



Rogers International School Handbook 2021 to 2022

Home of the Terrapins

Principal Ms. Cathy Cummings
Asst. Principal Dr. Reina Costanzo

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Office hours 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

School Website www.RogersInternationalSchool.org

PTO Website and Payment Portal: www.rispto.org

Regular Day 8:55 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Delayed Opening 10:55 a.m.

Early Release 1:20 p.m.

Facebook: Rogers International School
Rogers International School PTO

Instagram: RogersInt202
RogersInternationalPTO

Twitter: @RogersInt

WELCOME TO ROGERS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Our mission is to create a diverse community of lifelong learners through an engaging and challenging program that fosters a culture of caring, collaboration, active learning and responsibility for the environment.

Please be sure RIS has your current address, phone number and email address. Most communications are electronic, but paper copies will be provided to families without email.

****If your contact information has changed, please call the main office at (203) 977-4560****

You can opt in to receive information from a variety of sources, including:

- **SchoolMessenger:** An automated system operated by Stamford Public School District that will call and email you with announcements such as school closures and district news
- **PowerSchool Parent Portal:** Web-based tool and app to track your child's grades, attendance, schoolwork and school forms
- **Room Parent and Teacher Communications:** Direct communications specific to your child
- **Monthly School Calendar:** Sent via PeachJar, posted on social media and the RIS website
- **The Current:** The PTO e-newsletter covering PTO- and school-related news, sent weekly during the school year
- **PeachJar:** Electronic flyers sent to all who have set up PowerSchool accounts. To customize your settings, go to: <https://app.peachjar.com/flyers/all/schools/61836>.

Follow us on Social Media:

	<u>Facebook</u>	<u>Instagram</u>	<u>Twitter</u>
School Accounts:	Rogers International School	RogersInt202	@RogersInt
PTO Accounts:	Rogers International School PTO	RogersInternationalPTO	N/A

Check our websites for the most up-to-date news:

- **Stamford Public Schools** www.stamfordpublicschools.org
- **RIS website:** www.RogersInternationalSchool.org
- **RISPTO website and Payment Portal:** www.rispto.org

Covid-19 Update

Due to the pandemic, school and PTO events and activities listed in this handbook may be modified or cancelled for the 2021 to 2022 school year.

About Rogers International School and the PTO

Rogers accepts students from kindergarten through eighth grade. We have more than 800 students, divided into the Lower School (grades K to four) and Upper School (grades five to eight).

The RISPTO acts as a liaison between the school administration and parents. Our goals are to build a sense of community and to support the efforts of the administration and teachers. The PTO sponsors many social events and holds fundraisers to help subsidize field-trip expenses, support staff with stipends, provide a uniform fund for families and much more.

As a parent or guardian of a RIS student, you are a member of the PTO. We welcome and encourage your participation at all meetings and events. It's a great way to participate in your child's education, meet new people and support our school.

We ask all Rogers families to volunteer at least three hours during the school year. Volunteer sign-ups are available throughout the year and are posted on www.rispto.org and listed in the Current. We also have several board and committee openings. If you'd like to be more involved, please email us at president@rispto.org or complete the contact form at https://www.rispto.org/contact_us.

PTO Meetings and Communications

Board Meetings: Board meetings are held monthly, and all PTO members are encouraged to attend.

General Meetings: We hold five to seven general meetings each school year. Topics cover the curriculum and other areas of interest to families. Board votes occur at these meetings.

Student Directory: An online directory containing student and family contact information. Only parents and legal guardians registered with SPS will receive invitations (around early October) to create accounts to view, search, download and print copies. This is an invaluable resource to learn the names of your fellow classmates, teachers, and families in the Rogers community.

The Current (RISPTO newsletter): Our weekly email newsletter provides information on upcoming school and PTO activities. To submit a topic, event or activity, please email us at communications@rispto.org. If you've already been receiving email and phone notifications from SPS, you will receive the newsletter.

Website and Payment Portal (www.rispto.org): Our website is regularly updated and provides the latest PTO news. You also can pay for PTO activities here.

PTO Committees and Activities

Please contact committee chairs if you're interested in joining or would like to learn more.

Anti-Racism Committee: The Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) seeks to engage the RIS community in meaningful discussions and conscious actions that promote racial equity and combat the many forms of racism. The ARC will use the IB learner profile attributes to guide this work. Our monthly meetings are open to the entire RIS community. By sharing personal experiences and discussing anti-racist scholarship and ideas, the ARC aims to increase our community's empathic knowledge regarding issues of racism and to explore tangible ways to apply these principles at RIS. Contact us at arc@rispto.org.

Book Fair: This committee coordinates our two Scholastic book fairs. A team of volunteers is needed for set up and take down and to staff the fair during the week. Contact us at bookfair@rispto.org.

Communications: The communications committee promotes school and PTO events and manages our website, social media and Current newsletter. Contact us at communications@rispto.org.

Fundraising: Our fundraisers help support field trips, educational enrichment programs, classroom support and RIS community outreach. Contact us at Fundraising@rispto.org.

Green Team: The Green Team maintains the unique, outdoor features of our school, including outdoor classrooms and gardens. They also work with the administration and staff to develop hands-on environmental curriculum. Contact us at GreenTeam@rispto.org.

Information Technology: This committee manages the backend operations of the RISPTO website and domain, web payment portal, online student directory, and the IT infrastructure of the RISPTO G-Suite platform. Contact us at WebAdmin@rispto.org.

Learning to Look: This eight-part art-appreciation course is taught to fourth grade students who study classical and impressionist art. At the end of the year, students go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to see the pieces they have studied.

Rogers RISing: Rogers RISing supports RIS families that need assistance due to job loss, family emergencies, illnesses or other challenging circumstances. These needs can be short- or long-term. Our activities include clothing drives, gift drives and holiday meal drives. Contact us at RISing@rispto.org.

Room Parents: Parent volunteers help classroom teachers with organizing, communicating and collecting funds for various projects and events throughout the school year. Contact us at roomparents@rispto.org.

School Uniform Store: We plan to hold several "pop-up" stores throughout the school year. You also can purchase uniforms at www.landsend.com (school code 900133786) and www.frenchtoast.com (school code QS49T8). Contact us at uniforms@rispto.org.

Yearbook: Separate yearbooks are produced for the Lower and Upper schools. They are available for order in the spring and delivered to the school in June. The committee is always looking for pictures from the school year! Please email your pictures to Yearbook@rispto.org.

PTO School-Wide Events

Backyard Movie Night: This event is held in September or October on the field behind the school. We show a family-friendly movie on a big outdoor screen, and food is available for purchase.

Book Fair: Our Scholastic book fairs are among our biggest fundraisers and are held twice a year, in the fall and spring. Students browse the book fair with their classes, and parents and caregivers are welcome to stop by any time the fair is open. In addition, we host a "family night" in conjunction with our ice-cream social.

Gala: This adults-only event is our biggest fundraiser. It's usually held every two years at a local venue and includes hors d'oeuvres, music and a cash bar. The night features a raffle and live and silent auctions. Each grade provides a basket with contributions/donations from families.

Ice Cream Social: "Guest scoopers" serve up ice cream and toppings during family night at the book fair.

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast and Unity Awards: Every spring, we thank all our volunteers with a breakfast. We also honor one RIS staff member and a RIS parent or caregiver with our Unity Award, which recognizes efforts to bring our school community closer together.

"Who We Are Community Pot Luck": This gathering of RIS families is usually held in the winter to share our heritages and to get to know each other better.

PTO Lower-School Events

Bingo Night: Come and enjoy a delicious pasta dinner followed by a fun game of BINGO -- complete with prizes! -- led by teachers.

Early-Dismissal Movies: On early-release days (the last Wednesday of September, October, January, March and May), the PTO shows an after-school movie for Lower-School students. Upper-School students are encouraged to volunteer. Attendance is \$5 and includes a snack and drink. Contact us at Movies@rispto.org.

New-Family Playdates: Play dates are organized for incoming kindergartners and other new students and their families. Three playdates are usually held during the summer. Contact us at: new@rispto.org

PTO Upper-School Events

Eighth-Grade End-of-Year Celebration: This graduation celebration for eighth graders is typically held at a local venue such as Chelsea Piers.

Luau Party: The luau party is usually held in the spring for fifth and sixth graders and includes a DJ, pizza and a photo booth.

Monster Mash: This fifth- and sixth-grade Halloween costume party is held in late October with a photo booth, DJ, pizza, and of course, a costume competition!

Seventh and Eighth Grade Social: Students typically vote on a social event, which can be anything from a formal dance to an afternoon at a trampoline park.

Pajama Party: This seventh- and eighth-grade PJ party allows students to hang out with friends after school while enjoying a DJ, pizza and dessert.

School-Hosted Events and Activities

Concerts: Families are encouraged to attend performances by our band, chorus, and orchestra. Instruments are available for rent starting in fourth grade.

Drama Club/Performance: The drama club puts on a junior Broadway production each spring. Auditions are held usually in late winter.

Enrichment Classes: These free classes, run by teachers and parent volunteers before and after school, range from arts 'n crafts to sports and educational enrichment.

Field Day: At the end of the school year, the lower school plays games like the three-legged race and tug of war. Room parents help organize events and supplies, and families are encouraged to attend.

Kindergarten Reflection: This end-of-year activity marks the conclusion of the school year with performances by all the kindergarteners in the auditorium.

Open School Night: Families and caregivers meet their children's teachers and learn about the school requirements and curriculum. This event is usually held in mid-to-late September.

Team Sports: Available for upper-school students, teams include cross country, field hockey, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball and wrestling.

Turtle Trot: An annual event in June where the entire RIS community spends the day at Cove Island Park in Stamford to 'trot' around the park. After the walk, there is a brief presentation and children eat lunch on the grass with their classes. Every year, a new Turtle Trot t-shirt is sold and used for the following year's field trip events.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the PTO?

We are a parent-teacher organization. All parents and caregivers of RIS students are automatically members. We are volunteers and are separate from the school administration but work closely with them and act as a liaison between the administration and RIS families. Our goals are to build a sense of community and to support the efforts of the administration and teachers. We sponsor many social events and holds fundraisers to help subsidize field-trip expenses, support staff with stipends, provide a uniform fund for families and much more.

How can I get involved

We always need volunteers! At the beginning of each year, we typically have a few board positions left to fill. Our current open positions are available [here](#). To volunteer for an open position, please email us at president@rispto.org. We also need room parents for each classroom. To sign up, please email us at laurenguzda@aol.com. Finally, we need volunteers throughout the year for various events and activities. Volunteer opportunities are promoted in our weekly newsletter (The Current), via social media and here on our website. We also maintain a list of volunteers to be called on throughout the year. To be added to this list, please email us at volunteers@rispto.org.

What time does school start and end

School starts at 8:55 a.m. and ends at 3:25 p.m. Delayed opening is 10:55 a.m. On early-release days (typically the last Wednesday of the month, as well as before holidays), school ends at 1:15 p.m. You can view the complete calendar [here](#).

How do drop-off and pick-up work?

Detailed information on drop-off and pick-up is available on the RIS school [website](#). To accommodate the higher number of cars during the COVID pandemic, students may be prompted to exit their vehicles from the driveway along the back fence.

What are the options for before- and after-school care?

ROSCCO is a non-profit that provides school-based support and activities, including before- and after-school care, for Stamford families. You can learn more [here](#). In addition to ROSCCO, many private organizations provide care.

What about uniforms?

Information on uniforms, including where to purchase them, is available [here](#).

Is the school peanut/nut free?

Families are encouraged to avoid nuts and other common allergens. The RIS allergy policy is available [here](#).

Whom do I contact if I have a problem?

Direct communication between parents and teachers is strongly encouraged. If you have questions not related to the classroom, please call the school's main office: (203) 977-4560. For PTO-related questions, please email us at president@rispto.org.

When is the bus route available?

The bus route is usually determined in mid-August. It is published in the Stamford Advocate and also available on the SPS and RIS websites as well as on social media.