

Jesse C. Carson High School



Student Handbook
2026-27

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Introduction</u>	3
<u>Communication</u>	3
<u>Contact Information</u>	4
<u>Academics</u>	5
<u>ROAR</u>	5
<u>Bell Schedules</u>	5
<u>Expectations for Student Behavior</u>	7
<u>Disciplinary Consequences</u>	7
<u>Harassment</u>	7
<u>General Searches</u>	8
<u>Technology</u>	8
<u>Dress Code</u>	9
<u>Student Movement</u>	9
<u>Bathroom Use</u>	10
<u>Food and Drink</u>	10
<u>Attendance</u>	11
<u>Absences</u>	11
<u>Makeup Work</u>	11
<u>Excessive Absences</u>	12
<u>Attendance Incentive</u>	12
<u>Tardy Policy</u>	13
<u>Cutting Class</u>	14
<u>Special Release</u>	13
<u>Sign-Out Procedures</u>	13
<u>Extracurricular Participation</u>	14
<u>Student Drop-off and Pick-up</u>	15
<u>Student Parking</u>	16
<u>Athletics</u>	17
<u>Student Fees</u>	18
<u>Driver's Eligibility</u>	19
<u>Lockers</u>	20
<u>Medication</u>	20
<u>Visitors</u>	21

INTRODUCTION

This handbook is designed to help students and families successfully navigate JCHS by providing expectations, procedures, and resources. In order to ensure a safe and positive high school experience, please read this document thoroughly.

COMMUNICATION

Communication between the school and home is essential to student success.

Families can expect a ParentSquare post every Saturday at 9:00 AM. Families should also receive weekly ParentSquare communication from each of their student's teachers outlining upcoming curriculum, assignments and assessments.

In order to comment and message teachers, download attachments, sign digital forms, and set preferences, families are encouraged to register for ParentSquare. To get started, login at www.parentsquare.com or download a free app: [ParentSquare on iOS](#) or [ParentSquare on Android](#).

The school's website, <https://jchs.rssed.org/>, provides general information. The website's staff directory is the best way to identify and contact an individual teacher via email.

For the celebration of Good Things happening at Carson, families may follow the school's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.

Grades are a form of communication as well, so families are encouraged to regularly check their student's academic progress through Infinite Campus. While Canvas serves as the primary learning management system at JCHS, Infinite Campus is the best and final source of grading information.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION

Si necesita un intérprete, llame al 704-310-1808.

CONTACT INFORMATION

All staff may be reached by calling the school at 704-855-7297.

Title	Name	Responsible For	e-mail
Principal	Benjamin Crawford	General School Matters	crawfordbj@rss.k12.nc.us
Assistant Principal	Beth Boyd	9th Grade Students, Buses	boydef@rss.k12.nc.us
Assistant Principal	Adam DeLand	11th & 12th Grade Students, Student Parking, Testing	delandam@rss.k12.nc.us
Assistant Principal	Lisa Simmerson	10th Grade Students, Advanced Placement	simmerlm@rss.k12.nc.us
Athletic Director	Josh Trexler	Athletics	trexlerja@rss.k12.nc.us
Career Development Coordinator	Blaire Goodale	Career and Technical Education, Internships	goodalebf@rss.k12.nc.us
Data Manager	Julia Starnes	Student Withdrawal, Infinite Campus	starnesja@rss.k12.nc.us
Driver's Education Coordinator	JC Alexander	Driver's Education	alexanderjc@rss.k12.nc.us
EC Lead Teacher	Karie Houck	Individual Educational Plans (IEPs)	houckke@rss.k12.nc.us
Front Office Secretary	Jezzel Vences	Attendance, Student Check-In and Check-Out	vencesj@rss.k12.nc.us
Guidance Secretary	Crystal Cooper	Student Enrollment, Records Requests	coopercn@rss.k12.nc.us
In-School Suspension Coordinator	Brandi Barnhardt	Tardies	barnhardtbl@rss.k12.nc.us
Instructional Technology Facilitator	Anne Hedrick	Canvas, Help Desk, School Website	hedrickam@rss.k12.nc.us
Interpreter	Daniela Cardenas	Spanish Translation and Interpretation	cardenasda@rss.k12.nc.us
School Counselor	Kristen Hodges	2026-27 School Counselor Assignments	hodgesko@rss.k12.nc.us
School Counselor	Ashlinn Trexler		trexlerah@rss.k12.nc.us
School Counselor	Taylor Vanderford		vanderfordtd@rss.k12.nc.us
School Nurse	Anne O'Kelly	Medications, Immunizations	okelleyae@rss.k12.nc.us
School Resource Officer	Nic Carpenter	School Safety	carpenternj@rss.k12.nc.us
School Treasurer	Amy Goins	Fees, Parking Permits	goinsah@rss.k12.nc.us
Student Support Specialist & MTSS Lead	Skyler Ussery	McKinney-Vento Students, Homebound Instruction, Summer School	smithsa@rss.k12.nc.us

ACADEMICS

The primary business of Jesse C. Carson High School is teaching and learning. To fully explore the academic opportunities available to students, please review the [JCHS High School Planning Guide](#).

ROAR

ROAR, which stands for Real Opportunities and Relationships, is a thirty-minute block of time that occurs every day between first and second block. The nature of activities to occur during ROAR vary depending on the day of the week.

ADVISORY

Students will report to Advisory during ROAR on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Advisory connects every student with an interested, consistent adult advocate. Advisors plan and implement activities to build positive relationships and support each student's personal and academic growth. Class meetings and pep rallies may occur during this time as well.

TUTORING

Each week, teachers review student performance data in order to assign students to tutoring during ROAR on Tuesday and Thursday. Students requiring more time for instruction will be assigned to work with a teacher until mastery is achieved.

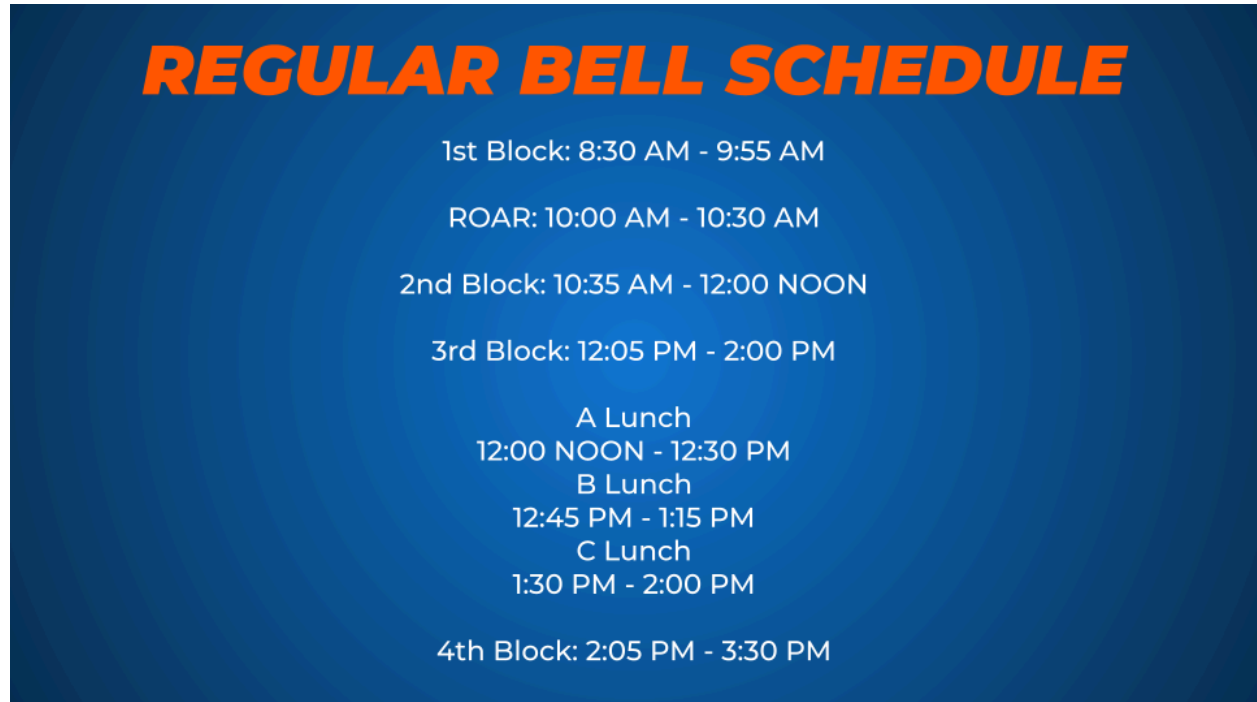
Assignments to tutoring are directed, not voluntary.

CLUBS

Students not identified for tutoring on Tuesday and Thursday will report to clubs they choose during the Select and Connect process every nine weeks.

BELL SCHEDULE

JCHS follows a modified block schedule in order to provide time for ROAR.



REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE

1st Block: 8:30 AM - 9:55 AM

ROAR: 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

2nd Block: 10:35 AM - 12:00 NOON

3rd Block: 12:05 PM - 2:00 PM

A Lunch
12:00 NOON - 12:30 PM

B Lunch
12:45 PM - 1:15 PM

C Lunch
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM

4th Block: 2:05 PM - 3:30 PM

ALTERNATIVE BELL SCHEDULES

The bell schedule is subject to change for a variety of purposes. Changes will be communicated weekly via the Saturday Message. All alternative schedules may be found [here](#).

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Expectations for student behavior at JCHS are established through the [Rowan-Salisbury Schools Student Code of Conduct](#). This document is guided by the Board's educational objectives to teach responsibility and respect for cultural and ideological differences and by the district's commitment to create safe, orderly and inviting schools.

All students shall comply with the RSS Student Code of Conduct while on educational property, which includes any school building or bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, online learning platform or other property under the control of the Board of Education, including bus stop locations.

Students may also be disciplined for conduct that occurs off educational property that violates the RSS Student Code of Conduct if the conduct has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the school or the safety of individuals in the school environment.

DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

The purpose of discipline in schools is not merely punitive. Consequences are designed to educate and help students make a positive change in behavior.

Students serving out-of-school suspension may not attend or participate in extracurricular activities for the duration of the suspension. Students serving in-school suspension may attend or participate in extracurricular activities with coach or advisor approval in consultation with school administration.

Behavior that is a violation of state and local statutes may be eligible for criminal charges in addition to the consequence assigned by administration.

HARASSMENT

Prohibited harassment is deliberate, unwelcome conduct directed at another person or group of persons based on their race, sex, color, national origin, religion, or disability.

Harassment creates a hostile environment when the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by the school system.

Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target, or involve repeated incidents.

Examples of behavior that may constitute harassment include, but are not limited to, acts of disrespect, intimidation, or threats, such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, epithets, derogatory comments or slurs, exclusion from peer groups, extortion of money or possessions, implied or stated threats, assault, impeding or blocking movement, offensive touching, or any physical interference with normal work or movement, and visual insults, such as derogatory posters or cartoons.

Harassment may occur through electronic means, such as through social media, email, or text message.

All reports of harassment will be thoroughly investigated by JCHS administration.

GENERAL SEARCHES

In an effort to maintain a safe, drug-free, and weapon-free learning environment, Carson's administration will conduct regular, suspicionless searches of students and their belongings. In accordance with [Policy Code: 4342 Student Searches](#), this handbook serves as written notice to students and parents.

A student's failure to cooperate with a general search will be considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and will subject the student to appropriate consequences.

TECHNOLOGY

JCHS is not responsible for any loss or damage to personal technological devices.

Students are prohibited from using, displaying, or having wireless communication devices turned on during instructional time. Therefore, upon entry to class, students must power off and store personal wireless communication devices out of sight. This expectation applies to cell phones, smartwatches, gaming consoles and accessories such as wireless headphones.

There are no warnings in the enforcement of this expectation. Students who do not meet this expectation should be prepared for cell phones and other wireless communication devices to be confiscated. A parent or guardian must pick up confiscated devices from the Main Office in person.

Students who refuse to comply with a teacher's request to turn over personal technology or who repeatedly disregard expectations may be eligible for other, more significant consequences per the RSS Student Code of Conduct.

There are exceptions to these expectations in the event of an emergency, as required by the student's individualized education program or section 504 plan, and as required to manage a student's health care, in accordance with a documented medical condition.

Due to the rise in use of technology for the purpose of posting events to social media, students who record misbehavior will be treated as co-equal participants, eligible for disciplinary consequences.

Though school personnel generally do not monitor student activity on non-school devices, when a student's use of technology has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the safe, orderly and efficient operation of the school, the student may be disciplined in accordance with the RSS Student Code of Conduct.

DRESS CODE

Dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students.

In order to maintain a productive learning environment, JCHS has adopted the following dress code:

- Clothing must fully cover the chest, torso, back and buttocks.
- Any article that displays or suggests alcohol, drug, violent, vulgar, or sexual content is prohibited.
- To avoid the potential concealment of prohibited wireless headphones, students may not wear hoods in the up position upon entering classrooms.

Students found to be in violation of the dress code at any point during the school day will be asked to become compliant. This may require contacting a parent or guardian so that other clothes may be brought to the school.

If appropriate clothing cannot be arranged, students may be assigned to in-school suspension as the consequence for a Level 1 Behavior Violation per the RSS Student Code of Conduct.

STUDENT MOVEMENT

Doors to the Atrium open at 8:00 AM. Students are confined to the Cafeteria or Atrium until dismissal to first block at 8:25 AM.

Between each block, there are five minutes to transition from one class to another. Students are expected to move purposefully during transitions.

Movement to and from lunch is planned out carefully so as to not interrupt classes in session. Students will use the main staircases in the Atrium to and from lunch. Students may never use the staircases on the B, C or D hallways to transition to or from lunch.

During the lunch period, students are to remain in the Cafeteria or Atrium. Students may not sit on the stairs leading to the second floor. Students may only use the restrooms located directly off of the Atrium during lunches.

At 3:30 PM, students are expected to promptly exit the building. All students remaining on campus should be directly supervised by a staff member.

BATHROOM USE

Students are strongly encouraged to use the time between classes and during their assigned lunch to access restrooms.

Students will not be released to use restrooms within the first and last ten minutes of each block. When provided, bathroom breaks should last no longer than five minutes. After creating a digital pass in Infinite Campus, students must carry a hallway pass and may only use the restrooms assigned to their classroom.

Students with medical conditions seeking an exception to these bathroom expectations may produce medical documentation to the school nurse in order to establish an individual health plan.

FOOD AND DRINK

All food is to be consumed in the cafeteria.

Students may carry water bottles and drinks; however, cups must have screw-tight lids. Cups with plastic lids from fast food restaurants are prohibited outside of the cafeteria.

On demand food ordering services are prohibited for students during the school day.

Families wishing to drop off outside food during the day should note that staff will not interrupt class to notify a student that food has been delivered. Students may pick up food during the transition to the cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance in school and participation in class are integral to the teaching and learning process. Through regular attendance, students develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life.

While the State of North Carolina requires every child under 16 attend school, the staff of JCHS are committed to working with families to ensure all students attend and remain at school daily.

ABSENCES

When a student must miss school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian should be presented to the Main Office on the day the student returns from an absence. Absences due to extended illnesses may also require a statement from a physician.

An absence may be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school;
2. isolation ordered by the State Board of Health; or isolation or quarantine that is a required state or local control measure
3. death in the immediate family;
4. medical or dental appointment;
5. attendance at the proceedings of a court or administrative tribunal if the student is party to the action or under subpoena as a witness;
6. a minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's family;
7. participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as college/university visit or service as a Governor's page, with prior approval from the principal
8. pregnancy and related conditions of parenting, when medically necessary; or
9. a minimum of two days each academic year for visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is not identified as at risk of academic failure because of unexcused absences and the student's parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty or inactive member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 4050, Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting; or
10. any other reason as approved by the board in a board resolution.

MAKEUP WORK

In the case of excused absences or short-term out-of-school suspensions, the makeup

time for assignments is equal to the time absent (e.g. if a student was absent for two consecutive days, he or she has two days to make up the missed work without penalty).

Students are responsible for working directly with their teachers to determine what assignments are due within the specified time period. Students who may seek an adult advocate to navigate these conversations are strongly encouraged to seek out their Advisor first.

Major assignments and assessments scheduled prior to excused absences or short-term out-of-school suspension are expected to be completed upon the student's return to school.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Applying the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's new attendance eligibility requirement to all students, those who accrue 14 absences may not participate in extracurricular activities the following semester. Privileges include, but are not limited to, participation in athletics, theater productions, academic competitions, Homecoming, the Prom, and Senior Week activities.

Students impacted by this expectation will have an opportunity to appeal the loss of extracurricular privileges. For the 2026-27 school year, first semester appeals are due Friday, December 11th, and second semester appeals are due Friday, May 14th.

ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE

Students with an A or B average who have accrued seven or less absences (excused OR unexcused) may exempt local final exams.

This incentive does not apply to any course with a state exam.

Students who qualify with a B average may elect to take the final exam in order to improve the final grade.

TARDY POLICY

During the school day, students are expected to be present at the scheduled starting time for each class, including ROAR, and to remain until the dismissal bell rings.

A one minute warning bell will ring before each block begins. Teachers will record tardies for students who arrive to class within five minutes of the scheduled start time.

Students who report to class more than five minutes late will be subject to a disciplinary referral.

Tardies are cumulative, but they reset each nine weeks.

Consequences:

- 1st Tardy: Warning
- 2nd Tardy: Warning
- 3rd Tardy: 1 block of in-school suspension (ISS)
- 4th Tardy: 2 blocks of ISS
- 5th Tardy: 3 blocks of ISS
- 6th Tardy and beyond: 1 full day of ISS

Students who are tardy three or more times in one day will automatically be assigned to ISS for 1 full day.

CUTTING CLASS

Intentionally skipping whole or part of a class, including ROAR, is tantamount to leaving class without permission which is a violation of the RSS Student Code of Conduct.

SPECIAL RELEASE

12th grade students with a reduced schedule who wish to arrive late to or leave early from school must submit an application for special release to be approved by the principal.

Students approved for special release are expected to attend ROAR.

Students with approved early release may not loiter in the building or student parking lot; they are responsible for arranging prompt transportation to and from campus.

Special release is not available to 9th, 10th, or 11th grade students. It is a senior privilege.

SIGN-OUT PROCEDURES

JCHS is not an open campus, and leaving the school building without permission or supervision is a violation of the RSS Student Code of Conduct.

In order to maintain the security of our facility and ensure the safety of our students, all families must adhere to the following sign-out procedures:

- Parents or guardians may send a signed note.
 - Notes may be submitted to the Main Office first thing in the morning.
 - Notes must be signed by a parent or guardian listed in Infinite Campus as a contact for that student.
 - Notes should include a contact phone number.
- Parents or guardians may call the school
 - All requests to sign out of school by phone may be verified by staff with a return phone call to a contact listed in Infinite Campus.
- Parents or guardian may enter the building
 - Please be aware that all parents or guardians wishing to sign a student out of school must present identification and be listed in Infinite Campus as a contact for that student.

In the case of an emergency during which the above may not occur, an administrator must approve a student's check-out.

SIGN-OUT PROCEDURES DURING FINAL EXAMS

First semester final exams will occur December 11th through December 17th, 2026. Second semester final exams will occur May 20th through May 26th, 2027. To maintain the testing environment:

- There will be no student dismissal during exams.
- For the convenience of families, students who wish to sign out after exams may present written parent permission before exams begin.
 - Notes may be submitted to the Main Office.
 - Notes must be signed by a parent or guardian and include a phone number for verification purposes.
- Students who do not bring signed notes ahead of time may follow regular sign-out procedures when excused from testing; however, please anticipate delays with this dismissal approach.

EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

Students must be present 51% of the school day in order to participate in workouts, practice, performances and competitions before or after school.

STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

It is everyone's responsibility to know and follow the traffic plan for student drop-off and pick-up. Together, we can ensure a safe and efficient arrival and dismissal each day. Specific expectations include:

- All cars will follow the traffic pattern illustrated below.
- Buses always have the right of way.
- There is no student drop off or pick up in the bus or staff parking lots.
- Drop-off and pick-up may only occur in the location identified below, near the flagpole.
- Students may not walk off campus to be picked up at an alternative location.
- Student athletes may not drive to athletic fields from the student parking lot during dismissal.



STUDENT PARKING

A parking pass is required for all students wishing to park a car on campus. Passes must be clearly displayed at all times.

Cars parked on campus without a valid parking pass are subject to towing at the owner's expense.

To apply for a JCHS parking permit:

- Students must be 16 and possess a valid driver's license to secure a parking permit.
- Pay the \$35 fee [here](#) and screenshot the receipt.
- Submit the parking application [here](#).

Parking permits are not transferable and the fee is non-refundable.

The following behavior may result in the suspension or revocation of parking privileges without a refund in addition to other disciplinary action:

- Exceeding campus-wide speed limit of 10 MPH.
- Leaving campus without permission.
- Loitering in the parking lot before, during or after school.
- Excessive tardies and absences.

In accordance with Rowan-Salisbury Schools Board of Education policy, a student's motor vehicle may be subject to searches based upon the reasonable suspicion of school administration.

ATHLETICS

Participating in athletics has long-lasting, definitive benefits which complement the high school education experience.

It is the student's responsibility to know and maintain academic and other eligibility requirements as established in the [RSS High School Athletic Handbook](#).

Violations of the RSS Student Code of Conduct or team rules may jeopardize a student's ability to participate in athletics. Students serving out-of-school suspension may not participate in extracurricular activities, including athletic practice and competitions, for the duration of the suspension. Students serving in-school suspension may participate in extracurricular activities with coach or advisor approval in consultation with school administration.

STUDENT FEES

Students enrolled in any of the courses listed below are responsible for paying fees as established by the RSS Board of Education.

Fee	Amount	Notes
MacBook User Fee	\$30	
Art	\$20	Fee for intermediate, proficient and advanced Visual Arts classes only.
Science Lab	\$10	Fee for all science classes except Earth and Environmental Science and Biology
Marching Band	\$250	Collected by the Band Boosters.
Driver's Education	\$65	Students are not required to enroll in Driver's Education.
Elective PE Classes	\$15	
Parking Permits	\$35	
Graduation Cap and Gown	\$35	Includes: cap, gown, tassel, & hood. This minimum fee is paid directly to Herff-Jones when ordering graduation materials.

Graduating seniors with outstanding fees may not participate in the graduation rehearsal or ceremony.

Fees may most easily be paid online through [School Cash Online](#). In order to close out financial accounts by the end of the year, checks will not be accepted as a form of payment after May 1st.

DRIVER'S ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE

In North Carolina, students under the age of 18 are required to obtain a driving eligibility certificate from the high school in order to obtain and maintain a permit or license from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

To be eligible for this certificate, students must pass at least 70% of courses per semester. The form, which is available from Main Office staff, is only valid for 30 days.

Driver's Eligibility Certificates may be revoked for the following:

- Dropping Out of School Prior to Age 18
- Expulsion, a suspension for more than 10 consecutive days, or an assignment to an alternative educational setting for more than 10 consecutive days.
- Responsibility for behaviors highlighted under the Lose Control/Lose License guidelines:
 - Possession or sale of an alcoholic beverage or an illegal controlled substance on school property.
 - Possession or use of a weapon or firearm on school property.
 - Physical assault on a teacher or other school personnel on school property.
- Not making adequate academic progress which is defined as not passing 70% of courses each semester.

LOCKERS

All lockers are property of the school and are subject to search when necessary.

Students may request a locker with the School Resource Officer in E117.

Students wishing to change clothes for PE will have access to the lockers in the boy's and girl's locker rooms on the A100 hall. Students are responsible for providing their own locks which must be removed daily at the conclusion of class.

Student-athletes are expected to keep clothing and personal items locked in athletic lockers at all times.

The school is not responsible for items that are taken from unsecured lockers, though the coaches, administration, and SRO will investigate and discipline student theft to the greatest extent possible.

MEDICATION

School personnel may administer drugs or medication prescribed by a doctor upon the written request of the parent or guardian. To minimize disruptions to the school day, medicines should be taken at home rather than at school whenever feasible.

All medication to be administered during school hours by school personnel must be in the original pharmacy container, labeled by a parent or guardian.

Students may carry and self-administer Over the Counter medication with parent or guardian permission provided the medication is in the original packaging with the manufacturer's recommendation for administration. In this instance, students may only carry a one-day supply of medication.

Students may possess and self-medicate asthma inhalers, automatic epinephrine injectors, and supplies for diabetes care. All permission forms related to the administration of prescription and non-prescription medications must be completed each school year. Forms are available in the Main Office and the Guidance Department.

Unauthorized possession of any prescription or non-prescription drugs is a violation of the RSS Student Code of Conduct.

VISITORS

All school visitors during the school day must report immediately to the Main Office to request and receive permission to be in the school. Students and staff may never open exterior doors for any person. Any unauthorized person on school property should be reported to administration immediately.

Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public are not required to sign in at the Main Office.

A parent or guardian who wishes to observe a classroom while school is in session are required to arrange such visits in advance with an administrator.

School visitors are expected to comply with all school rules and school board policies, including [Policy Code 5025, Prohibition of Alcoholic Beverages](#); [Policy Code 5026/7250, Smoking and Tobacco Products](#); and [Policy Code 5027/7275, Weapons and Explosives Prohibited](#).

Persons who are subject to [Policy Code 5022, Registered Sex Offenders](#), must comply with the provisions of that policy.