



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

Department of  
Education  
City of New York

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Dear RKA Families,

Each September I write a letter to you with all of the important academic numbers and let you know the school's goals for the year. This year, I think I will forgo that ritual. To be honest, I am just so excited, hopeful, and, yes, at times overwhelmed to be working towards welcoming you and your children back to RKA. Whether it be virtual or remote, I look forward to interacting with you, seeing the students again, and adjusting to a new normal.

COVID 19 has brought on a new approach to schooling and life in general. While we remain committed to the values and principles which our school seeks to embody, we recognize that many practices and procedures will change in the coming year. We further recognize the importance of routines and high expectations so that we can minimize the impact of COVID 19 on students academically. We also acknowledge the incredible emotional toll that the pandemic has extracted and endeavor to stay flexible, compassionate, and understanding to our students and staff during these extraordinary times.

Our children, families and staff have a long uphill path this year. Social, economic, political, and lifestyle changes are all around us, and change can often be very difficult for people. School will be vastly different from what it has been. Frankly, society is re-inventing the wheel and mourning all at the same time. We all need personal time to develop new behaviors. We need instructional time to make up for losses in academics, rigor, and routines. In addition, we all need emotional time to process what life has become.

It is still quite possible that we have even more changes on the horizon. At RKA we stand together with you in this, eager to support you. It will not be easy, especially in the midst of the dynamic landscape that is now our "every day," but I encourage you to work *with* us for the sake of the children and to help them build the resiliency, knowledge and the attitudes needed for success now and the in the future.

Much more information about scheduling and the school year are provided on our webpage and through our regular (almost redundant!) communication. I encourage you to reach out to my staff and me with any questions or concerns.

I leave you with my very warm welcome to all of the new and returning students and families.

With Optimism and Tiger Pride,

*Principal Lori O'Mara*