

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

October 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The 2021-22 school year is off to a great start despite the many challenges it brings. Every staff member at I.S. 237 is committed to providing rigorous instruction within a safe and supportive school environment. Be assured that we will continue to implement and maintain recommended safety protocols, including social distancing and masking. We also fully understand that our students, parents and staff need time and support in transitioning back to full time in-person learning under circumstances different from previous years, and we will work hard to facilitate that transition. 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 have a successful, safe, productive and happy school year.

Reminders and Important Information

School Hours

School hours for all students are 8:15 AM to 2:35 PM Monday through Friday. *Grab and Go Breakfast* is available to all students upon entrance to the building.

Cell Phones & Electronic Devices

Please remind your child that s/he may not use a cell phone or other electronic device while in the school building, except for instructional purposes under the direct supervision of a teacher. Please do not communicate with your child (calling either his /her cell phone or texting) during the school day. 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, 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. Please refer to our website (www.rcis.org) for the link to purchase school shirts.

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.

Curriculum Information for Parents/Guardians

We will be conducting virtual meetings to inform parents about important grade level curriculum topics. All meetings will be held from 11:30 to 12:15.

Grade 6 – Wednesday, October 6; Grade 7 – Wednesday, October 13; Grade 8- Thursday, October 14. Our parent coordinator will send links for parents to access the meeting. Contact our parent coordinator, Ms. Shirley Bryant (SBryant22@schools.nyc.gov or 718-353-6464 ext. 1231) if you need assistance.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences, both afternoon and evening, will be held on Thursday, November 18th. Specific times and other information will be included in the November parent letter. Meetings will be virtual.

Emergency Contact Form

Emergency Contact Forms (formerly called Blue Emergency Cards) must be submitted electronically. All students have received the link to access the Emergency Contact Forms online. The Emergency Contact Form has been translated into ten different languages to ensure that all parents understand and can submit the completed form easily and quickly. Be sure to include the names and accurate contact information for individuals who have your permission to pick up your child from school in case you cannot do so.

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

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.

Important October Dates and Events

- 10/6 – Grade 6 Curriculum Information Meeting (11:30 AM to 12:15 PM)
- 10/11 - Italian Heritage Day/Indigenous Peoples Day – School Closed
- 10/13 – Grade 7 Curriculum Information Meeting (11:30 AM to 12:15 PM)
- 10/14 – Grade 8 Curriculum Information Meeting (11:30 AM to 12:15 PM)
- 10/21 – PTA Meeting Topic: Attendance Issues (4:00 to 5:00 PM)
- Parent Chat – Topic: Importance of Routines (Date TBD)

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

School Contacts

Assistant Principals

- Grade 6: Mr. Stephen Galizia ext. 1091
- Grade 7: Ms. Jeannine Strong ext. 3291
- Grade 8: Ms. Carla Brathwaite ext. 2291

Deans

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

Guidance Counselors

- Grade 6: Mr. Kenneth Ye ext. 3058
- Grade 7: Ms. Cindy Xu ext. 3294
- Grade 8: Ms. Lisa Levardsen ext. 2292

Parent Coordinator

- Ms. Shirley Bryant ext. 1231

October 2021						
◀ September						November ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Virtual Grade 6 Curriculum Meeting 11:30 AM– 12:15 PM	7	8	9
10	11 No School Italian Heritage Indigenous People Day	12	13 Virtual Grade 6 Curriculum Meeting 11:30 AM– 12:15 PM	14 Virtual Grade 8 Curriculum Meeting 11:30 AM– 12:15 PM	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 PTA Meeting Virtual 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Attendance Issues	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

