Parent/Guardian,

Your child has been invited to participate in the Summer Reading Challenge! The challenge begins Jun 23, 2026 and will end Aug 31, 2026 . This challenge requires that children read frequently and choose a variety of texts to read over the summer. Students will read a total of 5 books, picking 5 different genres from the list below:

- Realistic Fiction
- Informational Text
- Fantasy/Other Fiction
- Your Choice
- Historical Fiction
- Mystery
- Autobiography
- Science Fiction
- Graphic Novel
- Poetry

This may sound like a lofty goal, and that's because it is! A challenge isn't meant to be easy. But, keep in mind that every book doesn't have to be a long book. Some *Grown Up* picture books could be included even for older students. The most important part of the challenge is to get students reading often and selecting a variety of texts. If you have any questions, please let us know!

Mrs. Stack - stephanie.boeher@new-haven.k12.ct.us
Mrs. Lake - laura.lake@new-haven.k12.ct.us

EAST ROCK
COMMUNITY & CULTURAL STUDIES MAGNET SCHOOL

Grades 7 & 8

WELCOME BACK!

2026-2027 School Year

Hello students & parents/guardians!

The 7th and 8th grade team is excited to begin this new school year with you. We put together this packet to help you stay informed of school and district policies, supplies your students need, how to stay in contact with us, and other important information.

PowerSchool
SCAN ME

In the 7th and 8th grade, we work as a TEAM. This team includes the teachers (and other staff), the students, and the parents/guardians at home. It takes a village of support to help our students succeed.

We encourage you to check PowerSchool weekly to stay updated on your student's grades in each class, and to use Apptegy/NHPS app to check for announcements and to message us directly.



Team Teachers



Science: Ms. Fisher
(7th Grade Homeroom)



Math: Mr. Kennedy
(7th Grade Homeroom)



English/Language Arts: Mrs. Stack
(8th Grade Homeroom)



Social Studies: Mrs. Lake
(8th Grade Homeroom)



Special Education: Ms. Brown

Important East Rock Staff to know!

- Art: Ms. Melissa
- Music/Band: Mr. Selmont
- Physical Education/Health: Coach Rowan & Coach Glickman
- Read 180: Ms. Ross
- Spanish: Ms. Colon
- ESOL: Mr. Ponzio

Support Staff:
School Counselor: Ms. Perez
School Social Worker: Ms. Aldo
School Psychologist: Ms. Halloway
PPT Chair: Ms. Lamb
Speech/Language Pathologist: Ms. Benner

Supplies List

- Either 1 large binder for all classes OR 2 [1/12-inch] binders; one for Math/Science and the other for ELA/Social Studies
- 2 Composition notebooks (each of these will stay in Math and Science)
- Dividers for a binder
- A folder for each class in the binder
- Colored pencils
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Pens and pencils
- Highlighters
- Headphones with a jack to plug into a computer
- Homework planner





Phone Policy

New Haven Public Schools has implemented a no-cell-phone policy to boost engagement, social skills, and mental health by reducing distractions. **Students must store phones (and headphones/AirPods) in assigned YONDR pouches for the entire school day, carry the pouch, and return it at dismissal.**

Violations result in consequences
-Phones used without being in a pouch will be held for parent pickup
-students who refuse to turn in phones will be sent to an alternate setting until picked up by a family member,
-Families **must pay $30 for pouches damaged** by the student
- continued noncompliance may lead to further disciplinary action such as detention or suspension



Class Dues/ End of Year Costs

In the fall, you will receive information about class dues. Class dues include the costs of the yearbook and end-of-year events like the dinner dance, Holiday Hill, or Quassy.

Chromebook Policy

Every student is assigned a specific Chromebook Number to use in every class. Using school technology is a privilege that requires respect and care.

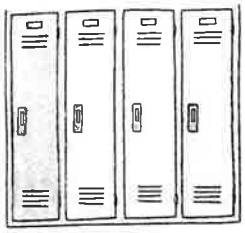
- Stick to Your Number: Only use your assigned device. No swapping or trading with others.
- Inspect It First: Check your Chromebook when you pick it up. Report any existing damage to your teacher immediately, or you may be held responsible.
- Handle with Care: Carry with two hands, keep food/drinks away, and never push down on the screen. Always plug it back into the cart at the end of class.
- Financial Responsibility: If a Chromebook is broken, defaced, or damaged due to carelessness, the student/parent will be required to pay for the repair or full replacement cost ($20–$200+).



Lockers

- Each student will be assigned a locker
- Students have the option to get a lock from the school. Students will pay a $5 deposit at the beginning of the year. When the lock is returned at the end of the year, the $5 deposit will be given back.

Students can bring in their own locks as long as the combination or key is shared with their homeroom teacher



Behavior Expectations

We follow the East Rock PBIS Model: DREAM

"I am dedicated to achieving my dream. I am respectful, ethical, and accepting of our diverse community. We will motivate each other to dream!"

Note that not following district policies for attendance, grades, and behavior can affect a student's ability to participate in various school-based activities throughout the year and at the end of the year.

Please note that grading and behavior expectations will be followed according to the needs of our students with IEPs and 504s.