



ROCK BROOK SCHOOL

Family Flyer

September 2026

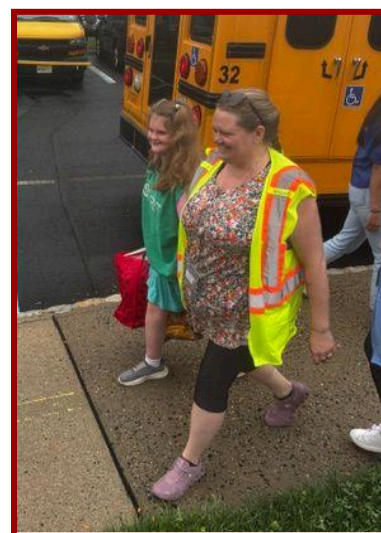
A Strong Start, A Great Year Ahead!

We are off to a wonderful start to the new school year! Our first few weeks have been filled with new routines, familiar faces, new friendships, and lots of learning.

Students and staff have worked together to establish classroom routines, become comfortable with daily schedules, and learn what to expect throughout the school day. We know that transitions and changes can take time, and our teams have been intentional about providing structure, consistency, visual supports, and encouragement to help each student feel comfortable and successful.

It has been great to see our students settling in, participating in activities, building relationships, and showing us all they can do. We look forward to continuing to build on this strong beginning as we move through the school year.

Thank you to our families for your continued partnership and support. We are excited for an amazing year ahead!



Back to School and Family Night! We had a fantastic Back to School Night and Family Night! Thank you to our students, staff, and families for making the evening so special.

The evening began with our Back to School Night classroom presentations, allowing families to meet the teaching teams, learn more about their child's day, and hear about the many opportunities and experiences planned for the year ahead. We then came together for Family Night, complete with food, music from DJ Reggie, and a visit from Rosie the Clown, who entertained everyone with face painting and balloon animals.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our Rock Brook community to come together, connect, and celebrate the beginning of another school year.



Mitochondrial Awareness Day

Our school community raised awareness for mitochondrial disease on 9/14. Students and staff proudly wore green to show their support and help spread awareness.

Mitochondrial disease can affect individuals in different ways, and increased understanding, compassion, and support can make a meaningful difference.

Thank you to our students, families, and staff for helping us promote awareness, inclusion, and kindness throughout our school community!



Patriot Day

Rock Brook School honored September 11, Patriot Day, by reflecting on the values of bravery, courage, kindness, and community.

Students gathered by the flagpole to raise the American flag and participate in the Pledge of Allegiance. They reflected on the meaning of the day, and each student proudly placed a mini American flag in the ground in front of the school.

Our students were reminded that one of the best ways we can honor those who serve and help our communities is by being kind, helping one another, showing respect, and making someone's day.



Learning About Train Safety

This month, Post-Graduate students have been collaborating with a Senior Safety Education Program and Community Outreach Specialist from NJ TRANSIT for train safety sessions.

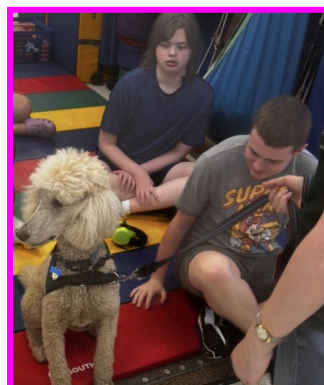
During these interactive presentations, students learned about train safety, important safety signs and symbols and their meanings, and the process of safely boarding and riding a train. Students also discussed how to stay safe in public places, including what to do if they encounter strangers.

This hands-on learning experience provided our students with valuable information and practical skills that support independence and safety in the community. Learning real-world skills, building independence, and staying safe—one experience at a time!



Air Therapy Dogs Program: Students and staff were excited to welcome our furry friends back to Rock Brook School.

We are looking forward to another wonderful year of connection and smiles through this fantastic program!



Standardized Assessments: Please see the message below from Jenie Vargas, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, regarding standardized assessments:

As we welcome students and staff back to school, New Jersey school districts, approved private schools for the disabled, and renaissance school projects are required by statute (N.J.S.A. 18A: 7C-6.6) to annually notify parents or guardians of the [scheduled standardized assessments](#) that will be administered over the course of the school year.

Helpful resources for parents are available at the [New Jersey Assessments Resource Center](#) and [Dynamic Learning Maps New Jersey](#).

Thank you, and here's to a wonderful year of learning!

*~Jenie Vargas
Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction*

Student Absences: If your child will be absent from school, please call Tammy Quick, Program Secretary, in the main office at 908-431-9500, ext. 110, by 9:00 AM.

- Our automated attendance line is available 24 hours a day for your convenience.
- Please remember to call each day your child is absent.
- In addition to notifying the main office, you may also contact your child's teacher.

Important: For absences due to serious illness, accident, or hospitalization, medical clearance is required before the student can return to school.

If the school does not receive notification of your child's absence, we will follow up with a phone call to confirm the reason.

Birthday Celebrations at School: To keep celebrations manageable and allergy-conscious, we limit birthday celebrations to a simple treat and/or activity sent in by the parents. If parents wish to send in food items, please adhere to the following guidelines:



- All food must be pre-approved by the school nurse at least three days in advance to allow time to reach parents of students with allergies so they can send in a safe snack alternative.
- Only store-bought items with labeled ingredients will be accepted.

- Once the school nurse has reviewed the food and its ingredients, both the parent and the teacher will be notified of the approval status.

If food is not an option due to allergies or other concerns, parents are welcome to send in a birthday craft or activity for the class instead.



Message from the School Nurse: With the start of the new school year, we are seeing lots of viruses circulating. The chart below might help decipher between these viruses.

HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FLU, RSV, COVID-19, AND THE COMMON COLD				
Common symptoms may include cough, headaches, sneezing, runny nose, and congestion. Different symptoms may include:				
			Rarely Sometimes Often	
	COLD	FLU	COVID-19	RSV
ACHES				
DIFFICULTY BREATHING				
FATIGUE				
FEVER				
LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL				
SORE THROAT				
WHEEZING				

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) current guidelines for COVID are below; please reach out to the health office with any questions or concerns.

If you test positive for COVID or develop symptoms, follow these steps to prevent spreading the virus:

- Stay home and avoid contact with others, including household members.
- Resume normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, symptoms are improved, and you are fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- Wear a mask and take extra precautions for 5 days after returning to normal activities.

School Safety: All schools in New Jersey are required to conduct two emergency drills per month, specifically one fire drill and one security drill. Please know that all of our drills continue to be conducted with a seriousness of purpose, but without using terms or simulations that could potentially frighten or upset students.



In September, our students and staff successfully participated in:

- A Fire Drill
- A Non-Fire Evacuation Drill

We thank our staff and students for their cooperation and attentiveness during these important safety exercises.

Calendar: Please click the link below to view the school calendar.

- [26-27 School Calendar](#)

RBS Facebook Page: Please like, follow, and share today!

- [RBS Facebook](#)



Looking Ahead

- Thursday, 10/1 - Rett Syndrome Day, Wear Purple
- Monday, 10/12 - School Closed for Students - Staff Professional Development
- Friday, 10/30 - Halloween at RBS - Trunk-or-Treat - Details to Follow

