



March 1, 2021

Dear Families, Guardians, Students, and Supporters of the Class of 2025,

We want to take this opportunity to welcome the Class of 2025 to Renton High School, and to begin working with you for the transition from Middle School to High School. The past year of at-home learning due to COVID-19 has been incredibly challenging for everyone, but one group that it has had the greatest effect on is middle school students. These are the years where they are learning who they are and making friendships and having relationships with their peers that are very important. As we transition back to in-person learning, we are focused on all aspects of student achievement, of which social and emotional learning is an important part. We put great emphasis on helping students transition from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> and want to partner with you to make it successful!

The pandemic has also impacted our Master Schedule and the classes that we will be offering for the 2021-2022 school year. We will be adding classes in Math and Science to help students who struggled over this past year of quarantine to get the credits they need for graduation. This will result in a reduction in the number of elective classes available for our incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders. As such, the Class of 2025 will have their electives chosen for them based on availability and individual needs by their counselor. This is a departure from our normal procedure, but a necessary one to ensure we meet the needs of all Renton High school students. More information about electives will be coming as we near the end of this school year and we aim to keep students and families updated. All information regarding registration for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders can be found here on [RHS Counseling Website](#).

In this newsletter we are going to focus on the following topics:

- Graduation Requirements
- Pathways to Graduation at Renton High School
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Core & Electives Courses at RHS 2021-2022
- How to Learn More

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:**

The most important thing to know about graduation is that it is process that begins the first day of freshman year. Students should not be waiting until their senior year to be considering what they want their post-secondary plans to be. RHS offers many pathways to graduation, and all 9<sup>th</sup> graders need to be thinking about their plans 4 years before they will be happening. The Renton School District currently requires each student to have 26 credits to graduate. Please click on the link for all the details on [Graduation requirements](#). We are on the trimester system with 5 classes each trimester, each worth .5 credit. A student who passes all their classes can earn 7.5 credits a year for a potential total of 30 credits at the time of graduation. This offers exciting opportunities for students to pursue a [career cluster](#) pathway and take higher level classes in their chosen career field!

*Each student graduating with options and prepared to participate fully in our democracy.*



## **PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION AT RENTON HIGH SCHOOL:**

At RHS we offer four different [pathways towards graduation](#). Graduation pathways are the different ways to meet all the Washington State requirements for earning diploma. This includes meeting the SBA testing requirement, which can be done in ways other than simply passing the test. The first two pathways we offer at Renton High school are through our [International Baccalaureate Program \(IB\)](#), led by [Mr. Collic](#), the last two through our Career and Technical (CTE) options:

1. [International Baccalaureate Program Diploma](#) is where students take all IB classes in their 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade year; most IB courses count towards college credits.
2. [IB certificate program](#) where students in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade choose which IB classes they want to take but not a full IB course load; most IB courses count towards college credits. However, other steps are needed to meet all graduation requirements if not doing full IB diploma.
3. [CTE college/career preparation](#) is where students choose a career pathway and take classes to support that career choice.
4. [CTE Dual Credit](#) students take classes at RHS in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade and the credit they earn counts at local colleges as well.

## **9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CORE & ELECTIVE COURSES AT RHS 2021-2022:**

Ninth graders take a set number required classes each year that leaves room for potentially 1-3 electives. The required courses for all ninth graders are:

- [9th grade Language Arts A and B](#) (either regular or honors)
- [Algebra Fundamentals. Algebra 1 A and 1 B](#) (if they have already taken Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they will be placed into [Geometry A and B](#))
- [Biology A and Physics A](#)
- 3 sections of [Physical Education](#)
- [Health](#)
- High School Success (or [AVID A and AVID B](#)) for their [High School and Beyond graduation requirement](#)

We have identified 8 [electives](#) as those that the Class of 2025 could potentially be placed into by their counselor. Please be assured that all the below options meet graduation requirements for all students. We understand that choice is typically a major component of the registration process, but to ensure that your student is on track to graduate, any of the below will serve your student. Upper classmen typically are placed first, as they have less time to meet graduation needs than 9<sup>th</sup> grades, so while there are eight electives open to incoming 9<sup>th</sup>, space is still limited across all.

Additionally, if your student is currently taking the 8<sup>th</sup> grade version of the below elective, it is likely they will be able to be rolled up into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level.

1. [Fine Arts](#): Chorus, Acapella, Orchestra, Concert Band, Photography 1
2. [Career/Technical Education](#): Culinary Foundations, Intro to Industrial Tech, Industrial Tech design

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Finally, we are asking for **families to give us input about their student’s specific desires regarding three options we have open for 9<sup>th</sup> grade**. It is purely optional. The three options are

1. [9<sup>th</sup> grade Honors Language Arts](#)
2. [AVID](#)
3. [Spanish 1A and 1B](#) (if appropriate) or Spanish 2A and 2B if they took Spanish in 8<sup>th</sup> grade

If you’d like to give us feedback regarding your child taking LA9 Honors, AVID, and/or Spanish, please click here: <https://forms.gle/n7tXy7nHm8Bzd6bt8>

**HOW TO LEARN MORE:**

We want to answer any questions you may have regarding the transition to 9<sup>th</sup> grade and registration. To support all families and incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders, we have set up a series of Zoom meetings that you can join and learn more about what to expect for your student at Renton High School. At these meetings, we’ll discuss the IB program, CTE, how high school credits work and graduation requirements, and the many supports we have in place for our 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

<a href="#">Spanish Speaking 8th grade information meeting</a>	March 5 <sup>th</sup> 5-6 pm
<a href="#">Vietnamese Speaking information meeting</a>	March 5 <sup>th</sup> 3-4pm
<a href="#">Chinese speaking 8th grade information meeting</a>	March 8 <sup>th</sup> 3-4pm
<a href="#">8th grade information meeting 1</a>	March 4 <sup>th</sup> 1-2 pm
<a href="#">8th grade Information meeting 2</a>	March 4 <sup>th</sup> 3-4 pm
<a href="#">8th grade information meeting 3</a>	March 4 <sup>th</sup> 6-7 pm
<a href="#">8th grade information meeting 4</a>	March 10 <sup>th</sup> 4-5 pm
<a href="#">8th grade information meeting 5</a>	March 10 <sup>th</sup> 6-7 pm
<a href="#">8th grade information meeting 6</a>	April 7 <sup>th</sup> 6-7 pm

If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, please contact [Linda.pappasstallman@rentonschools.us](mailto:Linda.pappasstallman@rentonschools.us) and we will find an alternative way to communicate directly with you.

We realize this is a great deal of information to read at one time and hope you will join us at one of our incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade information meetings so we can address any questions. Welcome again to the graduating Class of 2025!

Warmly,

Dr. Giovanna San Martin  
Principal  
[Giovanna.sanmartin@rentonschools.us](mailto:Giovanna.sanmartin@rentonschools.us)

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## CTE Career Pathways at RHS:

Part of understanding what “pathways to graduation” means is seeing the possible areas of focus a student can work on over their four years at RHS. Below are the [CTE Career Pathways](#), with the courses offered at RHS that fit within that pathway. You can see how the courses you take 9<sup>th</sup> grade will prepare you for your future chosen pathway.

### CTE Pathways

**College Credit/Industry Certification:**  
**Need 4 classes- (2 from left column) per pathway**



**Related Courses- Choose from right column to earn remaining requirements per pathway**

#### Agricultural Sciences Pathway

AP Environmental Science	NGSS Biology
IB Environmental Systems	JAG

#### Business and Marketing Pathway

IB Business Management HL	Entrepreneurship
Marketing Exploration	Social Media Marketing
IB Computer Science SL	Computer Programming, I
Web Design	Marketing Store
Financial Algebra	JAG
Computer Programming II	Yearbook

#### Health Sciences Pathway

Anatomy and Physiology	Health Care Career Exploration
Health Care Core Skills	Sports Medicine Exploration
IB Sports Exercise Science	Science of Exercise
Medical Terminology	JAG

#### Human Services Pathway

Culinary Foundations	Health
Baking and Pastry	International Foods
Gourmet Foods	Leadership
Child Development	Independent Living

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AP/IB Psychology	JAG
Teacher Academy	

**Skilled and Technical Sciences Pathway**

CAD Architecture	Art
IB Visual Arts	Ceramics
Aerospace	Photography
CAD	Video Production
Aerospace/Advanced Manufacturing	Visual Communications
Construction Technologies	Intro to Industrial Tech
	Industrial Tech Design
	JAG
	Journalism

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