

RBS REOPENING JANUARY 19, 2021

DIGITAL CHALK TALK NO.3

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 17, 2021

Dear Rock Brook Families,

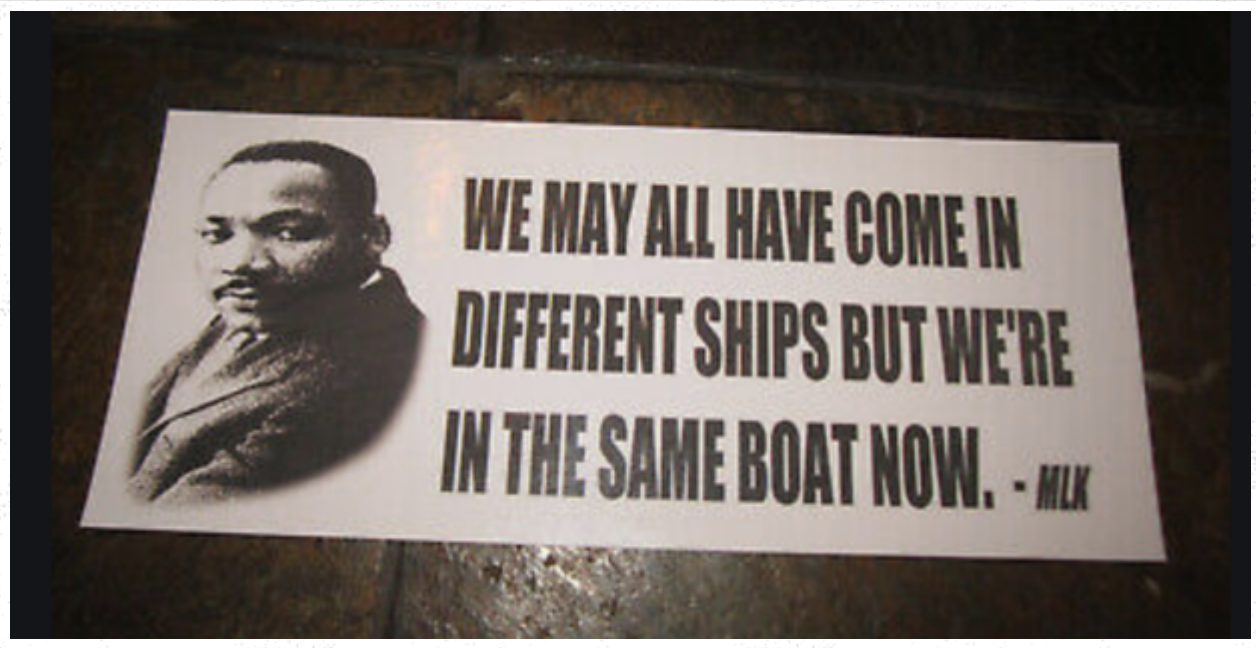
We look forward to welcoming students back to Rock Brook on Tuesday, January 19. Our staff is anxious to return and to again work in person with students. I am happy to report that we made it through the last two months with only one staff and one student case of COVID-19. Now, as we return, it is incumbent upon all of us to continue to do everything we can to avoid any future cases. Please know that our school has been fully cleaned and sanitized, but we also need our safety protocols to be followed and we need your continued cooperation in completing our daily health screener and reaching out to Nurse Pat with any health concerns or questions.

Even in the face of our many challenges from COVID-19 to the acts of violence at the U.S. Capitol building, I am hopeful that we all take a moment tomorrow to recognize and celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a man of peace and hope. As a center for education and learning, all members of the Rock Brook community should consider the following words from Dr. King as we move forward: "Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction. The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically."

Looking forward to a great reopening on Tuesday, and to better days ahead for everyone in 2021.

Glenn Famous

glenn.famous@rock-brook.org



SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE REMINDERS:

- School reopens for on-site instruction on Tuesday, January 19.
- Our modified full-day schedule 8:30am – 2:00pm remains in effect.
- All Fridays remain fully remote for all students.
- Early Dismissal for Students (as previously scheduled on our school calendar or as needed for emergencies): 8:30 am – 12:30pm
- Delayed Opening (as needed for emergencies): 10:30am – 2:00pm



20-21 RBS Calendar REVISED 10 21 20 one page.pdf

[Download](#)
126.1 KB

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Happy New Year to all of our RBS families! I hope you found some time to rest and enjoy some family time during the break. As always, please never hesitate to reach out to [me](#) for any needed guidance and/or support. Here's to a great 2021!



With the new year comes some exciting new staffing updates at RBS:

- **Class 3** welcomes **Ms. Lani Brown** as the new classroom teacher and **Ms. Tasha Schwab** as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant.
- **Class 5** welcomes **Mr. Jonathan Meola** as a new Teaching Assistant and RBS veteran **Ms. Denise Ruppe** as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant.
- **High School:** While Miss Alyssa is getting ready to welcome her new bundle of joy, the high school program welcomes **Ms. Melissa Smith** as the covering classroom teacher. Already experienced working in the HS, Ms. Melissa will continue working jointly with **Mrs. Becky Mercurio** and **Ms Leslye Manna**. As additional support, the high school program also welcomes **Mrs. Cheryl Ferrigno** and **Miss Jessica Gosses**. Mrs. Ferrigno, RBS Supervisor of Instruction, will further supplement the daily teaching and supervisory needs of the HS. Miss Jessica Gosses, a dually certified teacher and school counselor, will also join the team to support daily academic and counseling needs. Please note that Miss Gosses will continue to support the school wide counseling needs as well. Ms. Judi Johnson will also be joining the high school as a 1:1 teacher assistant.
- **We also welcome our new Graduate Fieldwork Placement students:**
 - **Ms. Dawn Gergich**, graduate speech pathology student, from Kean University
 - **Ms. Cali Clarke**, graduate occupational therapy students, from Seton Hall University



SUPERVISOR / LDTC, CHERYL FERRIGNO

Happy New Year Rock Brook Families!! Hope you are all doing well! We are all looking forward to seeing our students again when we are back in person on Tuesday.

RBS Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held as planned in February, but will **not** be accompanied by Progress Reports. This year has not been a typical year with the toggling between virtual and in-person instruction and therapies. Therefore, Progress Reports will be completed at the end of March to ensure that the staff has enough time to obtain information about your child's progress. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheryl

Cheryl Ferrigno

Supervisor / LDTC

cheryl.ferrigno@rock-brook.org

Dear RBS Families,

- Please join us for our second **Rock Brook Roots Parent Support Group on January 28, 2021 from 5:30-6:30 pm.**

This is a safe and supportive environment for parents and caregivers to come and talk. There is no formal agenda this month so feel free to bring thoughts, ideas and feelings you would like to share or just meet other RBS parents. If you know you plan on joining, please email me at jessica.gosses@rock-brook.org to RSVP, but you are welcome to just pop in if your schedule permits.



Looking forward to seeing you there! Google Meet link: **meet.google.com/set-zmyb-pxs**

- Just a reminder that I am always available via email as well as RBS phone line M-Thurs when in person. I also will still have my Google Voice Number- you can call it or text it as well and it is a faster way to reach me on virtual Fridays.
- The RBS Number is: 908-431-9500, ext. 12
- **My Google Voice Number is: 848-467-5513**

Jessica

Jessica Gosses

School Counselor

jessica.gosses@rock-brook.org

THE NURSE'S NOOK

Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

I will be so glad to see your children again on Tuesday! We survived the Thanksgiving and Winter Break period with only two new active COVID-19 cases (one staff and one student). At a time when new cases in New Jersey have more than tripled, this is a phenomenal result. This speaks volumes to good choices and careful practice of precautions. Thank you for that and please continue your efforts. It's working, so keep those masks on, keep your distance and wash your hands!

Vaccinations:

We are all hearing about vaccines, but these are being rolled out gradually, and are only fully effective about a month after the second shot, so we have a whole winter to get through. Regarding vaccination, our local health department recommends that those interested in being vaccinated register on the website: covidvaccine.nj.gov You will receive confirmation of your registration and be advised when and where appointments are offered. This website can be used to register any eligible family member.

Vaccination is voluntary. Children 16 years and older may receive the *Pfizer* vaccine, 18 years and older may receive either *Moderna* or *Pfizer*. Please consult with your child's PCP regarding

the advisability of having them vaccinated if they are eligible.

Travel Advisory Reminder:

Please continue to avoid any unnecessary travel. If you travel anywhere, please take all of the same precautions you do while at home. Travel to New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Delaware does not require testing before or after the trip, and does not require quarantine.

Travel to any other domestic location does require testing, 3 days before with negative results, quarantine upon return, and retesting 3-5 days after return. Test results after travel still require that you complete the 14 day quarantine. RBS is keeping the 14 day quarantine in place, we are **not** shortening it, in the interests of protecting our students and staff.

Positive Test Result?

If you have a positive test after returning, the 10 day isolation period (+2 additional days according to RBS policy) will be mandatory, starting from the first day of symptoms, or date of test if no symptoms.

Lastly, PLEASE complete your health screening every day, Monday through Friday. This information is critical to our knowing that the community is continuing to remain healthy. If you are having any problems with RealTime, please reach out to Carla at carla.baron@rock-brook.org or 908-431-9500, ext. 11.

Nurse Pat

Pat Mackin
nurse@rock-brook.org

TECHNOLOGY

A few reminders for our students during Virtual Learning:



Google Meet Etiquette Rock Brook School

Arrive on time.



Keep
your
camera
on.

Google Meet links are for class time. Please
do not use them to chat with classmates.

If you would like to set up a time to chat with
friends, please ask your parents or teachers.

Mute yourself to
reduce
background
noise.



Eat during
a break,
not
during
class time.



Becky

Becky Mercurio

High School Teacher

SLE Coordinator

Technology Coordinator Intern

Google Certified Educator Level 1

becky.mercurio@rock-brook.org

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

If you are experiencing any at-home tech issues related to Google classroom or device connectivity, please feel free to reach out and I will be happy to assist in any way that I can.

David

David Goldberg

Tech/Production Department

mobile 609-212-7134

david.goldberg@rock-brook.org

FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

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 at 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

SPIRIT WEAR:

We are in the process of creating a new design for spirit wear for our students and staff. We hope to offer pullover hoodies, zip front hoodies, long and short sleeve t-shirts. Look for order forms soon.



ROCK BROOK SCHOOL

📍 109 Orchard Road, Skillman, N...

☎ 908-431-9500

✉ glenn.famous@rock-brook.org

🌐 rock-brook.org

