



Freshman Parent Orientation 8th-to-9th Grade Transition

January 28, 2026

Andrew Hara, *Principal*

Eunice Chao-Forest, *Assistant Principal*

Seth Busching, *Director of School
Counseling and Student Wellness*

Charlie Cipriano, *School Counselor*

Honor Fagan, *School Counselor*

Jennifer Herwick, *School Counselor*

Eileen Houlihan, *School Counselor LR*

Garrett Renner, *School Counselor*

Liz Saporito, *School Counselor LR*

Welcome from Principal Hara

- Welcome
- Looking ahead
- Tips for success
- Maintaining a healthy and balanced schedule
- 2026-2027 RHS Course Catalog linked [HERE](#)
 - Community Service
 - Teacher Recommendations
- Foster a love for learning



High School Counseling Department

- ☐ Mr. Seth Busching
 - Director of School Counseling and Student Wellness K-12
- ☐ Mrs. Anne Galletta
 - Senior Office Assistant
- ☐ Mrs. Debbie Zapakin
 - Senior Office Assistant
- ☐ Mr. Charles Cipriano - School Counselor
- ☐ Mrs. Jennifer Herwick - School Counselor
- ☐ Mrs. Eileen Houlihan - School Counselor LR for Mrs. Jaime Condon
- ☐ Mrs. Honor Fagan - School Counselor
- ☐ Mr. Garrett Renner - School Counselor
- ☐ Mrs. Elizabeth Saporito - School Counselor LR for Mrs. Cristina O'Connor



School Counseling Program Values

Students should ...

- ❑ Pursue their interests both inside and outside of class
- ❑ Engage in rigorous coursework that presents an appropriate challenge
- ❑ Develop independence and confidence through supported student decision-making
- ❑ Explore new ideas and pathways in their coursework and extracurricular activities
- ❑ Reflect and develop self-awareness with school counselor support



Academics



- ❑ Support students in meeting academic goals and NYS graduation requirements
- ❑ Consult with students on course requests annually
- ❑ Quarterly progress monitoring
- ❑ Connect students with resources and interventions

College & Career Planning

9th and 10th Grades

Counseling lessons and individual meetings

- ❑ Self-exploration
- ❑ Goal setting / progress monitoring
- ❑ Course selection / outside opportunities

11th Grade

Managing Your Future Course

- ❑ Career exploration
- ❑ The college process
- ❑ Draft applications / essays

12th Grade

Applications

- ❑ Letters of Recommendation
- ❑ College Applications



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

- ❏ Discuss SEL concepts and student needs through counseling classroom curriculum
- ❏ Check in with students individually
- ❏ Connect students with additional mental health supports



High School Supports

- ❑ School Counselors
- ❑ Social Worker
- ❑ School Psychologists
- ❑ Case Managers for students with IEPs
- ❑ Assistant Principal for students with 504 plans
- ❑ X-Period
- ❑ Writing Center
- ❑ Tutoring Center
- ❑ Multi Tiered System of Supports - MTSS
- ❑ Effective School Solutions - ESS
- ❑ Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) counseling services



Graduation Requirements

Required Courses	Required Credits
English	4
Social Studies	4
Math	3
Science	3
LOTE (World Language)	1
Art/Music/Theatre	1
Health	0.5
Physical Education	2
Electives	3.5
Total	22 Credits
Additional Requirements:	Community Service 60 Hours (Class of 2030)
Composition (9th Grade)	Managing Your Future (11th Grade)



Graduation Requirements Cont'd

Regents Exams

- ❑ Algebra I (typically 9th grade)
- ❑ Science Regents Exam (typically 9th grade)
- ❑ Global History (typically 10th grade)
- ❑ English Language Arts (typically 11th grade)
- ❑ U.S. History (typically 11th grade)



Course Requests

- The course request portal is now **open** for rising 9th graders
 - Counselors visiting classrooms on February 3rd
 - Parents/student can edit requests until February 10th
- English 9, Global 9, Composition, and PE 9 are pre-populated
- Some students may have ESC and/or ENL pre-populated as a placeholder
- If there is a question regarding a pre-populated course, contact Mrs. Farewell

[POWERSCHOOL TUTORIAL VIDEO LINK](#)



Teacher Recommendations

- ◉ Teacher recommendations are currently visible in PowerSchool
- ◉ We strongly recommend selecting the recommended course
- ◉ **Recommendation Overrides:** forms are available in the RMS counseling office. Should be return to RMS counseling office.



Course Sequencing

- **Regents vs. Honors:** does not impact sequencing
- **Robotics / Modeling For Engineers:**
 - Either is a prerequisite for Principles of Engineering
- **Computer Science Essentials:**
 - Important for IB computer science (11th and 12th grade)
- **Art / Music**
 - Check catalog for Advanced Art elective prerequisites
 - Ensembles = dedication



9th Grade Transition Curriculum

The foundation of the ninth grade transition curriculum is designed to assist students with the transition to high school. This program promotes and encourages students to recognize their responsibilities as a student and a member of our school community. Counselors meet both individually and in groups to address the topics listed here 

- ❑ Introduction to Rye High School
- ❑ Meet your Counselor
Appointments - Transition Meetings
- ❑ School Climate & Citizenship, Self Awareness & “The Roles We Play”
- ❑ Course Selection Meetings

RHS School Counseling Program

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
☐ Freshman Transition Meetings ☐ Transition Curriculum (Citizenship & School Climate, Self Awareness & The Roles We Play) ☐ DASA & Title IX Topics ☐ Course Selection Meetings ☐ 9th Grade Parent Night	☐ Group School Counseling Curriculum: Self Reflection, Vision, Self Exploration & Career Exploration & Goal Setting ☐ Course Selection Meetings ☐ 10th Grade Parent Night	☐ Managing Your Future Curriculum (Graduation Requirement) ☐ Course Selection Meetings ☐ Junior Conferences for post-secondary planning ☐ 11th Grade Parent Night	☐ Senior Conferences for post-secondary planning ☐ Review of Graduation Requirements ☐ 12th Grade Parent Night - Future Steps



8th Grade Class Visits

Tuesday, February 3



February 3rd Counselors will visit 8th grade social studies classes for students to review electives and submit their course requests



Students/parents will be able to review teacher recommendations and edit course requests in PowerSchool January 28 through February 10



Override deadline April 13 - When appropriate, completed form must be submitted to Mrs. Farewell (form can be obtained from Mrs. Farewell)



Sample Student Schedule

Course 1	English 9*
Course 2	Global History 9*
Course 3	Math (Alg 1R , Geometry , Geometry Honors)
Course 4	World Language
COMMUNITY	LUNCH
Course 5	Life Science: Biology (Regents or Honors)
Course 6	Science Lab (2x wk)/ Phys. Ed.* (2/3x wk)
Course 7	Composition* (semester)/ Elective (semester)
Course 8	Elective (full year or two half year)

NYS Arts Requirement - It is strongly recommended that students complete this graduation requirement in 9th grade

* Indicates that all students will automatically be scheduled for these courses



Course Selection Planning Form 2026-27

Rising 9th Grade

Name _____

CREDIT AREA	COURSE	CODE
English ** <i>English 9 is a required selection.</i>	English 9	0103
Social Studies ** <i>Global History 9 is a required selection.</i>	Global History 9	0201
Composition ** <i>Composition is a required selection.</i>	Composition	0104
Physical Education** <i>P.E. 9 is a required selection.</i>	P.E. 9	0961
Math <i>Math is based on your current level and teacher recommendation.</i>		
Science <i>Science is based on your current level and teacher recommendation.</i>		
World Language <i>World language is based on your current level and teacher recommendation.</i> Note: You may instead choose to start a new language from Level 1 (where available).		
Art / Music / Theater Electives (1 credit total) Choose either: ☐ One Full-Year Elective, or ☐ Two Half-Year Electives		
Half-Year Elective (½ credit total) <i>You may select one additional ½ year elective.</i> <i>Does not need to be an art/music/theater course.</i>		

THIS FORM IS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.

Students are **required** to enter all of their course requests directly into PowerSchool.

SAMPLE

Course Selection Planning Form 2026-27

Rising 9th Grade

Name **Rye Student Sample**

CREDIT AREA	COURSE	CODE
English ** <i>English 9 is a required selection.</i>	English 9	0103
Social Studies ** <i>Global History 9 is a required selection.</i>	Global History 9	0201
Composition ** <i>Composition is a required selection.</i>	Composition	0104
Physical Education** <i>P.E. 9 is a required selection.</i>	P.E. 9	0961
Math <i>Math is based on your current level and teacher recommendation.</i>	Algebra 1R	0300A
Science <i>Science is based on your current level and teacher recommendation.</i>	Life Science: Bio Honors	0360A
World Language <i>World language is based on your current level and teacher recommendation.</i> Note: You may also start a new language from Level 1.	Spanish 4	0472A
Art / Music / Theater Electives (1 credit total) Choose either: ☐ One Full-Year Elective, or ☒ Two Half-Year Electives	Studio Art Paint/Draw AND Studio Art Mixed Media	0909A 0913
Elective (½ credit total) <i>You may select one additional ½ year elective.</i>	Robotics	0560

THIS FORM IS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.



Electives Available to Freshman

Full Year Courses

- ☐ Band*
- ☐ Band Percussion*
- ☐ String Orchestra*
- ☐ Chorus*
- ☐ Acting I *
- ☐ Additional courses that students can request. Whether or not these courses run is strictly dependent upon student interest. Spanish 1, French 1

Half Year Courses

- ☐ Studio Art Digital Media*
- ☐ Studio Art Graphic Design & Animation*
- ☐ Studio Art Painting & Drawing*
- ☐ Studio Art Mixed Media*
- ☐ Studio Art 3D Design & Architecture*
- ☐ Digital Music 1*
- ☐ Digital Music 2*
- ☐ Robotics
- ☐ Modeling for Engineers
- ☐ Computer Science Essentials

*Course Meets NYS Graduation Requirement for Art/Music/Theatre



Goal: Today You Will Submit Course Requests for Next Year

Important Notes

- ❑ Once you hit the “SUBMIT” button you can go back and edit your requests until Tuesday, February 10; “SUBMIT” = Save
- ❑ Talk about your course requests with parents/guardians at home
- ❑ NYS Art/Music/Theatre Requirement: Make sure you have course requests that help you meet this requirement
- ❑ ESC & ENL: If you have either of these courses in your schedule this year, make sure to enter the course in your selections for next year.
- ❑ [Course Catalog](#)
- ❑ [PowerSchool Instructions for Students](#)



Dos & Don'ts

Dos

- ❏ Make sure you select no more than 1.5 elective credits
- ❏ Make sure to review the Course Catalog for in depth course descriptions and work expectations
- ❏ Triple check to make sure you have submitted your requests before you leave class this period
- ❏ Discuss your choices at home tonight with your parents/guardians

Don'ts

- ❏ DO NOT enter the same course more than once
- ❏ DO NOT enter courses in which you have no interest in taking next year
- ❏ DO NOT request courses because your friends have made the same selection - pick courses based on your own opinions and interests



Important Information

Dates

- ❑ Teacher recommendations for Math, Science, World Language available in PowerSchool
- ❑ **February 3** - School Counselors visit 8th Grade Classes - Students submit course requests
- ❑ **February 10** - PowerSchool closes for course requests
- ❑ **April 13** - If needed, completed Override Form due to Middle School Office

Links

- ❑ [Course Catalog](#)
- ❑ [PowerSchool Instructions for Students](#)
- ❑ [PowerSchool Tutorial Video](#)

