework assignments should:
 - Strengthen basic skills
 - Develop initiative, responsibility and self-direction
 - Build independent study skills
 - Teach budgeting of study time

If students do not come prepared with the assigned homework, they are missing out on the content of the lesson. Teachers will be assigning essential homework that supplements and enhances the lesson. In turn, students must do their part to complete homework on time. No late homework will be accepted.

- **Long-term Assignments:** Rockport High School believes that one of our most important tasks is teaching students about time management, responsibility, advocacy and commitment to self and others. Students will lose credit for each day a long-term assignment is handed in late. Teachers will outline their specific grading policies on their individual syllabuses distributed during the opening days of school. If a student would like to request an extension, they must do so in advance of the deadline in collaboration with the classroom teacher.
- **Making up Tests/Quizzes:** If a student is absent, it is up to the student to connect with the classroom teacher in order to make up any missing work. Students must initiate this discussion (in person or via email) and make up any tests/quizzes within two days of their return to school (unless otherwise arranged with the teacher).

3. **Vaping or use of illegal substances at school:** It is our job to ensure that all students are safe in all aspects of their school day while attending Rockport High School. This includes students being able to use the bathroom or other common areas without fear of other students vaping or using any form of tobacco or marijuana. We also believe that it is our job as an educational institution to teach and educate students around the long-term dangers of such behavior. Any student caught with a tobacco vaping device in school (whether using the device or carrying it within their possession) will be subject to a **Saturday detention**. Saturday detentions will be held from 9am-11am at the Community Room at the Rockport Police Station and will be supervised by a Rockport High School employee. These detentions will be used for health education that will serve to teach students about the implications of their actions. Any student who does not attend these Saturday detentions will be subject to out-of-school suspension (up to 5 days). Students found with a device containing marijuana are subject to long-term suspension as outlined in our drug policy. For student athletes, there are additional consequences. Please see the Rockport High School Student Handbook for full details.

4. **Attendance Policy (including tardy policy):** Please note that students who are absent from school more than 5 times in a quarter are subject to an attendance failure (N grade). In addition, students who are tardy for school and miss more than 15 minutes of their first period class are also subject to the N grade for their first period class. There are documented reasons that students would be excused from receiving this grade (medical documentation, bereavement, college visits etc). Please be sure to review the full policy in our student handbook. Please note that family vacations are not considered excused absences.

The above stated policies are only a few of the rules/regulations outlined in the Rockport High School Student Handbook. All policies outlined in the handbook have been approved through the Rockport School Committee and determined vital aspects of your child's learning experience. As school administrators, it is our job to enforce the rules as approved by the school committee. Of course, we are here to support students and families as you navigate your child's school experience. We encourage you and your child to proactively communicate and advocate as situations arise and we understand that life inevitably happens. It is throughout these times that it becomes even more vital for us to engage in proactive, open and honest conversations. Please encourage your child/ren to talk to their teachers and utilize support staff if they have any questions or concerns along the way. We hope these outlined policies will serve to create an optimal learning environment where students feel safe to openly express ideas, challenge themselves and learn valuable life lessons while in the safe environment a school should provide.

Please review the full student handbook for detailed information about our current policies and procedures. If you have any questions about anything outlined in this letter or in our handbook, please feel free to contact Ann-Marie Luster, Dean of Students at aluster@rpk12.org. We are looking forward to a fantastic 2019-20 school year and are excited to welcome your child/ren back to the building on Wednesday, August 28th. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sincerely,
Amy E. Rose
Amy Rose
Principal

Ann-Marie Luster
Ann-Marie Luster
Dean of Students