



OLD COLONY

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Principal Guenette's September 2017 News

I hope that you are enjoying this beautiful summer we are having! I am passing on a few things that you need to know for this **upcoming month and school year**, and I am eager to have your child(ren) return for the start of a new and exciting year! Please join me in welcoming our **new OC staff** members: **Ms. Julie Woods, Cosmetology, Mr. Rick Peloquin, Carpentry, Mr. Andre Arsenault, Culinary, Ms. Grace Thompson, English, Ms. Jennifer Frates, Culinary, and Mrs. Lisa Maiden, Culinary.**

School begins for all students on **Tuesday, August 29th at 7:45 a.m.** and is a **full day** of school with **dismissal at 2:16 p.m.** Grades **10 and 12** will start the year off in their **shops** and grades **9 and 11** will start the year off in **academics**. All **morning buses** will **drop off** on the side of the building, and **all students** will **enter** through the **two exterior cafeteria doors** near the student parking lot. Cafeteria doors will **open at 7:15 a.m.** for students to enter and have the **option to purchase and eat breakfast** in the café or during their first period class.

We have contracted with a **new bus company, First Student**, and **all scheduled pick-up times and stops have been updated** to reflect our **current student** population. The routes are **posted on the website**, under the **Parents' link**. Each one of these buses now have **installed video cameras** on them and are **state-of-the-art in transportation**. Students must have a **parent note to ride another bus** with a student. Additionally, if your child needs **to get off on a different stop** on their regular bus route, they will also **need a note** reflecting this change. These notes can be **turned into the main office** for your child to be **issued a "bus slip"** to give to the bus driver.

The OC academic calendar, the MCAS 2017-18 testing schedule, and the school supply lists for all academic classes are all posted at www.oldcolony.us. The **new student handbook** has many updates this year, **including a new student cell phone policy**, and it will be posted **under the Parents' link** within the **next week** or so. The **last page** is a **student/parent sign-off sheet** that can be **printed, signed** by you and your child, and **returned to school**. We are trying to cut back on printing and paper costs, so the **OC Student Handbook** will be posted on our website. However, if you prefer to have a **hardcopy**, please send your child into school with a note indicating one, and it will be provided, or **call David Harrison, Dean of Students, at x-125.**

Students will continue to have **breakfast offerings** from the cafeteria on **both academic and shop cycles** this **again this year**. **Breakfast** is offered in the **café** from **7:15 – 7:40 a.m.**, and **all students** (academic and shop classes) will be **allowed to eat** either in the **café or during their first period class**. Students will not be allowed to transport food and drink items, other than water, to their next class. All

breakfast and lunch menus and prices are posted on the school's **website**, under the **Parents' dropdown menu, Cafeteria link**. A **full-size bottle of water** will now be available at **no cost with any meal purchase**. If the water is not selected with the meal purchase, or a student would like **water without purchasing a meal, the cost is \$1**. **Free/reduced lunch applications** are also posted on the **website** and can be **completed at any time** throughout the school year.

Any **school forms** that are **sent home for completion** must be **returned by Thursday, Aug. 31st**. Students can **drop off** their forms at the **front office, the guidance office, or with Mr. Harrison's office**.

All students should have **read one book** from the incoming grade-level **summer reading book list** for their **English class**. The **assignments** are posted on the school's **website** under the **academic link and English section**. Grades **9 & 11** students should be ready for their summer reading **assessment during the first week of school**, and Grades **10 & 12** students should be ready for their summer reading assessment beginning the **week of Sept. 11th**.

Mare Studios will be taking student and staff photos at Old Colony on **Thursday, Aug. 31st**, in the **cafeteria**. **All students will receive photo IDs, lanyards/clips** (depending on type of shop) **to be worn at OC at all times**. The **cost for losing an ID is \$5** and a student must **see Mr. Harrison** for a replacement one. Students must report to the **front office** for a **temporary/day ID pass** to be worn at all times.

We have partnered with **Stop & Shop and Red Robin Restaurant** for an **Old Colony Rewards Program**. These corporations give the school a percentage towards a rewards program in our school's name when you purchase items from them. **Any funds** generated to the school are **used for our students and school assistance programs**. Please review the information at the bottom of this newsletter to sign up for each program. **We appreciate this fundraising effort for our school!**

Our **first PTO Meeting** of the year will take place on **Tuesday, September 5th** from **7 – 8 p.m.** in the **cafeteria**. **Supt. Polansky and I welcome all parents and staff** to this first meeting to learn about how to **get this organization started and begin to grow** with us for providing **future opportunities** for our **OC students**. Please **send us your food and drink** requests to bestpto@oldcolony.us. You may be surprised at what we have to offer!

Please reach me at extension 118 or email me at kguenette@oldcolony.us if you would **like to serve on the Old Colony School Council for the 2017-18 school year**. This group of parents, students, staff, and myself **meet 4-5 times a year** and **review the school handbook and district improvement plan**. The first meeting is scheduled for **Wed., Sept. 20th at 3:00 p.m. in the OC library**.

As a school, we will be focusing on a **Literacy Across the Curriculum initiative** with a goal of consistently **improving upon writing and speaking skills** of our student body. These skills learned will be an integral part of their **successful future**.

Internet Essentials is a program **sponsored by Comcast**. The company has provided one million **low-income households with internet access** through this program. If you would like to **contact them** to see if you qualify, email ned_newenglandcommunitypartners@cable.comcast.com or send a letter of interest to: **Comcast, 5 Omni Way, Chelmsford, MA 01824**.

Old Colony RVTHS invites you to join us as **Chad Hymas** (named one of the 10 most inspirational people in the world by the Wall Street Journal) as he speaks to the importance of inclusive schools where **"All means ALL"** in an unforgettable evening at **7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 5th**. **Tickets for the event** are available at <http://bit.ly/2fmgkMV>.

The **STEM Summit Exhibit Review Committee** selected “**OC creates – Skills in Action**” for **inclusion in the 2017 MA STEM Summit resource room**. **Mrs. Machamer**, Asst. Principal/Vocational Coordinator will join with some Old Colony staff members to **present an exhibit addressing a variety of issues** concerning the STEM community and supporting their theme, “**Progress Through Partnership**” to be held at the **DCU Center in Worcester on Nov. 14th**.

Congratulations to our **CADD students** who participated in a **free, summer college program** with **BCC** where they earned **three college credits** through participation in a class **held on our OC campus**.

We have recently **partnered with LakeCam and ORCTV** with support from **Rockland Trust** to start a **TV and Broadcasting Club**. Students will be working on a **monthly television show** that will be featured in our **local communities**. We are excited about the **new initiative** and look forward to sharing more about industry partnerships, early college opportunities, vocational programs, and extracurricular **highlights that are happening at Old Colony RVTHS**.

The following are a list of dates and events for the month of September at Old Colony:

- Tuesday, August 29 – First day of school for all Old Colony students
- Thursday, August 31 – Mare Studios at OC for student ID photos for staff and students
- Friday & Monday, Sept. 1 & 4 – No school due to the Labor Day holiday weekend
- Monday, Sept. 18 – Late-start Day with a 9:45 a.m. start for all students
- Wednesday, Sept. 20 – School Council Meeting at 3:00 p.m. in the library
- Wednesday, Sept. 20 – School Committee Meeting at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria
- Friday, Sept. 22 – National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria
- Wednesday, Sept. 27 – Early Release Day with a 12:15 p.m. dismissal for all students

I look forward to an enjoyable and productive school year at Old Colony. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Karen Guenette, Principal
kguenette@oldcolony.us

Stop & Shop

From October 2017 through March 2018 customers can help Old Colony R.V.T.H.S. earn cash every time they shop using their Stop & Shop Card. The Old Colony RVTHS, ID number is 10747.

All you have to do is:

- Log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to designate our school online using your Stop & Shop Card, OR
- Call the A+ Hotline at 1-877-275-2758 for assistance

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop & Shop, using your Card, earns CASH for our school. Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Stop & Shop A+ website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at www.stopandshop.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program and the money can be used for our school's educational needs.

If you registered your card last year, you DO NOT need to re-register this year. You can visit the website to verify correct school assignment. Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean more CASH for our school.

<http://stopandshop.com/savings-and-rewards/rewards-program/aplus/>

Red Robin

Red Robin will donate 1% of your check to a school of your choice every time you visit and use your Red Robin Royalty Account.

Join Red Robin Royalty or sign in to your existing account to select Old Colony R.V.T.H.S. The school's ID number is 250914001471.

Parents please spread the word and click on the link below to register for this amazing program to benefit our school:

<http://www.redrobin.com/betterschools>