

# BACK TO SCHOOL

## DIGITAL CHALK TALK NO. 1

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 7, 2020

Dear Rock Brook Families,

I hope you are all doing well and ready for the new school year to begin. Like the end of last school year, the beginning of the new school year will also be far from usual. However, the staff at Rock Brook has been working hard planning and preparing to ensure that the 2020-21 school year will be unforgettable, for all the right reasons.

Speaking of hard work, **HAPPY LABOR DAY!** If there was ever a year to send that greeting (with emphasis) out to parents, this is the year! Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions of the American worker and was created at a time when the average American typically worked 12 hours per day and seven days per week. For all of you, that probably sounds like it would be a nice reduction in hours after what you have all lived through since last March! In spite of all of your long hours, and the many challenges you face each day, every parent conversation I have had over the last six months has always included words of praise and appreciation for the Rock Brook staff. Your ongoing positivity and consistent recognition of our staff is truly appreciated.

Along the lines of recognition, ***Town Topics***, a well known Princeton newspaper, recently published their Back-to-School issue and did a feature story on Rock Brook School. See the link below for direct access to the article:

[Town Topics Back to School Issue 8-26-20.pdf](#)



### **RBS Staffing:**

A huge RBS welcome goes out to our new staff...

**Samantha Ayala**, SLP

**Katie Lynch**, SLP

**Andrea Moore**, Teacher- Class 2

**Melissa Smith**, Teacher- Class 3

**Dakota Tatarek**, TA

**Natalia Wojtera**, TA

## **REVISED SCHOOL SCHEDULE AND HOURS**

*The following outlines Rock Brook School's reopening schedule, for the 2020 – 2021 school year, until further notice, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

- The school will remain fully-remote for all staff and students from September 8, 2020 – September 25, 2020.
- On-site instruction (for those who previously selected this option) will begin on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

Reminder: RBS is closed on **Monday, September 28, 2020**, in observance of Yom Kippur.

### **SPECIAL NOTES:**

- Effective September 8th our modified full-day schedule **will run from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm, Monday – Friday, until further notice.**
- Effective September 8th and continuing even after the September 29th on-site return, **all Fridays will be virtual. This will continue until further notice.**
- Students may continue to stay fully-remote, even after the on-site return of students on September 29, per Governor Murphy's Executive Order.

### **RBS Temporary School Hours – Due to COVID-19**

- **Regular Day for Students: 8:30 am – 2:00 pm**
- **Early Dismissal for Students: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm**
- **Delayed Opening (as needed for emergencies): 10:30 am – 2:00 pm**



2020 calendar REVISED 8 21 20 one page.pdf



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125.4 KB

# PRINCIPAL, KATIE HARDGROVE & SUPERVISOR, CHERYL FERRIGNO

Welcome back to a new school year!

Although it is not a typical start to the year, please know we are all working hard to ensure your child's individual needs continue to be met. Back to school information was previously provided to you when you received my communication regarding your child's class placement and teaching team members. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions!

We look forward to seeing everyone virtually on Tuesday!

*~Katie*

Welcome Back parents and students in this unusual start to the 2020-2021 school year. Seems like we are all adjusting to the changes COVID-19 has brought us. Since March, RBS has rolled with whatever needed to be done to ensure our students were accessing instruction and therapies. As we continue to adjust and allow for more in person instruction, we will monitor safety guidelines and information provided by the NJDOE and Governor.

For the time being we will continue to conduct IEP meetings virtual in conjunction with your child's case manager. Please contact me with any concerns or questions. You can reach me at [cheryl.ferrigno@rock-brook.org](mailto:cheryl.ferrigno@rock-brook.org)

I am looking forward to the day we are able to get together in person.

Stay Well,

*~Cheryl Ferrigno*



## TECH COORDINATOR UPDATE

Greetings to all!

It was so nice seeing so many new and familiar faces at the Virtual Open Houses this past week! The open houses were a great way to kick off the start of a "unique" school opening, allowing us to open the doors to our new families and extend a "welcome back" to our existing families. Please be sure to reach out to the Leadership Team with any additional questions that may have arisen during the presentations.

We are ready to go with our **Digital Distance Learning Plan (DDLDP)** and are greatly looking forward to seeing and "Meeting" with our students! As always, if you have any technical difficulties please reach out to your classroom teacher. Your classroom teacher will then contact tech support. We aim to address technical issues within 24 hours.



### **RBS Devices:**

- If you are in need of a device to take part in the DDLP, please reach out to me so I can arrange pickup of a new device.
- If you are in possession of a RBS device that is not working properly, please reach out to me so I can arrange a repair and/or pickup of a new device.

I am truly looking forward to another school year and truly confident that together we can do the best for our children! Please do not hesitate to contact me for anything further....

*Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is Success. - unknown*

~**Maggie Deeds**, M.A., CCC-SLP/TOH  
Therapeutic Services/Technology Coordinator  
[maggie.deeds@rock-brook.org](mailto:maggie.deeds@rock-brook.org)

## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

Dear RBS Families,

I hope everyone had a restful summer break as we embark upon our new school year! Undoubtedly this is a most unusual start to a school year, but we at RBS are doing our best to be as prepared as possible while also remaining flexible! I personally was very proud of our RBS students (and you too parents!) as they navigated the world of digital learning. So I am confident that as we move from digital to some in-person instruction over time, that the transition will be a fairly smooth one. As always, if there is any way I can help please don't hesitate to reach out. We expect some glitches and bumps along the way, but if anything is hindering the distance learning process please reach out. Also please remember as home and school are more intermingled, I am here as a support for you and your child when they encounter any emotional challenges along the way. I can be reached at the contact information below.



In the interest of helping support you as parents, I will be running an online parent support group. This will take place at the end of the school day and be via Google Meet. It will be a safe place to brainstorm and chat with other parents as we navigate this school year together. More information forthcoming regarding this, but if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

I look forward to seeing everyone's faces soon and starting an awesome school year together!

~**Miss Jessica**



## FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

Over the summer **Miss Sherri** (Sherri Leen), Program Secretary, made the decision to retire from RBS after 33 years of amazing service. We will all miss her cheery voice, smile, and expertise in running the Main Office at Rock Brook. We look forward to her visiting us, at some point this school year, so that we can all formally wish her well. That being said, last January we welcomed **Carla Baron** to the Main Office and she will now step into the role of Program Secretary. Please reach out to Carla with any questions that you may have.

### STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS:

All families are asked to complete the 2020-2021 Student Information Form (previously shared with you via email and downloads available below). Please complete and return all forms to RBS, **Attn: Carla Baron** as soon as possible, **but no later than Friday, September 18**. Forms may be mailed, emailed, or faxed.

- Mail: Rock Brook School, Attn: Carla Baron, 109 Orchard Road, Skillman, NJ, 08558
- email: [carla.baron@rock-brook.org](mailto:carla.baron@rock-brook.org)
- Fax: 908-431-9503

### ATTENDANCE:

Please remember that RBS is required to record and report attendance on **all students**, even during all fully-remote DDLP days. If you know that your child will be absent from school, please remember to let us know. Please call the school 908-431-9500 x10 (voicemail is available 24/7) or email Carla Baron, as well as letting your child's teaching team know.

### Rock Brook needs to know the following:

- Name of your Child
- Date of Absence
- Reason for the Absence
- Call to report the absence: 908-431-9500, ext. 10
- email: [carla.baron@rock-brook.org](mailto:carla.baron@rock-brook.org)



2020-2021 Student Information Form - Google Docs (1).pdf



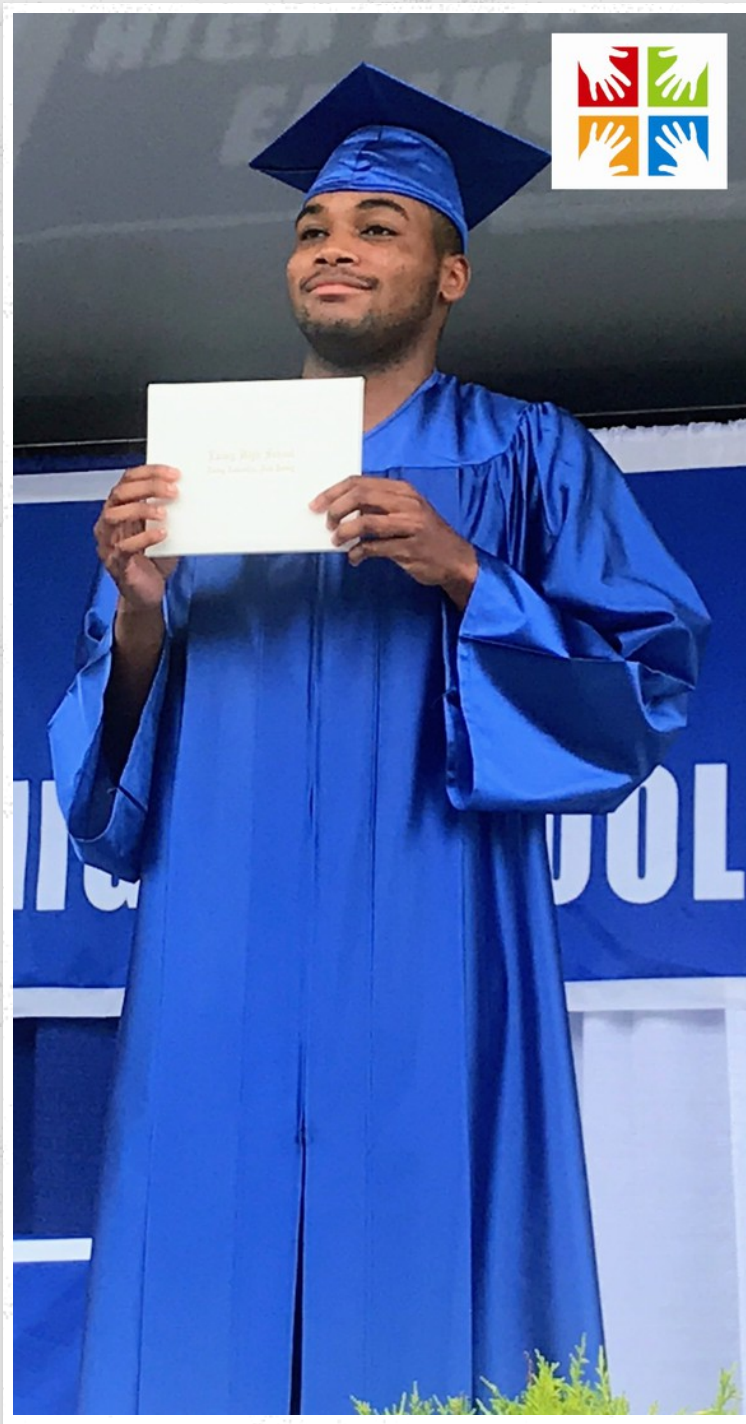
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Spanish - 2020-2021 Student Information Form - Google Docs (1).pdf



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## MORE PICTURES FROM HOME...

The picture above brings both great sadness and great joy as we celebrate Javier, our very first Rock Brook high school graduate. While we are proud of his accomplishment, his positive and gentle spirit will surely be missed.

Please continue to send pictures from home. We all miss our students and friends!

[christy.tracey@rock-brook.org](mailto:christy.tracey@rock-brook.org)





# ROCK BROOK SCHOOL

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☎️ 908-431-9500

🌐 [rock-brook.org](http://rock-brook.org)

