

WELCOME  
CLASS OF  
2030

Family Information Night



**RIVER RIDGE  
HAWKS**

# Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that North Thurston Public Schools resides on the traditional lands of the Nisqually People. The Nisqually have lived on and cared for this land and these waterways since time immemorial.

We make this acknowledgement to open a space of recognition, inclusion, and respect for our sovereign tribal partners and all indigenous students, families and staff in our community.

# Introductions

## ADMINISTRATION

Brent Whitemarsh, *Principal*

Angela Lee-Pope (A-G), *Assistant Principal*

Shannon Strozyk (H-O), *Assistant Principal*

Casey Wyatt (P-Z), *Assistant Principal*

Christine Scott, *Dean of Students*

## ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Chad Arko, *Athletic Director* – [carko@ntps.org](mailto:carko@ntps.org)

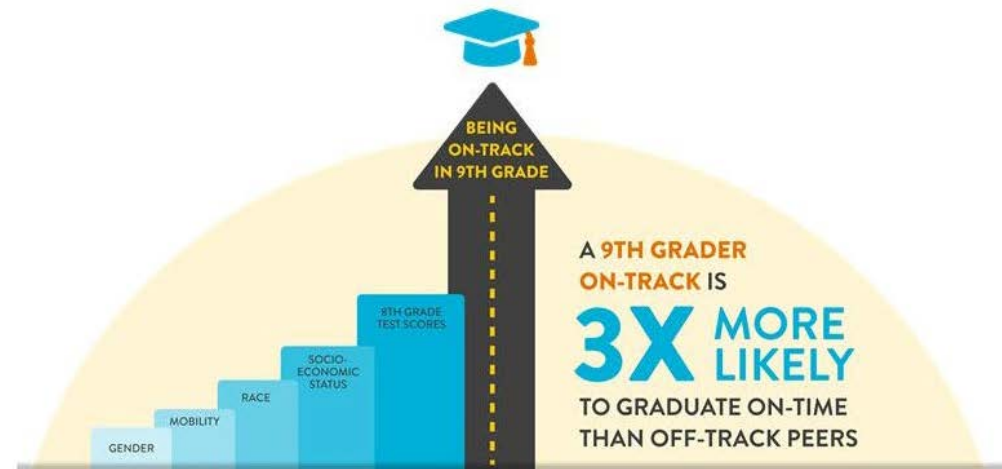
Janay Creamer, *Activities Director* – [jcreamer@ntps.org](mailto:jcreamer@ntps.org)

# Purpose for Tonight

- Help you determine which classes to take
- Learn about athletics and extracurricular activities
- Understand how we communicate with families
- Review important back-to-school dates



# CENTER *for* HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS



ON-TRACK STATUS IS A STRONGER PREDICTOR OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION THAN RACE/ETHNICITY, LEVEL OF POVERTY, OR TEST SCORES COMBINED!

# LEAD :

## Leadership, Engagement, Achievement, and Development



*The Class Formerly Known as AVID*

LEAD is a college readiness and leadership development course that builds:

- academic skills,
- purposeful engagement, and
- personal responsibility
- critically thinking
- leadership skills
- independence
- study skills
- college readiness skill

# School Counselor Introductions

## Last Names

A - C

Alina Freeman

D - H

Noelle Ralston

I - Mu

Kelli Little

Mv - Sb

Jacob Clausen

Sc - Z

Moira Valerio

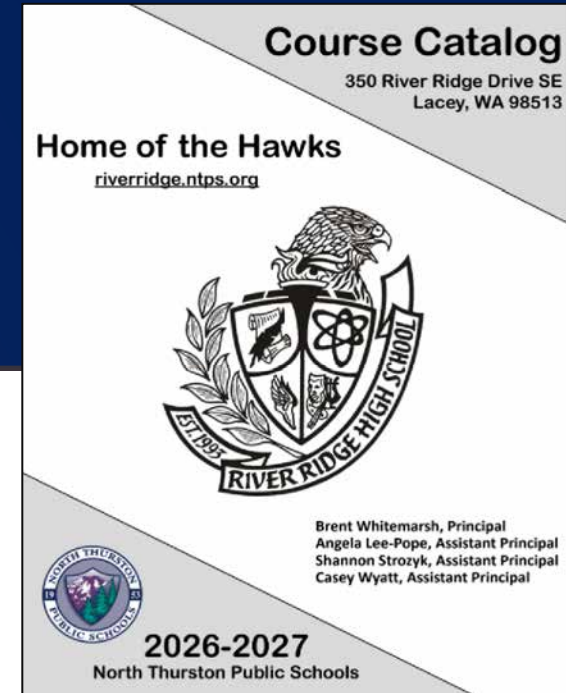
Secretary

Karen Trujillo



# RRHS Course Catalog

- Graduation Requirements are posted in our course catalog.
- Pathway to access the course catalog on our building website:
  - Academics
  - Course Catalog
  - Course Catalog 2026-2027



# High School Grad Requirements

- 24 credits (*see table*)
- High School & Beyond Plan
  - Completed in Advisory
  - Student-Led Conferences
  - 20 hours of community service
- WA State History
- Graduation Pathway

English	4.0 credits
Social Studies (CWI, WS, US History, Gov)	3.0 credits
Math (Algebra 1, Geometry, & Beyond)	3.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Fine Arts (1.0 Personalized Pathway)	2.0 credits
World Language (Personalized Pathway)	2.0 credits
CTE	1.0 credit
Health	0.5 credit
Fitness	1.5 credits
Electives	4.0 credits
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24.0 CREDITS</b>

# Pre-Registration Dates

## Coming up

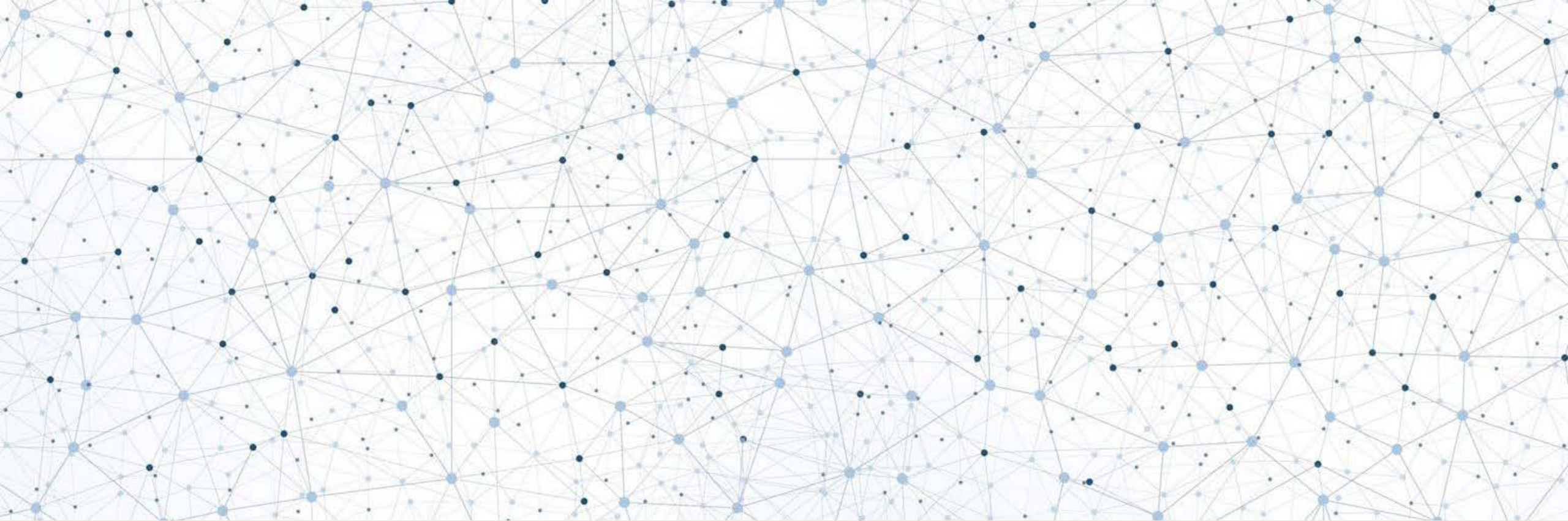
Thursday, March 19 – Nisqually Middle School

Friday, March 20 – Salish Middle School

Monday, March 23 – Komachin Middle School

Monday, March 23 – Aspire Middle School

Tuesday April 14 – Chinook Middle School



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# Class Selection

2025-2026

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# English Course Offerings for 9th Grade

## English 9 (ENG 111)

- Focus on reading comprehension & text analysis
- Focus on writing argument & analysis
- Read 2 to 4 novels/plays per year
- 30 minutes to 1 hour homework/week
- Preparation for English 10

## Honors English 9 (ENG 121)

- **Open to anyone looking for a challenge**
- Focus on reading comprehension & text analysis
- Focus on writing argument & analysis
- Focus on vocabulary & grammar
- Read 4 - 6 novels per year
- 30 minutes to 2 hours homework/week
- Preparation for Honors English 10 and future AP courses

# Social Studies

## AP Human Geography (AP HuGe)

- 2 semesters long
- Possible college credit
- We learn the world through analyzing maps and graphs. Topics include:
  - Population and Migration
  - World Cultures
  - Urban Planning
  - Economics
- Expect about 1.5 hours of homework weekly
- Recommended for students who have mostly been able to get As and Bs in middle school.

## Contemporary World Issues (CWI)

- 1 semester long
- This is a regular-level class
- In this class, you will talk about a variety of current events and issues, including:
  - media literacy
  - climate change
  - world hunger
  - world conflicts
- You will practice analyzing sources and writing CER paragraphs

## Contemporary Native Issues

- 1 semester long
- This is a regular-level class
- In this class, you will...
  - learn about issues currently facing Native communities in the United States, such as MMIP, sovereignty, and representation.
  - participate in cultural activities, field trips, and guest speaker events.
  - build community and support with your classmates .

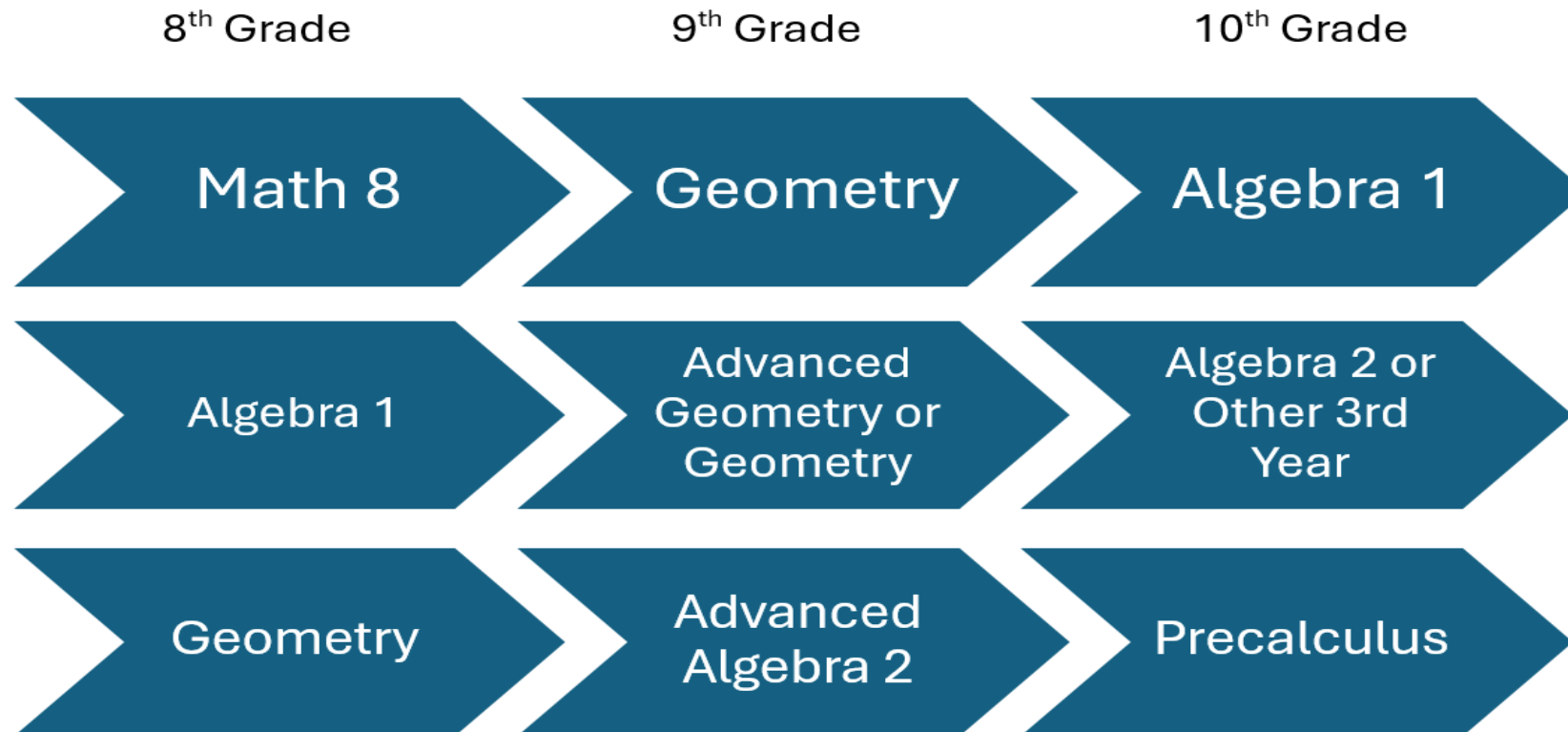
# Science Pathways

<b>High School Diploma</b> <b>2- Year or Trade Program</b>	•STEM Physics •Biology
<b>University    General Major</b>	•STEM Physics •Biology • <u>Chemistry</u>

- Students who take STEM Physics as a Freshman will take biology as a sophomore.
- Students with a strong desire to take more advanced science classes in high school are encouraged to start with biology.
- Being in algebra 2 or higher math class is required for being in chemistry.
- All class choices beyond biology and STEM Physics are dependent on prerequisites.

# Math Progression

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Most 9th graders will take Geometry or Adv. Geometry



## What language classes can you take at RRHS?

- **ASL** – 3 levels
- **French** – 4 levels
- **Japanese** – 4 levels
- **Spanish** – 4 levels + Heritage class

- *All classes can be taken for **World Language or elective credit** (ASL can also count for **CTE credit**).*
- ***2 years satisfies 2.0 credit** World Language graduation requirement*
- *Most 4-year **colleges** look for at least **2 years of the same language**.*
- ***Bilingual Spanish speaking students** should ask about the **Heritage class**.*



# Electives

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Turn to the back of your green handout for a list of electives.

***Most freshman take PE & Health***

# VPA Offerings for Freshman

## VISUAL ARTS

9TH

2D ART

INTRO TO  
3D/  
CERAMICS

## THEATRE ARTS

9TH

DRAMA 1

STAGECRAFT 1

COMEDY  
IMPROVISATION

VPA Offerings for Freshman

# MUSICAL ARTS

9TH

**CONCERT  
BAND**

**JAZZ  
BAND**

**WIND  
ENSEMBLE**

**STRING  
ORCHESTRA**

**TROUBADOUR  
CHOIR**

**SYMPHONIC  
CHOIR**

# CTE COURSE OFFERINGS

## Business & Marketing

- AP Business w/ Personal Finance
- Digital Academy 1 & 2
- Intro to Marketing
- Sports/Event Marketing

## Visual Communications

- Digital Photography 1 & 2

## Family & Consumer Science

- Health CTE
- Interpersonal Relationships
- American Sign Language 1

## Industrial Technology

- AP Computer Science Principles
- Beginning & Intermediate Auto Care
- Computer Science
- Engineering Principles
- Introductory Robotics
- Intermediate Robotics Engineering
- Introduction to Healthcare Careers
- Sports Officiating
- Woodworking 1 & 2

# PE COURSE OFFERINGS

Fitness Walking

Volleyball Skills

Low Impact

Basketball Skills

Spinning

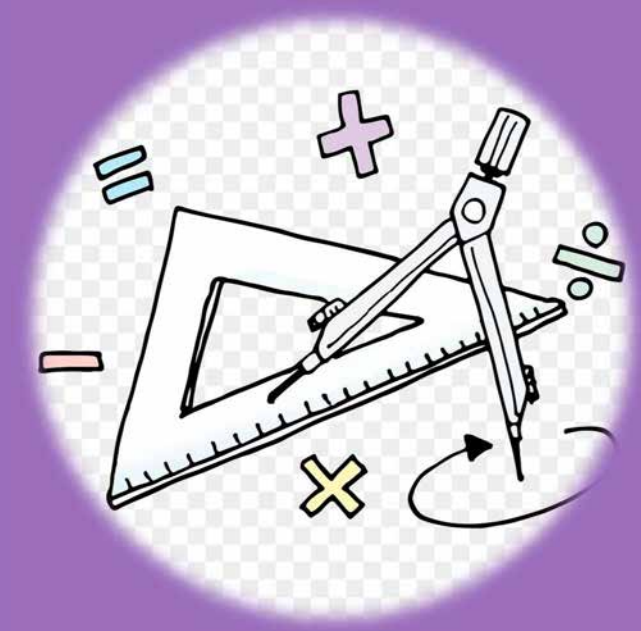
Strength and  
Conditioning

General PE

Aquatic Fitness



# Support Services



We have a variety of ways we support students with IEPs.

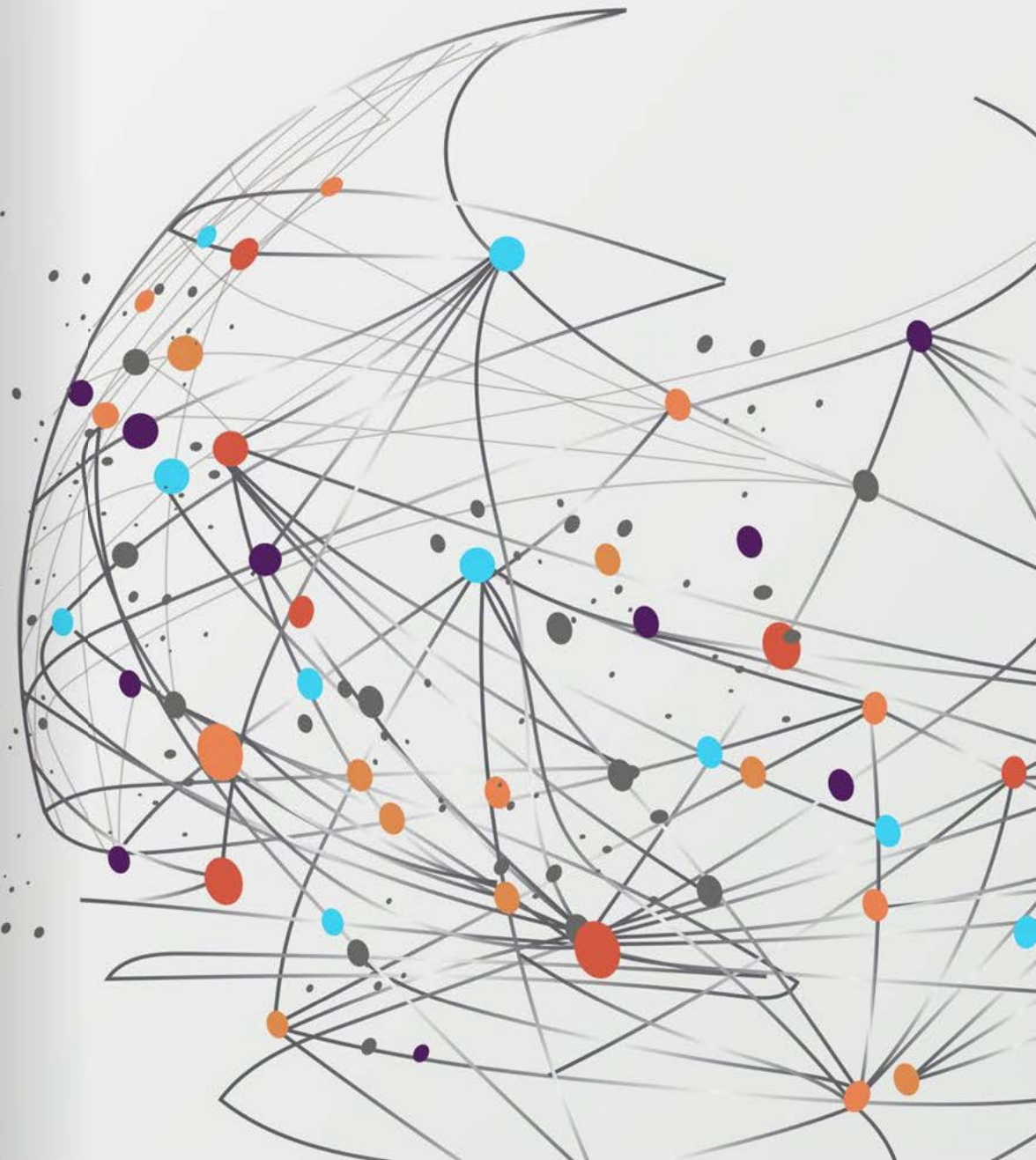
Please stop by room 127 if you have questions about class placement or other supports related to IEPs.



# RM. 127

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

*In school, on time, daily!*



# School Hours – 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM

- **1<sup>st</sup> period begins at 7:30 AM.**
  - Parent Drop off – no later than 7:20 AM. **Plan for traffic!**
  - Bus Drop off – students begin arriving at 6:50 AM.
  - RRHS is a closed campus except during a student's assigned lunch period.
- **Advisory follows 2<sup>nd</sup> period - Not optional!**
  - Social Emotional Lessons
  - High School & Beyond Plan
  - Flock Talk – student information
  - Academic Support
- **Lunch**
  - Students are assigned one lunch period, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Open campus.



# How can parents help?

## Monitor Skyward

- Do not turn off the alerts!

## Appointments:

- Schedule Before School
- Schedule After School
- ACT Wednesdays (1:00 PM)

## Predict future absences, when possible:

- Vacations
- Long Weekends



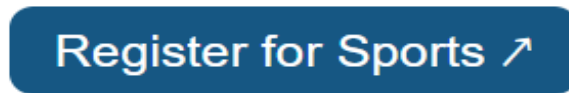
# Athletics



## Step 1



## Step 2



## Step 3



## Step 4

Make sure your email is up to date in Skyward.

# Sports Registration is Online

# Tryout Information

## Cheer

- **Starts: Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** and runs through March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Dance

- **Starts: Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** and runs through April 23<sup>rd</sup>

# Fall Sports Schedule

**Register starting  
Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>  
on Final Forms**

## Football

- **Summer Football:** Starts Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Regular Season:** Starts Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

## August 24<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

The following sports all begin on this date:

- **Girls' Volleyball**
- **Cross Country** (Boys & Girls)
- **Girls' Swimming**
- **Girls' Soccer**
- **Boys' Tennis**



## ATHLETICS

### Register for Sports

- Registration is completed online via **Final Forms**.
  - Students are cleared for participation the **day after** all requirements are met.
- Physicals:** A signed form from a registered physician must be uploaded to Final Forms. Physicals remain valid for **2 years**.
- Fines:** All outstanding fines must be cleared prior to participation. Payments are accepted via the online portal or at the ASB office (cash/ credit card/ check).

### Athletic Fees

- ASB Card:** \$30 (one-time annual fee; receives an "ASB" sticker on school ID).
- Sports Fee:** \$100 per sport (Note: **Football is \$125**). Fees can be waived if your family qualifies for the [Child Nutrition Benefit](#) (previously called Free & Reduced Lunch) and you have filled out the [Consent to Share](#) form in [Skward Family Access](#). **Note:** Consent to Share information is not retroactive and fees are only waived after the form has been completed.

### Sports Seasons & Start Dates

Season	Start Date	Sports Included
Fall	June 1	Football (Summer Session)
	Aug 19	Football (Regular Season)
	Aug 24	Volleyball, Girls' Swimming, Girls' Soccer, Cross Country, Boys' Tennis, Cheer
Winter	Nov 2	Girls' Bowling (at Aztec Lanes)
	Nov 9	Girls' Gymnastics (at Black Hills Gymnastics)
	Nov 16	Basketball (B/G), Wrestling (B/G), Boys' Swimming
Spring	March 2	Baseball, Fastpitch, Golf (B/G), Boys' Soccer, Girls' Tennis, Track & Field
	March 20	Cheer Tryouts (Runs through March 25)
	April 21	Dance Tryouts (Runs through April 23)

Pick up a flyer...  
*located in the  
common at  
every table.*



# Join a Club



Anime Club  
Archery Club

FFA  
Flag Football



Asian American Pacific Islander Club

Gaming Club  
Gay Straight Alliance



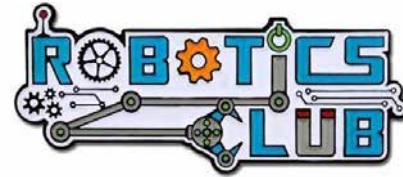
Auto Skills  
Bass Club

Key Club



Black Student Union

LatinX



Bible Study Club

Multicultural Club

Book Club

National Honor Society

Chess Club

Native American Club

Computer Science

Pokemon Go Club

Powerlifting Club

Crochet Club

Rap Appreciation

DECA

Robotics Club

Drama Club

Skills USA

Dungeons and Dragons Club

Speech & Debate

Sports Medicine Club

Unified Club

Esports

FBLA

FCCLA





# Join the Booster Club

The Booster Club supports students, activities, and school spirit across campus.

## **Middle school families are welcome!**

You don't have to wait until your student starts high school to get involved!  
Come to our next meeting **April 14 at 6PM** at the RRHS Library to see what we are all about!



# Communication- Parent Square



## Important Dates

August 24 - Fall Sports  
(Football begins August 19)

August 20 - Freshman Back to School Day

- Get your school photo taken and student ID card
- Swap old Chromebook for a new one
- Turn in important back to school paperwork
- Pick up your class schedule
- Meet with a counselor, if needed

August 29 - Freshman Orientation from  
10:00-12:00 @ RRHS

# Athletics & Activities Fair

in the Commons following this presentation

Dept:	Name:	Room
English	Ms. Emily Ehrlich	Rm. 123
Math	Ms. Jami Gore	Rm 107
Science	Ms. Loni Smtih	Rm 128
Social Studies	Ms. Marla Orozco	Rm 122
World Language	Ms. Emily Saunders	Rm. 113
VPA	Mr. Joe Medina	Rm. 125
Health & Fitness	Mr. Charlie Hinson	Rm. 108
CTE	Mr. Michael Undewood	Rm. 132
Support Services-SPED	Ms. Hannah Seropian-Miller & Ms. Amy Cannova	Rm. 127
Support Services -Resource	Ms. Teala Duhamel	Rm. 127
Athletic Director	Ms. Casey Wyatt	Commons
Activities	Ms. Janay Creamer	Rm. 121
Counseling	Ms. Noelle Raslton & Team	Rm. 106

THANK YOU!