

The Garnet Review

RHS Principal's Monthly Newsletter
Volume 1. Edition 3.



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Rye High School Community,

It's appropriate that this month's newsletter is being sent out on Thanksgiving, as I have lots to be thankful for since my arrival to Rye in August.

I am grateful for the time I have had to gain the perspective of so many of you. I've had the opportunity to meet with parent and student focus groups. I've hosted individual meet and greets with our incredible faculty and staff. I get to speak with students daily, parents at school functions, and local organizations who are always excited to partner with our school. Regardless of where or with whom I speak, each interaction paints a larger picture of what makes Rye special.

I've learned in three months what many of you already know--Rye is a tight-knit family. Despite different personalities and interests, the community as a whole is invested in the success and happiness of one another. This is especially clear in our school. I have felt so much support from the community in welcoming me as the new principal, and I would like to thank you all for that support.

The greatest part of my job is to imagine what is possible when a community comes together with the shared goal of supporting the growth and learning of its children. We in turn get to see those children realize their potential--both individual and collective--something that always makes my work as an educator feel special and meaningful.

Wishing you a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

With gratitude,

Andrew Hara

Reminders and Important Information

💎 **Student Drop-Off:** This is a reminder to parents to do their part in ensuring a safe morning drop-off by: 1) being vigilant of your surroundings; 2) driving cautiously and slowly around the school; 3) waiting until the designated drop-off areas before stopping your car to let your child(ren) out; and 4) not entering the faculty parking lot for drop off unless you have prior approval for medical reasons.

💎 **Save the Date:** The RMS/RHS Social is scheduled for Friday, January 24, 2025, from 7-11 pm at the Apawamis Club. Come out to support our schools!

Upcoming Dates

December 2-6: National Inclusivity Week

December 7: SAT - 8am-12pm

December 7: Senior Scenes - 2pm & 7pm - PAC

December 9: Vocal and Percussion Concert - 7pm - PAC

December 14: ACT (off campus)

December 16: Band and Orchestra Concert - 7pm - PAC

December 19: Meet and Greet with Assistant Principal Eunice Chao-Forest - 10:30am - Room 160A - Library Media Center

December 23 - January 3: Winter Recess

COMING SOON



Inclusivity Week

Inclusivity Week is a chance to connect, grow, and celebrate what makes each of us unique. The Rye City School District, in partnership with RAISE, will be celebrating National Inclusivity Week across the district from December 2nd-6th. Every Voice Matters and together, we can build a community where everyone feels valued and seen. Learn more about RAISE [here](#).



Assistant Principal Announcement

I am excited to announce the hiring of our new Assistant Principal, Eunice Chao-Forest (she'll go by "Ms. Forest" with the students). Through a rigorous search process, Ms. Forest stood out as the top candidate by demonstrating a strong skill set as an instructional leader and administrator, an approachable demeanor and collaborative nature, a proven ability and commitment to building relationships with students, and deep experience working in partnership with teachers and staff. We look forward to welcoming Ms. Forest on December 18th. Upon her arrival, she will take over as the 9th and 11th grade AP.



Course Scheduling Timeline

Rye High School boasts a comprehensive course catalog with over 160 course offerings. It is important for students to understand the offerings, so that in collaboration with their School Counselor, they can request courses that align to their respective learning styles and interests. Below you will find a timeline of what the course selection process will look like this year:

- **January 13:** 2025-2026 RHS Course Catalog made public on school website
- **January 16:** 8th Grade Transition Meeting reviewing course selection process
- **January 21-22:** HS Counselors facilitate 8th grade course selections in classes
- **January 27-30:** HS Counselors prep students in grades 9, 10, and 11 by facilitating a draft of course selections in classes
- **January 30:** Department Workshops for families to learn about course offerings by department
- **February 3-April 1:** Grades 9, 10, and 11 course selection meetings with HS Counselors
 - **9th Grade:** February 3-14
 - **10th Grade:** February 26-March 12
 - **11th Grade:** March 17-March 28

Please note that the course selection portal will only be open for students during their grade's respective course selection window. This enables us to methodically build a schedule that best accommodates students' course requests.

Community Service Fair



Our Community Service Fair was a huge success. Over 200 students attended the fair, as they met with representatives from 17 local organizations.

We received positive feedback from our students, many of whom are already volunteering with organizations they connected with at the fair.

I would like to give a huge shout out to the RHS Parent Organization. Helen Biancucci did a phenomenal job coordinating the event. The PO also provided pizza for students who attended. We look forward to making this an annual event!

The RHS Thankful Tree



In the heart of our school, we've installed a beautiful tree dedicated to gratitude and reflection. Students, staff, and visitors are invited to add a leaf and share what they're thankful for.

From big dreams to small joys, our school community can celebrate the moments, people, and things that bring light to our lives. Together, we'll watch this tree grow with gratitude, reminding us all of the strength in the school community and the beauty of thankfulness.

Please stop by the tree outside of the new high school iLab to add a leaf of your own!

Fall National Letter of Intent Signing



On November 14th, we hosted our Fall National Letter of Intent Signing Day. 21 student-athletes from the Class of 2025 were celebrated for signing letters of intent.

It was a joy seeing these students joined by their families and coaches, who have observed the hard work they have put in over the years in the classroom and on the playing field.

Congratulations to all of the students!

RHS Academic Programs, Diploma Designations, and Concentrations

On November 13th and 21st, we hosted 10th grade families for information sessions on Rye High School's program offerings, diploma designations, and academic concentrations. You can view the slides that were presented at the info session by clicking [HERE](#). It is also available on the school website under "Families & Students" then "General Resources" then "Presentations". You can access a PDF of the overview below by clicking [HERE](#). As we introduce the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme to RHS next year, students and families have had a lot of questions about which courses will be best for their child. This information provides answers to many of those questions.

Rye High School Program Offerings and Diploma Designations		
PROGRAMS		
	The Academy at RHS	International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme
What is it?	An RCSD interdisciplinary, project-based program for 11th and 12th grade students focusing on building community connections and real-world experiences	An internationally recognized program that offers a global perspective on learning for 11th and 12th grade students focusing on understanding the nature of knowledge
Who is it for?	The Academy is for any student who is looking for a smaller community of learners learn together, collaboratively create projects, and conduct research	The IB Diploma Programme is for any student who is interested in thinking on a global scale, doing additional research and writing outside of their courses, and engaging in a community service project
How is it designed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application process, 20 students accepted yearly RCSD developed interdisciplinary courses (not weighted) and taught by two teachers Action research project completed as part of course work Students are assessed through projects, rather than traditional exams Advisory period focused on SEL skills All courses meet in the morning, freeing up the afternoon for other courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No application process Internationally IB developed courses (weighted) Courses are available to all students, even those not completing the IB Diploma Programme Independent research project (extended essay) Extensive creativity, activity, and service project Theory of Knowledge Internal and external IB exams Strong emphasis on writing Little flexibility in schedule for DP students
What is the workload?	<p>Students must complete the following courses (only available to Academy students):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. History/English: The American Experiment Pre-Calculus/Physics: Sustainable Global Design Writing for Public Speaking and Government: Power of Politics (Semester) Literary Philosophy and Economics: Economics and Ethics (Semester) Action Research: Methods and Statistics <p>Additional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symposium presentation at the end of grade 12 	<p>Students must complete one course from each of the following disciplines, most of which are two-year courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies in Language and Literature (Group 1) Language Acquisition (Group 2) Individuals and Societies (Group 3) Sciences (Group 4) Mathematics (Group 5) Arts (Group 6) <p>Additional Requirement(s) to complete IB Diploma Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory of Knowledge course Creativity, Activity, and Service project Extended Essay (independent research paper of 4,000 words)

DIPLOMA DESIGNATIONS			
	Advanced Placement Capstone	Seal of Biliteracy	Seal of Civic Readiness
What is it?	An opportunity to complete research within AP courses, along with completing two additional AP courses	NYS seal that recognizes students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages	NYS seal that recognizes students who have attained a high level of proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindset, and civic experiences
Who is it for?	Any student interested in participating in AP courses throughout high school and who is also interested in learning about the research process	Any student who enjoys learning languages and understands the benefits of being bilingual	Any student with an interest in social studies, civics, and in interest in becoming civically ready to participate in our democracy
How is it designed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP Seminar, AP Research, and four other AP courses (weighted) AP Seminar and AP Research are open to all students, even those not completing AP Capstone Students must meet prerequisites for other AP courses Students choose which four AP courses they take, allowing for flexibility Must receive 3 or higher on AP exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students demonstrate proficiency in English and one other language by earning points on a NYS matrix Points are earned by getting an 85% or better in English and world language course work and national exams (AP/IB) Students complete a culminating project which is presented to a panel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students demonstrate proficiency in civic knowledge, skills, mindset, and experiences by earning points on a NYS matrix Points are earned by demonstrating civic knowledge through mastery of social studies courses and Regents exams and civic participation through civics and service learning projects Students may complete an optional Civics Capstone Project
What is the workload?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive, rigorous assignments in class and out of class Two performance tasks and essays in AP Seminar Design, plan, and conduct a year-long independent research project in AP Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom assignments and assessments as part of regular English and World Language coursework Culminating project completed outside of coursework and required meeting with advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom assignments and assessments as part of regular social studies coursework Participation in and reflection on civics related experiences outside of coursework
CONCENTRATIONS			
Arts	Science Research	Engineering/Computer Science	Career and Technical Education



Thank you for reading!

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