



The David A. Stein Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy MS/HS 141

Principal
Lori O'Mara

Department of
Education
City of New York

Assistant Principals
Sheilagh Lustig
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September 2022

Dear RKA Families,

Welcome to the 22-23 school year!

This year we are looking forward to another full year of academics and athletics. We look forward to working closely with our students in the classroom and throughout the school. We are especially focussing on helping our Multi Language Learners and Black and LatinX students achieve by using proven classroom routines which will help all students converse, achieve and learn.

We are still awaiting the DOE's announcement regarding Covid procedures for 22-23. As more information is made available, I will communicate with students, staff and families. At this point though, I expect we will be carrying on with how things ended in June.

The DOE is piloting a new app this year for **Grades, Attendance, and Messaging (GAMA)**. The app is being rolled out beginning in September with more and more features being rolled out throughout the year. We expect that at the beginning GAMA will be a place where parents can view class grades for courses in progress, daily attendance, and receive messages from school staff. GAMA is on pace to replace Pupil Path which is now unavailable to schools as per DOE. After a short period of overlap and assessment, we expect to no longer be emailing families mass emails directly, but rather using the GAMA platform. In order to make GAMA work best for you all of your contact information needs to be up-to-date. Families can update their contact information in NYSCA (please read on....).

New York City Schools Account (NYCSA) is the currently functioning DOE portal where families can see report cards and test scores for Regents and NYS exams. Joining NYCSA is through a special invitation code, and many of our families already have NYCSA access. If you need access, please contact JPrince4@schools.nyc.gov who can generate your invitation and walk you through this. According to the DOE, updating information in NYCSA will roll over to the GAMA account.

In order to make sure that families are receiving needed information during this transition, families who are on the **RKA Parent and Family Email List** will still receive mass emails from the school. This includes things like grade level updates, RKA Notes, Looking Ahead and special events announcement. Most of them are sent from Ms. Prince's email or mine. If you are NOT already receiving mass emails from me or Ms. Prince, please fill out this [link](#) to be added to our list. Only fill it out if you are NOT ALREADY RECEIVING emails from us.

Remind is another tool that RKA utilizes to text brief grade-level reminders to parents. If you are not already signed up for that, you can visit our website to sign on to the appropriate grade level. Again, depending on the functionality of GAMA we will slowly roll back the use of Remind as the year goes on.

Please review all of the documents in this packet, especially the Family Calendar. In fact, you may even want to hang that one on the fridge! Save the dates for upcoming parent nights and especially **September 29 for the virtual Back to School Event**. More info will be shared as we get closer. (As per DOE guidelines the Back to School night event is virtual, but there will be other opportunities for parents to visit the school in person this year.) Please also save the date for the first Parents' Association meeting of the year on September 12. Our website www.RKA141.org is a good source of info too!

I look forward to a productive year of learning and growing with your children, and to hopefully seeing you at an in person event soon.

Sincerely,

Lori O'Mara
Principal