

**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](http://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 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The 2019-20 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents on September 13<sup>th</sup> during our *Meet & Greet* event. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 a cell phone 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-maroon, Grade 7-green, Grade 8-grey)**, 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 Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> (afternoon) and Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> (evening).

**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](http://www.rcis237.org), for directions to obtain logins for Pupilpath. You may also contact our Parent Coordinator Ms. Shirley Bryant ([SBryant22@schools.nyc.gov](mailto: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.

**Important October Dates and Events**

- October 7:** PTA Meeting & SLT Vote – 9:45 AM
- October 9:** Yom Kippur – School Closed
- October 14:** Columbus Day – School Closed
- October 18:** Grade 6 Trip to the New York Aquarium
- October 24:** High School Information Night – 5:30 to 7:00 PM (**8<sup>th</sup> grade parents only**)
- October 28:** D25 Magnet Fair at JHS 185 (elementary school parents & students – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 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: Ms. Carla Brathwaite ext. 2291  
 Grade 7: Mr. Stephen Galizia ext. 1091  
 Grade 8: Ms. Jeannine Strong ext. 3291  
 Special Education Advisor: Ms. Susan Braverman  
 ext. 2294

**Guidance Counselors**

Grade 6: Ms. Lisa Levardsen ext. 2292  
 Grade 7: Mr. Kenneth Ye ext. 3058  
 Grade 8: TBD

**Deans**

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

**Parent Coordinator**

Ms. Shirley Bryant ext. 1231

October 2019						
◀ September						November ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 PTA Meeting & SLT Vote 9:45 AM	8	9 YOM KIPPUR School Closed	10	11	12
13	14 COLUMBUS DAY School Closed	15	16	17	18 Grade 6 Trip to the New York Aquarium	19
20	21	22	23	24 High School Information Night 5:30 – 7:30 PM 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Only	25	26
27	28 District 25 Magnet Fair At JHS 185 for current 5 <sup>th</sup> grade families	29	30	31 Black and Orange Day!		