

RACHEL CARSON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 237
Magnet School for the Arts
Academic Excellence and the Arts
46-21 Colden Street, Flushing, New York 11355
(718) 353-6464 www.rcis237.org Fax: (718) 460-6427
Judith Friedman, Principal

Carla Brathwaite, Assistant Principal
Stephen Galizia, Assistant Principal
Jeannine Strong, Assistant Principal
Susan Braverman, Special Ed. Advisor

October 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The 2018-19 school year is off to a great start! This year promises to be both exciting and challenging as expectations for student achievement continue to rise. We met many 6th grade parents on September 13th during our *Meet & Greet* event. On September 20th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade parents attended the PTA meeting, which was followed by our *Meet the Staff* event, during which teachers provided information about topics your children will be studying in each of their subject classes. Every staff member at I.S. 237 is committed to providing the best possible learning environment for our students. We know that you, our parents, also are dedicated to supporting our school community. I am confident that with the combined efforts of the wonderful I.S. 237 staff and parent body, our youngsters will be successful in learning the skills they need to succeed in high school, college and beyond.

Reminders and Important Information

School Hours

School hours for all students are 8:00 AM to 2:20 PM Monday through Friday. Breakfast will be served daily from 7:15 to 7:50 AM.

Cell Phones & Electronic Devices

Please remind your child that s/he may not use under the direct supervision of a teacher cell phones or other electronic devices while in the school building, except for instructional purposes under the direct supervision of a teacher. Please do not communicate with your child during the school day (8:00 AM to 2:20 PM) via cell phone, either calling or texting. If you must contact your child due to an urgent situation, call the main office.

Dress Code Policy

All students must wear the appropriate **color-coded school shirt (Grade 6-green, Grade 7-grey, Grade 8-maroon)**, which has the school insignia on the pocket. Students may wear slacks, dark jeans or appropriate length skirts. Jeans with holes are **NOT PERMITTED**. Students are not permitted to wear sweat pants (except for gym) or low-slung pants. For hygiene purposes, students should change into gym uniforms during their physical education periods. Please help us enforce our Dress Code Policy by checking to see that your child is in dress code before s/he leaves for school each morning. Parents/guardians of students who come to school inappropriately dressed may be called and asked to bring appropriate attire for their children.

Safety Drills

Throughout the year, our school will conduct several different types of safety drills including evacuation (fire) drills and lockdowns. Your child will receive specific instructions about procedures and expectations for behavior during all safety drills.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, November 27th (evening) and Wednesday, November 28th (afternoon).

Pupilpath

Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's progress by logging onto Pupilpath, our school-based grade reporting system. Please go to the I.S. 237 school website, www.rcis237.org, for directions to obtain logins for Pupilpath. You may also contact our Parent Coordinator Ms. Shirley Bryant (SBryant22@schools.nyc.gov) or 718-353-6464 ext. 1231 for assistance.

Blue Emergency Card

Every student received a Blue Emergency Contact Card which must be filled out by his or her parent/guardian. Please be sure to complete **all** sections on the Blue Card and have your child return it to his/her homeroom teacher as soon as possible. It is essential that you list all adults who are permitted to pick your child up from school, in case of illness or appointment.

No student will be released to anyone whose name is not listed on the Emergency Contact Card.

Extracurricular Activities

Throughout the school year, students will have the opportunity to attend both academic support and enrichment after school programs activities. We will be sending information shortly about these programs and activities very shortly.

Parent Teacher Home Visit Program (PTHV): PTHV provides opportunities for individual families and educators to come together in non-school settings as equal partners to build trust and form relationships – to share dreams, expectations and experiences with the hope of increasing student success. Teachers soon will be reaching out to families to make arrangements for visits. Shirley Bryant, our parent coordinator, will notify families about a PTHV information session shortly.

Algebra for All and *College Access for All* are 2018-19 initiatives for I.S. 237. We will be sending more information about these initiatives very soon.

Important October Dates and Events

October 8: Columbus Day – School Closed

October 9: Information sessions about applying for the Specialized HS Admission Test – 9:00 AM or 2:30 PM **Sessions are identical; attend only one session**

October 11: Grade 6 and Class 819 - Trip to Old Bethpage Restoration Village

October 11: High School Information Night – 5:30 to 7:00 PM (**8th grade parents only**)

October 11: **Deadline to apply for Specialized High School Admission Test**

October 13&14: HS Fair at Francis Lewis HS

October 17: D25 Magnet Fair at JHS 185 (elementary school parents & students – 5th grade)

October 18: Grade 7 Trip to Philadelphia

October 22: IS 237 Open House for 5th Grade Families

October 31: Black & Orange Day (Students are permitted to wear orange or black clothing to school.)

Once again, on behalf of the entire staff, we welcome new parents/guardians to our school and welcome back those who are already members of our IS 237 school family. We look forward to another year of achievement, accomplishment and success and know that by working together, we will reach our goals.

Very truly yours,

Judith Friedman

Principal

CONTACT INFORMATION

Assistant Principals

Grade 6: Mr. Stephen Galizia ext. 1091
Grade 7: Ms. Jeannine Strong ext. 3291
Grade 8: Ms. Carla Brathwaite ext. 2291
Special Education Advisor: Ms. Susan Braverman ext. 2294

Guidance Counselors

Grade 6: Mr. Kenneth Ye ext. 3058
Grade 7: Ms. Xiuyue Lin ext. 3294
Grade 8: Ms. Lisa Levardsen ext. 2292

Deans

Grade 6: Mr. Benjamin Ercoli ext. 3048
Grade 7: Mr. Clifford Serrett ext. 3057
Grade 8: Mr. Michael Stone ext. 2059

Parent Coordinator

Ms. Shirley Bryant ext. 1231