

# OPEN HIGH

## Student & Family Handbook



**2025-2026**

Open High  
600 S. Pine St.  
Richmond, VA 23225  
(804) 780-4661

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## **HISTORY**

Open High School was established in 1972 as an alternative public high school in Richmond, Virginia. Established on the premise that students are self-directed, independent learners, Open High School offers a college preparatory education to approximately 200 high school students in a small personal setting. Successful students develop the initiative, independence and responsibility to manage an individualized schedule and maneuver around the city. An emphasis on curiosity, creativity, and community guides our program's direction. Teachers work collaboratively to make lessons relevant to students and real world situations. All classes are geared towards preparation for the upper level rigor of Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment course offerings.

## **MISSION**

The mission of Open High is to develop creative and compassionate students who value intellectual inquiry and social responsibility.

## **OHS DISPOSITIONS**

During the 2015-2016 school year, teachers came together to define ten dispositions critical to academic success, independent learning, and self-actualization. These "habits of mind" reflect our mission statement and are supported through our academics, our representative structure, and our Thursday Elective program.

### **PERSEVERANCE**

Persistence and Resilience. The willingness to work through difficult tasks or situations. The ability to remain whole through adversity.

### **INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY**

The desire to explore topics further. A questioning mind.

### **INTERPERSONAL SKILLS**

The ability to work well with others. A sense of open-mindedness. Strong listening skills.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

A participatory nature. Commitment to OHS community values such as volunteerism, class and town meeting attendance. A willingness to give back.

### **SELF-ADVOCACY**

A person who can ask for what they need. The ability to speak up for one's needs and desires.

### **CREATIVITY**

Original expression of any kind. The ability to think "outside the box" to dream of better or different ways of being and doing.

### **ORGANIZATION**

The ability to create systems that ensure the completion of tasks in a timely manner. Organization includes punctuality, time management and study skills.

### **SELF-REFLECTION**

The ability to recognize personal strengths and weaknesses and to create goals for improvement based on an honest understanding of self.

### **ARTICULATION**

An effective communicator. A person who thinks before they speak, then speaks clearly and confidently.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

The display of self-governing behaviors. Accountability to systems and ideas that define individuals, our school, and our school division.

## **STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

The Statement of Principles is a partnership between parents, students, and school. We ask students, parents, and family heads to sign and return this statement as an indication of commitment to our program.

**WHEREAS**, Open High School is a community based school dedicated to the educational, emotional and social growth of its students, and **WHEREAS**, Open High is dedicated to the development of shared partnerships within its community, and **WHEREAS** the students, parents, staff and community are major participants in achieving the objectives of Open High,

I understand that education is a team effort, and I agree to the following guidelines as an expression of my commitment. In doing so, I will commit to maintaining a strong, positive environment for learning and for growth.

**PROGRAM:** I agree to attend and actively participate in all Family, Town, Class Meetings and Thursday classes. I will also participate in family projects, class projects, Senior Project, and other school-related activities. I understand that these activities are instrumental in creating a strong environment of student engagement.

**BEHAVIOR:** I agree to follow the Richmond Public Schools' Student Code of Responsible Ethics and be a respectful member of the Open High Community. I promise to stand up to bullying and be a positive advocate for myself and others.

**ATTENDANCE:** I agree to meet Richmond City Public School's attendance policies and will attend each class regularly and on time, as I understand this promotes learning and responsibility.

**VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY SERVICE:** I agree that I will perform a minimum of 30 volunteer hours for each year I am in attendance at Open High School and participate fully in any school sanctioned community service projects, as I understand these speak to what we value as a school and a community.

**ACADEMICS:** I agree that I will work hard academically, meeting the objectives for each class and will work with the expectation of graduating with an Advanced Studies Diploma. I will abstain from any dishonesty in my academic work, including plagiarism, cheating, or misrepresentation of my work. I will follow the steps of any academic sanctions given to me, attend tutoring if I am struggling, and be committed to completing my own work with the highest honor and effort.

**WHEREAS**, the students of Open High school are called to demonstrate respect, integrity, and fairness. I will respect others' opinions, space, and personal property at all times. By signing this I also am demonstrating my commitment to the Open High Dispositions.

## FACULTY & STAFF

<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; SUPPORT</b>		
Principal	Clary Carleton	cwashing@rvaschools.net
School Counselor	Micah Davis	mdavis7@rvaschools.net
Office Associate	Ryan Eldridge	reldridg@rvaschools.net
School Nurse	Molly Rountree	mrountre@rvaschools.net
Instructional Compliance Coordinator	Anita Murphy	amurphy@rvaschools.net
Annual Substitute	Saskia Price	sprice4@rvaschools.net
Custodian	Tony Brown	tbrown19@rvaschools.net
Food Service Assistant	Cornelius Patterson	cpatters3@rvaschools.net
Care & Safety Associate	Pamela Miller	pgordon2@rvaschools.net
<b>INSTRUCTION</b>		
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	Mary Dunn	mstrunck@rvaschools.net
<b>ART</b>	Brigette Newberry	bnewberr@rvaschools.net
<b>WORLD LANGUAGE</b>	Lucy Alfonso	lalfonso@rvaschools.net
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	Vic Carll	mschnett@rvaschools.net
<b>HEALTH/PE</b>	Bella Galuchie	igaluchie@rvaschools.net

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students attending Open High School are programmed to earn the Advanced Studies Diploma. For information about the standard diploma, please visit the [Virginia Department of Education](http://www.doe.virginia.gov) website. To graduate with an Advanced Studies Diploma a student must earn at least 26 standard units of credit and five verified units of credit. Students earn **standard credits** by successfully completing required and elective courses. The majority of courses offered by RPS are equal to 1.0 course credit. Students earn **verified credits** by successfully completing required courses and passing associated end-of-course SOL tests or other assessments approved by the State Board of Education. If a student does not pass an SOL, they may be eligible to retake the SOL test after receiving remediation.

Advanced Studies Diploma Course Requirements (8 VAC 20-131-51) for Students Entering the Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2018-2019 and Beyond

Subject Area	Standard Credits	Verified Credits	Specifications
English	4	2	N/A
Mathematics	4	1	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least three different course selections from among: algebra I, geometry, algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of algebra II. The board shall approve courses to satisfy this requirement. Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a mathematics course credit.
Laboratory Science	4	1	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least three different science disciplines from among: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics or completion of the sequence of science courses required for the International Baccalaureate Diploma and shall include interdisciplinary courses that incorporate Standards of Learning content from multiple academic areas. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement. Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a science course credit.
History and Social Sciences	4	1	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include Virginia and U.S. history, Virginia and U.S. government, and two courses in either world history or geography or both. The board shall approve additional courses to satisfy this requirement.
World Language	3	0	Courses completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.
Health and Physical Education	2	0	N/A
Fine Arts or Career and Technical Ed	1	0	Per the Standards of Quality, a computer science course credit earned by students may be considered a career and technical credit.
Economics & Personal Finance	1	0	N/A
Electives	3	0	Courses to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives as required by the Standards of Quality.
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>	N/A

Additional Requirements for Graduation

- **Advanced Placement, Honors, or International Baccalaureate Course or Career and Technical Education Credential** - In accordance with the Standards of Quality, students shall either (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, or International Baccalaureate course or (ii) earn a career and technical education credential approved by the board, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the advanced studies diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment.
- **Virtual Course** - Students shall successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a non-credit-bearing course or a required or elective credit-bearing course that is offered online.
- **Training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED)** - Students shall be trained in emergency first aid, CPR, and the use of AED, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Students with an IEP or 504 Plan that documents that they cannot successfully complete this training shall be granted a waiver from this graduation requirement, as provided in 8VAC20-131-420 B.
- **Demonstration of the five Cs** - Students shall acquire and demonstrate foundational skills in critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship in accordance with the Profile of a Virginia Graduate approved by the board.

### State Assessment Program & Verified Credits

All students enrolled in a course that has a SOL test must take the test until they have met their verified credit requirement for that subject area and met all federal accountability requirements.

END-OF-COURSE STANDARDS OF LEARNING TESTS AVAILABLE FOR EARNING VERIFIED CREDITS			
ENGLISH*	MATH	LAB SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES
Reading	Algebra I**	Earth Science	World History to 1500 A.D.
Writing	Geometry	Biology***	World History from 1500 A.D.
Integrated Reading & Writing	Algebra II	Chemistry	World Geography
			Virginia and U.S. History

\*Students should have completed course instruction in the SOL for English 9, 10, and 11 before attempting the EOC Reading and Writing tests.

\*\*Students who completed Algebra I in middle school will take the Geometry or the Algebra II SOL EOC test in high school to meet federal accountability requirements.; those that take Geometry in middle school will take Algebra II SOL EOC test in high school to meet federal accountability requirements.

\*\*\*All students who take Biology will take the Biology SOL EOC test to meet federal accountability requirements even if they have already met the requirement for verified credits in Science.

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

RPS offers a wide range of [Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#) courses to all students at every RPS high school. Though typically taken in 11th and 12th grade, students may enroll in these courses at any grade level as long as they meet course-specific prerequisites. All students who take an AP course are expected to take the AP exam at the end of the course; RPS covers the cost of the exam. Students earning a qualifying score may earn college

credit and, in some cases, the exams can be used as a substitute for the Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments. Students who earn a high enough score on their AP exam may be eligible to receive college credit, advanced placement or both at most colleges across the country.

## **EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY AT REYNOLDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

[The Early College Academy](#) (ECA) at Reynolds Community College provides RPS high school students the opportunity to earn an Associate Degree while completing requirements for their high school diploma concurrently. Students can apply to the ECA program in the 10th grade through their school counseling office. Once accepted, students begin college coursework for the Associate Degree during their 11th and 12th grade year at the Downtown Campus of JSRCC (700 E. Jackson Street, Richmond, VA 23219). Classes are taught by Reynolds Community College professors and are held in the morning Monday through Friday, after which students return to their school for the remainder of their high school classes. Transportation to and from the Reynolds campus and on-site breakfast is provided by RPS. The cost of this program is provided by RPS at no charge to students; however, students will be responsible for covering the cost of courses that have to be retaken due to failure to complete the course successfully. Dual enrollment students must participate in all required activities, including summer orientation, and demonstrate satisfactory academic performance in order to remain eligible for continued participation. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 after each semester to continue in the program.

## **POST-SECONDARY ASSESSMENTS**

RPS provides access to certain assessments needed for an array of post-secondary preparation and enrollment:

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a co-sponsored program by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). The PSAT is a standardized test that provides first-hand practice for the SAT. It also gives students a chance to enter the National Merit Scholarship program. The PSAT measures critical reading skills, critical reasoning skills, math problem solving skills and writing skills. These are skills that students acquire over many years, both in and out of school, and do not require recall of specific facts. The PSAT enables students and families to understand their progress towards college and career readiness. ***All RPS high school students will take the PSAT annually in grades 10 and 11 at no cost to students.***

[The Scholastic Aptitude Test](#) (SAT) is a standardized test designed to assess a high school student's readiness for post-secondary opportunities. The SAT is also used by many college/universities as part of their application process. ***All 11th graders are expected to take the exam during SAT School Day each spring at no cost to students.*** Students wishing to take the SAT multiple times are encouraged to do so at their own expense, and our School Counselor can provide support in requesting fee waivers.

## **DAILY SCHEDULE**

Open uses a hybrid schedule with Even and Odd Day morning classes, and daily afternoon classes. This allows for a full schedule of 7 classes over the course of a year. On occasion we will shift odd/even days to balance instructional time.

**Open High Schedule  
2025-2026**



<b>Student Arrival / Breakfast</b>	<b>8:00 - 8:25 AM</b>
<b>Period 1 EVEN or ODD</b>	<b>8:30 - 10:00 AM (90 min)</b>
<b>Period 2 EVEN or ODD</b>	<b>10:05 - 11:35 AM (90 min)</b>
<b>Period 3 LUNCH</b>	<b>11:40 AM -12:30 PM (50 min)</b>
<b>Period 4</b>	<b>12:35 - 1:30 PM (55 min)</b>
<b>Period 5</b>	<b>1:35 - 2:30 PM (55 min)</b>
<b>Period 6</b>	<b>2:35 - 3:30 PM (55 min)</b>
<b>Student Dismissal</b>	<b>3:30 PM</b>
<b>After School Clubs/Tutoring Dismissal</b>	<b>4:30 PM</b>

### **THURSDAYS AT OPEN**

Thursday elective classes provide students with additional learning opportunities through a wide-variety of course options. The courses support our academic program and correlate directly to our Ten Dispositions. We offer two terms (Fall and Spring) consisting of ten sessions each, running from September to April. Students take two electives per term. Students and members of the community are also invited to propose courses with the support of a teacher sponsor. In addition to elective classes, Open High conducts Student Government meetings

in the form of Student Representatives, Family Meeting, Town Meeting, and Class Meetings on Thursdays throughout the year. Some Town Meetings are held offsite and involve walking to a nearby location. See the Open High Constitution for more details. *Meeting dates/times are subject to change.*

## **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Research shows that attendance is directly correlated to student achievement. Good attendance is essential for students to keep up with class assignments and take advantage of learning opportunities. Chronic Absenteeism is considered missing 10% of school or 18 days over the course of a year or 18 class periods of a year-long course. This includes absences that are both excused and unexcused absences. Students risk losing credit in courses where they miss 18 or more days of class, even if they earn a passing grade. Attendance problems that are not addressed may also lead to a student's return to their zoned school. For more information on attendance, please visit the [RPS website](#) and review the [Student Code or Responsible Ethics](#).

### **Excused Absences**

Excused absences are classified as those that have resulted from conditions beyond the control of students, parents/guardians, or the school. The only excuses for absence that shall be deemed acceptable are:

- Personal illness: if over 3 days, the school will require a note from the doctor
- Personal court appearance
- Death in the family
- Religious holidays regularly observed by the student
- Extenuating circumstances, as approved by the school administration

When absent, the parent or guardian should notify the school as to why their child was absent. This can be done with

- an email to Office Associate Ryan Eldridge at [reldridg@rvaschools.net](mailto:reldridg@rvaschools.net)
- a phone call to the office at (804) 780-4661 or
- a signed note upon the student's return to school.

Please contact the school in advance of an absence or as soon as possible. If a communication is not provided within 5 school days of the last day of school missed, the period of absence will be considered unexcused. RPS will send automated messages to alert guardians to an absence in their 2nd period class. If a student reaches 5 unexcused absences, a member of the RPS Engagement team will connect directly with the family.

### **Tardiness/Early Dismissal/Leaving School without Permission**

Students are expected to be at school between 8:00 - 8:25 AM and IN CLASS by 8:30 AM. Tardiness is disruptive for the individual, the teacher, and the class. Students should also be picked up at the scheduled dismissal time of 3:30 PM unless in a supervised after-school activity or a busrider. Tardiness and Early Dismissals may be considered excused for the same reasons listed for absences. While students may leave campus during their designated lunch time, students may not otherwise leave campus without permission from their teachers and/or the principal. Leaving school without permission is skipping and a violation of trust. It can lead to a loss of off-campus lunch privileges or a student's return to their zone school.

Parents who plan to pick up students for Early Dismissal must come to the office, sign students out, and provide a valid reason. No student should ever leave the building without signing out in the office.

Students 18 and older can sign themselves out BUT must likewise have a valid reason and provide an excused note. Without a valid reason, it will be considered skipping and a disciplinary consequence can be applied. For those students who are dependent, FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) permits the school to communicate with parents of 18 year olds to let them know the student is signing out of school.

Punctuality is a measure of responsibility, and caregivers play an essential role in making sure students arrive on time. Consequences for unexcused tardies can include graded work that cannot be made up. Tardiness as a result of RPS bus transportation is excused.

Patterns of lateness will prompt a conversation to identify underlying barriers and to develop a plan with progressive consequences to include:

- Warning: 1 - 5 Tardies
- Lunch Detention with Tardiness Intervention Plan / Parent Contact and/or Conference: 5 - 10 Tardies
- After-school and/or Saturday detention / Parent Conference / Sanctions: 10+ Tardies:

## GRADING

Grades are a measure of where students are, not who they are. We caution both students and parents to keep grades in perspective by focusing on learning and growth over time. There are 4 marking periods/quarters and Interims are distributed in Family Report Cards are issued for each quarter and sent home each semester. The chart below indicates the RPS grading scale and grade values. Honors, Advanced Placement, and Dual Enrollment courses are assigned weighted values.

RPS Grading Scale	Final Grade	Standard	Honors	Advanced Placement	Dual Enrollment
A (Outstanding)	90-100	4	5	6	6
B (Above Average)	80-90	3	4	5	5
C (Average)	70-79	2	3	4	4
D (Below Average)	60-69	1	2	3	3
F (Unsatisfactory)	0-59	0	0	0	0

Grade information can be gathered from ASPEN, and access to the parent portal of ASPEN can be obtained from the main office by a parent/guardian.

## TECHNOLOGY

Technology is a powerful learning tool, but it can also be a huge distraction in the classroom. Students should reflect on their usage and learn to regulate their screen time for non-academic purposes. Students are not allowed to use personal devices during class time unless they have accommodations or special permission from the principal. This includes personal laptops, tablets, airpods, and cell phones (see below).

All students will be assigned an RPS Chromebook for school and home use. Canvas will be the primary way that students and teachers will communicate online. Each student has a unique RPS email, and each class will have a unique code for students to log into. We encourage students to utilize Google Calendar and notifications to stay organized and keep up with their school work. Students are also expected to use and check their email and Canvas on a DAILY basis.

Students must follow the [Student Code of Responsible Ethics](#) (SCORE) regarding acceptable use of the internet. RPS uses Go Guardian to monitor appropriate computer use during class time. RPS also uses Gaggle Safety Management to proactively monitor digital content and communication among students from minor policy violations to threats of imminent harm.

Please follow these guidelines for computer usage:

- Computers are for educational purposes only. No gaming, social media, shopping, etc. is allowed.
- Downloading/uploading any software or files is prohibited unless it is being done for a class with permission from a teacher.
- Earbuds and headphones should not be worn unless a student has accommodations or a teacher has specifically given permission to use. If you need headphones to use with your Chromebook, the teacher can provide.

## **CAREGIVER/TEACHER CONFERENCE DAYS**

Parent-Teacher Conferences are held in the fall and spring of each year. It is our expectation that all parents/caregivers AND students participate in these conferences which may be virtual to allow for fuller participation.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL**

Open students have traditionally taken the GRTC which is free for RPS high school students. For more information, please visit [GRTC](#). RPS provides transportation through “hub stops.” Please visit <https://www.rvaschools.net/operating-office/transportation/bus-stops> for more information.

Part of being an Open student is learning to navigate the downtown area by foot. Students should familiarize themselves with a map of the Open High “universe” which you can find at <https://tinyurl.com/6ch6sndh>. ***Regardless of the location, students are expected to follow all school rules throughout the school day.***

## **Safety While Traveling**

Students and parents are encouraged to sign up for VCU Alerts at <https://vcu.omnilert.net/subscriber.php>. All students are expected to abide by the following safety rules while traveling throughout the city.

- **NEVER TRAVEL ALONE.** Always travel in groups of at least three students.
- Cross streets ONLY AT CROSSWALKS WHEN GIVEN THE SIGNAL TO CROSS.
- Make sure to look both ways before crossing the street at any time, even if you have the right of way or the signal to cross.

- Be COMPLETELY aware of your surroundings while walking; this includes being able to clearly hear the sounds of the road.
- Follow all state regulations regarding driving.
- Take a cell phone with you when traveling, and call the school immediately regarding unexpected delays. The number to the school is 780-4661.
- In the event of an emergency, call 911.

## STUDENT LIFE

### Family

Family groups ensure that each student has a multi-generational peer group from the onset of their experience at Open High. Emphasis is placed on diversity within family groups. Families form the basic organizational structure for program orientation, character development, and student government. Led by a faculty member known as a “Family Head,” Family Heads assist with student advising, adjustment to Open High School and learning opportunities. Family Heads advocate for their family members and guide students to needed supports. Each family sends representatives to the Student Representative body that discusses school concerns, suggests school improvements, plans school events and activities, and presides over whole-school Town Meetings.

### Lockers

Lockers are assigned during the first week of school. Lockers are the property of Richmond Public Schools and may be searched at any time. Students may use locks, but few do. Even without locks we expect students to respect others' personal property and space.

### Staying Informed

The Open High School Website at <https://ohs.rvaschools.net> is a central location for important school information. In addition, our weekly newsletter, *The Open Buzz* will be shared each week on ParentSquare, our new communication platform.

Please provide the most up to date telephone numbers and email addresses so that we can communicate appropriately.

Each Sunday, our weekly newsletter *The Open Buzz* is published with information for the coming week. It will be sent by ParentSquare, our new communications platform designed to keep parents and guardians informed. Watch this [Parents—Getting Started Video](#)

All district and school, grade level and classroom information will now be sent to your computer or phone via email and/or text. For even more convenience, download the ParentSquare app (available for free for iOS and Android devices).

Our community can also connect to us through social media:

- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/officialopenhighschoolpage/>
- Instagram @openhgrva

Up to the minute information and reminders for students can be found on our Digital Announcement Board located on the first floor by the office. This should be checked every day when students enter the building.

## Breakfast and Lunch

While there is no cafeteria in our building, we participate in the school breakfast and lunch program which provides Grab-and-Go meals at no cost to students. Meals are brought into our building each day and are available just before school and during the lunch period. Students also have access to a microwave and a refrigerator to store lunches from home. A vending machine with healthy snacks will also be available in the Student Lounge (but is not a replacement for a meal)

Students at Open High have an extended, 50 minute lunch period and may travel off-site. This is also a time to get additional support from teachers when available. Lunch is unsupervised at Open. Students who are unable to get back to school for their afternoon class on time will lose the privilege of leaving the building for lunch. Positive behaviors and safety precautions are also required at all outside lunch locations. Failure to follow expectations will result in loss of privileges.

The Cafe at Virginia Housing (601 S. Belvidere St.) is available to students on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:40 am - 12:30 pm. New students must complete an agreement form outlining proper procedures and behavior. Students should cross the street at the light and be especially cautious of speeding cars.

Under no circumstances are food delivery drivers allowed inside the building. Food may be ordered prior to school, and drivers should be instructed to leave the order in the outdoor box. Students are not allowed to leave class to order, pick up food, or visit the vending machine.

## Cell Phones

The research is unequivocal: cell phones are a major disruption to student learning. Studies show that screen time degrades attention and concentration skills. Students often become accustomed to states of half-attention with the expectation of a new stimulus every few seconds. Mental health issues have also been attributed to excessive use of social media, and online teenager drama too often migrates into schools, contributing to behavioral problems. Contrary to what some believe, student cell phones do not make students safer in school; in fact, they can cause safety issues when incorrect information is spread.

While some students can self-regulate, many cannot. We therefore ask for students and parents to partner with us so learning is the focus at Open High. The following guidelines should be followed at all times.

- Cell phones should be turned off prior to entering the building.
- Cell phones should be kept in a backpack or locker, completely OUT OF SIGHT during class time, lunch, AND between classes. It should not be kept in a pocket, hoodie, or jacket.
- Cell phones are not replacements for Chromebooks. Come to school with Chromebooks charged and ready to use. If you forget, you can obtain a Chromebook by relinquishing your cell phone.
- Parents, relatives, and friends should not text students during school hours. If communication is critical, connect during lunchtime from 11:40 am - 12:30 pm when students may take calls outside the building.
- In the case of emergencies, call the school office (804-780-4661), and we will communicate with your child. Students may also come to the office, if they need to make a call in an emergency.

- Any adult who sees a cell phone within the building will confiscate and turn in to the office. The student can pick up at the end of the day. After a 2nd offense, students will receive lunch detention and a parent will need to come to the school to retrieve. Subsequent offenses will result in additional lunch detentions and can result in a return to the zone school.

## Cleanliness

Built in 1911, the historic Grace Arents building has housed the Open High program since 1989. Like any old building, it requires lots of love. Keeping the building clean and neat is the responsibility of the entire community, and this includes the school grounds. Trash cans and recycling bins are available throughout the building, as well as outside. Blue recycling bins should only be used for paper and paper products. Students should never use recycling bins for trash or food. Our custodian, Tony Brown, is not responsible for cleaning up after individual students. If you have a significant accident, please alert him and the office ASAP, and make every effort to help clean up.

GRAFFITI OF ANY KIND in any location will be punished according to the Student Code of Responsible Ethics. Signage and student work may only be posted on areas designated by cork strips. No tape, staples, pushpins, or nails should be used on any wall without the permission of the principal. Sadly, we have found an excessive amount of CHEWING GUM stuck underneath our new classroom tables. This is unacceptable, and may result in a ban on chewing gum.

## Student Lounge Decorum

The students of Open High have the privilege of using the Student Lounge. The purpose of the Lounge is to provide a space for students who are not in class to eat lunch, study, or socialize quietly. Because the Lounge is a privilege, failure by the student body to maintain decorum can result in closure. Following are the rules of decorum for the lounge:

- Visit the Lounge only during your free time.
- Keep the noise level low. Activity in the lounge should not disturb other people in other spaces.
- Keep the tables and floors clean; throw away trash and wipe up spills.
- Do not put food in the sink and down the drain! There is no garbage disposal, and it will clog the pipes.
- Remove old food from the refrigerator each day, and regularly wipe down the inside of microwaves.

## Sports

Open students are able to participate in athletics at their zoned school serving the address where they legally reside. There are no exceptions to this rule. For more information, please visit <https://www.rvaschools.net/academics/athletics>

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Open High School students are expected to follow the guidelines for acceptable behavior as outlined in the Richmond Public School's SCORE (Student Code of Responsible Ethics) manual. The SCORE can be accessed at <https://www.rvaschools.net/students-families/score>

## Use of AI Technology

Students are expected to complete original work at all times. While there may be legitimate uses of AI for the purposes of learning, ChatGPT and other chatbots may only be used for schoolwork with EXPLICIT permission from the teacher. Students claiming AI generated content as their own constitutes plagiarism and will result in a failing grade. Repeated offenses may result in a return to the zone school.

## Open High Honor Pledge

As a member of the Open High community, I am committed to maintaining a strong, positive environment for learning and growth. I understand that lying, cheating, and stealing undermine trust in our community. Representing others' work as my own is plagiarism, and generative AI tools may not be used without permission from my teacher.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service is an important component of an Open education. Each year students are expected to complete 30 hours of volunteer service with a non-profit organization for a total of 120 hours over four years. Many students far exceed the minimum requirements.

Volunteer work helps students learn about specific needs within their community and is a reminder of our connectedness and interdependence. It exposes students to new people, new ideas, and new situations. Community service can also provide students with opportunities to build empathy and compassion for others while learning practical skills.

Students should take time to find NON-PROFIT organizations that match their interests and concerns. The Community Foundation (<https://www.cfengage.org/>) is an excellent resource which lists current opportunities geared toward individual interests and age. In addition, opportunities are regularly posted in the weekly Open Buzz newsletter. Students may work with a single organization or multiple organizations that rely on volunteers. Examples of non-profits include public schools, public libraries, public gardens, homeless shelters, churches, most museums, the SPCA, City of Richmond summer camps, etc. Profit-making organizations are not eligible. There are some exceptions such as retirement homes if work is directly interacting with residents. If you are unsure about whether an organization is appropriate, connect with the Volunteer Coordinator.

Students are required to document their hours and obtain a signature from a representative of the organization. Forms must be complete and turned into the Community Service box on the first floor hallway or directly to the Volunteer Coordinator. Seniors must complete all hours by April 15 to be considered for their final year. Students are not eligible for the National Honor Society until a minimum of 60 hours of the community service requirement is fulfilled by the beginning of the junior year. Completion of 50 hours of voluntary participation (in addition to course requirements and attendance) also earns students the Virginia Board of Education's Excellence in Civics Education Seal for their diploma.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Brigette Newberry at [bnewberr@rvaschools.net](mailto:bnewberr@rvaschools.net).

## CLASS MEETINGS

Multiple times throughout the year, class groups come together for Class Meeting. The purpose of Class Meeting is to support class groups and projects. It is also an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills as well as the OHS Dispositions. Class Meeting is organized with two faculty sponsors. Students elect Class Officers who have specific responsibilities:

- **The President** creates meeting agendas; facilitates Class Meetings; and communicates with class members, committee chairs, and class sponsors.
- **The Vice President** assists the President, facilitates Class Meetings in the absence of the President, and communicates with class members, committee chairs, and class sponsors.
- **The Secretary** takes and shares minutes of each meeting.

Each Class will develop skills and attributes through specific tasks and learning opportunities in preparation for the Senior Project (see below):

- Grade 9: Collaborate to meet a need within the school
- Grade 10: Collaborate to meet a need within the community
- Grade 11: Explore topics and begin Senior Project
- Grade 12: Complete and present Senior Project

Committees are created as needed—some ad hoc and some permanent. Committees might include Fundraising, Prom, Class Trip, etc. The Committee Chairs report back to the President, the sponsors, and the group. Class officers should use a simplified parliamentary procedure format to conduct productive meetings. Dues can be paid to <http://osp.osmsinc.com/RichmondVA>

## **SENIOR PROJECT**

The Senior Project is an opportunity for students to explore their interests while developing academic skills and the OHS Dispositions. The Senior Project incorporates personal exploration of a topic; documented research; volunteerism; and a presentation. The culminating project will be part of a community-wide exhibition at the end of the school year. The experience of developing a project addresses the Virginia Department of Education’s “Profile of a Virginia Graduate,” encompassing critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and citizenship. This project will also help students develop a more in-depth college application; explore an area of interest prior to choosing a college major; and raise the level of community involvement of Open students.

## **PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION (PTSA)**

Information about membership and participation will be available at our Back to School Night and other major OHS events. The PTSA meets at Open High School on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Please connect here: <https://ohsrva.ptboard.com/> and on Instagram @openhightpsa. Sign up for Kroger Community Awards at <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

The main body of student government at Open High School is Student Representatives. Student “Reps” meet on Thursday when Thursday schedule is in session and at various times for other weeks of the year. Each Family group sends two representatives to the meeting and maintains two alternates should the Family Representative be unable to attend the meeting. All students and staff are welcome to attend Reps, but only Family Representatives can vote.

Student Reps are the voice of the student body, charged with discussing student concerns with policies/programs/initiatives, proposing actions to improve the overall student experience, and working together with the principal to make the Open experience positive for the entire community. Student Reps organize school wide activities such as Spirit Week, Day in the Park, Thanksgiving Feast, and Winter Project. Student Reps are sponsored by two teachers and are most often led by a Student Reps Chairperson or Co-chairs elected by the group within the first few weeks of the school year. Student leaders should use a simplified parliamentary procedure format to conduct productive meetings.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

A metal detector has been added to the front entrance at Open for the 2024-25 school year.

Handheld scanners will be used to conduct touchless searches to prevent weapons and other illegal, dangerous or prohibited items from entering school property. Clear backpacks are also required for all students. The person operating the detector will request that individuals place all bags and other items on a table including keys and phone (which should be turned off). They will then be asked to walk through the metal detector. If there is activation, the individual will be further questioned and asked to reenter the detector.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

### Inclement Weather

At times, situations occur that force the school division to alter the regular schedule of schools. In the event of inclement weather or other emergency situations, check the Richmond Public School's website and stay tuned to local television and radio for instructions regarding the status of school.

### Emergency Alerts

Emergency instructions are provided in each classroom. Listen to the PA for emergency alerts/drills. During an emergency, there are six common responses:

- **HOLD- *In your room, office, or area. Clear the halls.***
  - Clear the hallway
  - Remain in the room or area until the "All Clear" is announced
- **SECURE- *Get Inside. Lock outside doors.***
  - There is a disturbance near the school
  - Return inside
  - Lock outside doors
  - Increase situational awareness
  - Continue classroom instruction until "All Clear"
- **LOCKDOWN- *Lock, lights, out of sight.***
  - Crisis Situation
  - Get to the nearest Room
  - Turn out the lights
  - Move away from sight
  - Maintain Silence
  - Do not open the door
  - Prepare to evade or defend
- **EVACUATE- *A location may be specified.***
  - Evacuate to the specified location.
  - Follow the fire route exits.
  - Bring your phone
  - Instructions may be provided about retaining or leaving belongings
- **SHELTER- *Hazard and safety strategy.***
  - Tornado- Evacuate to shelter (lowest level of building, or hallway)
  - Earthquake- Drop, Cover, and Hold
  - Hazmat- Seal the Room

### Fire Drills

- According to state law, the school is required to have at least two fire drills during the first month of school and at least one per month for the remainder of the school year.
- As the fire drill signal sounds, students should follow their teacher to the assigned area. Students will remain outside the building until they are given verbal instructions to return to the

classroom. Students should stand quietly and listen for any instruction from staff.

- No students are to remain inside the building during a fire drill or evacuation.

## **Other Emergency Drills**

### ***Lockdown Drills***

In every public school there shall be multiple lockdown drills every school year in order that students may be thoroughly practiced in such drills. One lock-down drill shall be completed in September of each school year and one lock-down drill shall be completed in January of each school year. State Code 22.1-137.3. The process is as follows:

- Emergency Alert given (see above)
- Students in hallway/lounge pulled into nearest room
- Doors closed and locked
- Remain quietly in place until all clear is given.

### ***Tornado Drills***

In every public school there shall be at least one tornado drill every school year in order that students may be thoroughly practiced in such drills. State Code 22.1-137.1. The process is as follows:

- Students are brought to the basement quickly and safely.
- Teachers help students find a safe place, facing the wall, away from windows.
- Remain quietly in place until all clear is given.

### ***Earthquake Drills***

There will be at least one earthquake drill each school year, usually during October. The drill will use the "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" protocol.

## **Clinic**

Our School Nurse is here to provide basic healthcare needs for students when in school. Written consent from a parent/physician is required to dispense medications and treatments to students. This includes over-the-counter medications. Our nurse and other adults have also been trained in the administration of epinephrine in the event of an anaphylactic reaction. If your child has medication or other healthcare needs, please reach out Nurse Molly Rountree at (804) 780-4661.

## **SANCTIONS**

Student progress is reviewed at the end of each semester. When a student's performance falls below expectations they will be recommended for a Sanction. Sanctions remind students and families about the need to address academic or behavioral concerns. Students who fail to show significant progress will forfeit their placement at Open High School and be recommended to return to their zoned high school.

**Academic Warning** (2 Ds or 1 F)

Purpose: To give additional support to students showing an area or two of academic struggle. Requirements vary depending on individual concerns. Some aspects of Academic Warning include, but are not limited to:

- Student to attend tutoring as needed.
- Student monthly check-in meeting with their family head to review academic progress.

**Academic Contract** (3 Ds or 1 D and 1 F)

Purpose: To give additional support to students with multiple low grades or students who did not show improvement under Academic Warning. Requirements vary depending on individual concerns. Some aspects of Academic Contract include, but are not limited to:

- Student to attend tutoring as needed.
- Student monthly check-in meeting with their family head to review academic progress
- Required attendance at monthly meetings with a member of the school administrative or academic review team.

**Academic Probation** (More than 1 F or 2 Ds and 1 F)

Purpose: To give additional support to students who earn minimum competency or failing grades in multiple classes or students who did not show improvement under Academic Contract. Requirements vary depending on individual concerns. Some aspects of Academic Probation include, but are not limited to:

- Student to attend tutoring as needed.
- Required attendance at monthly meetings with a member of the school administrative or academic review team.
- Suspension or limitation of access to off-campus/independent classes such as dual enrollment.
- Other requirements as stated in an individual contract created for the student.

*Students who fail to show significant academic progress may be returned to their zoned high school.*

**Other Sanctions**

Attendance and commitment to the Open High School program are additional areas of great importance to student success. Students who have issues surrounding attendance and/or tardiness or who do not engage in the programming components of Open High School will receive notification of concern. These students will be referred to the School Counselor or another member of the administrative team.

## OHS CONSTITUTION

### Preamble

We, the members of the Open High School Community, do ordain and establish this Constitution to maintain a school where individuality, creativity, and responsibility in learning are encouraged; where the integrity of individuals and groups is respected; and where cooperation is valued over competition; and decision-making power is shared by all members of the Open High School Community.

## **Article I**

The highest form of student government in Open High School is Town Meeting.

### **Section I**

During Town Meeting, all propositions presented to the school must be approved by two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of Town Meeting.

### **Section II**

There must be a minimum of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the student population present in order for anything to be approved at Town Meeting.

### **Section III**

Town Meeting will meet at least once a month. Only Student Representatives, by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote, shall have the authority to call an Emergency Town Meeting. An Emergency Town Meeting shall pertain to the following circumstances:

1. Information that needs to be spread to the students quickly
2. A growing concern that has to be addressed immediately
3. A decision that needs to be made immediately

### **Section IV**

Only Student Representatives (Reps) shall moderate Town Meeting.

### **Section V**

Town Meeting will have the following responsibilities:

1. Making general announcements
2. Governing student activities
3. Give solutions to problems in the Open High School Community
4. Acknowledge inputs from the current staff in regards to the student population as a whole
5. Recognizing students, talents, awards, and accomplishments
6. Vote on proposals and/or committees

### **Section VI**

Attendance at Town Meeting is mandatory.

## **Article II**

Open High School will have a student-led government called Student Representatives (Reps) composed of two (2) representatives from each family and one (1) alternate representative in the case of absence of the original representatives.

### **Section I**

Reps will have the following responsibility:

1. Report the concerns of their Families to Reps
2. Decided where Rep meetings will take place
3. Establish committees to divide the responsibilities of the group
4. Discuss ideas to make the school run more efficiently
5. Plan events such as Town Meeting, Day in the Park, Winterfest, etc.
6. There is to be a designated moderator at every Rep meeting and permanent secretary chosen at the beginning of the year.

7. Opening the meetings up to everyone unless the meeting is deemed as closed, or a conflicting situation occurs that prevents the meeting from being held
8. Work with parent associations, staff meetings, and other school organizations to build upon the functioning of Open High School. A mandatory of two (2) Reps is required to attend each.
9. Create legislation that is necessary and proper for the development of Open High's community and in agreement with the student body.

#### Section II

Reps are to meet at least once (1) a week.

#### Section III

Each Rep shall get one (1) vote in all matters. Alternate Reps may only vote in the case of absence of their official Rep from their Family. The Reps sponsor is allotted one (1) vote, but no other staff member may partake in voting during a Reps meeting.

#### Sectional V

A maximum of two (2) Reps have the right to attend Staff Meeting and are allotted one (1) vote to represent the student body, unless the meeting is deemed as closed or confidential, in matters pertaining to decisions made in Staff Meeting.

#### Section VI

Reps have the power to edit or add any section of the Constitution with the approval of Town Meeting.

### **Article III**

Open High School's student body will have a judicial system called Community Court.

#### Section I

There will be a maximum of seven (7) members of Community Court. They will consist of five (5) students and one (1) staff member that is not official administration personnel, and one (1) optional parent representative. Such staff member must be approved by Reps. There must always be an odd number of judges and a minimum of three (3) judge's ruling on a case. All members of Community Court, including the staff member, shall have one (1) equal vote.

#### Section II

Community Court has the power of Judicial Review and to decide on a verdict for cases presented.

#### Section III

Cases must be presented in writing and brought to the staff member in charge of Community Court.

#### Section IV

A trial brought to Community Court shall follow the following format:

1. The plaintiff shall present their argument and any witness to the Court.
2. The defendant shall present their argument and any witness (es) to the Court.
3. The judges of Community Court shall ask questions to the plaintiff, defendant, and witness if necessary.
4. The Court will make its ruling within one (1) school week of the final hearing.

#### Section V

The court will make its decision by majority vote. The ruling will be presented to the school within five (5) school days, unless the case is deemed confidential by the plaintiff and/or defendant. However, all students have the right to know a case is taking place and the verdict, excluding the stating of specific names for confidential cases.

#### Section VI

Any one has the right to sit and observe a public trial while the Court is in session. If an observer(s) is causing too much of a disturbance, they may be asked to leave.

#### Section VII

No Community Court Member is allowed to judge a case that he or she is personally involved in or there is a conflict of interest. Under such circumstances, he/she must notify the staff member of Community Court.

#### Section VIII

No Community Court member is allowed to be a Rep or Alternate Rep.

#### Section IX

The losing party has the right to appeal the ruling at Staff Meeting and Town Meeting. The appeal process must be approved by Staff Meeting with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority. The staff member that is on Community Court will not vote in the appeal process. The case will then be sent to the Town Meeting which must also approved by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority.

#### Section X

If a party refuses to attend court proceedings, then the Court shall rule in favor of the opposite party.

#### Section XI

Elections for Community Court must be held every new school year.

#### Section XII

An official of Reps or Community Court member who is abusing power, will be put to trial by Reps. An official case will be held in Community Court. An appointed member of Reps will stand in as a judge for said Community Court member involved in the case, and will represent the official vote of all Reps in determining the verdict. Both parties have the right to present all arguments and defenses. Dismissal of an official must be in accordance with  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority from members of Reps and  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Community Court. The official shall be given a two (2) week notice on the verdict; in the meantime, he/she is not allowed to fulfill their position and an elected Rep must stand in their place.

### **Article IV**

The students of Open High School shall be divided into families according to a random draw.

#### Section I

The Open High School Community shall be divided into family units, each under the leadership of a staff member who acts as a family head.

#### Section II

Families shall meet at least once a week. The responsibility of Families will consist of the following:

1. Choose two (2) Reps and one alternate Rep.
2. Inform family members of official announcements administered from OHS
3. Discuss problems that the school and/or students are facing
4. Aiding students who are having any difficulties adjusting to Open High School or have personal complaints
5. Discuss the weekly announcements from Reps
6. Provide a place for students to freely interact and connect with other students within their Family.

#### Section III

All rising seniors will be able to choose their family head prior to the beginning of the school year. Seniors must admit three (3) of their top choices of family heads with the knowledge that not all wishes can be accommodated. There can only be a maximum of five (5) seniors per family head. All other students will be randomly placed into families.

#### Section IV

No student is allowed to switch Families once their family head has been chosen, unless they have a serious conflict with such family head. In such a case, the student may appeal to the Principal.

#### Section V

Two (2) members from each family shall be elected to join their family head to partake in prospective student interviews.

### **Article V**

At the end of every attendance check or at any time determined suitable to the community, those students who have not adjusted well to the Open High School shall be referred to the Peer Counseling Group (PCG). The PCG shall be overseen by the school counselling office at OHS.

#### Section 1

Staff and community court shall determine eligible students based on attendance and behavior reports.

#### Section II

PCG shall meet at least once a week. Attendance shall be mandatory for each student until the group determines that the group is no longer necessary or beneficial to that student.

#### Section III

The Student Representatives shall appoint three (3) students, with the consent of Town Meeting, and the staff shall appoint one (1) member to serve on PCG each new school year. PCG may make recommendations to staff concerning its students and potential members.

#### Section IV

PCG Meetings shall consist of

1. a review of the Open High School Rules and Constitution
2. a review of common problems and experiences of students
3. counseling of students about their problems and habitual behavior
4. advising students on ways to adapt to Open High School
5. exercises in human relations and communications skills

#### Section V

Upon leaving PCG, students shall complete a standard Open High School evaluation form which may be placed in the students' transcripts if so desired. However, no credit shall be awarded for PCG.

### **Article VI**

#### Section I

OHS will have (a minimum of) a 16 week Elective course schedule dedicated to the interests of the OHS community.

#### Section II

Staff members may decide on their course schedule on said elective day, and whether such class is taught in the OHS building.

#### Section III

Classes on said Elective day can be taught by current teachers at OHS, as well as students, with the approval of the Principal and the sponsoring of a current teacher at OHS.

#### Section IV

Choice of electives shall be determined by a random lottery system of the families. All seniors will get first priority within their family.

#### Section V

Elective day will also be the day Town Meeting, Class Meeting, or Staff Meeting will be held.

### **Article VII**

All students at OHS have the right to amend the school's constitution through the following processes.

#### Section I

In order for the constitution to be changed, these steps must be followed:

1. Proposal in Reps
2. Passed by Reps with  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority
3. Voted by  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of the current OHS students at Town Meeting
4. Reps makes the changes to the constitution within two (2) weeks of ratification along with the date it was ratified.

or

1. A proposal is brought to Town Meeting by petition of sixty (60) percent of the current student population
2. Voted in Town Meeting by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the current students of OHS
3. Reps makes the changes to the constitution within two (2) weeks of ratification along with the date it was ratified.

### **Article VIII**

The Constitution applies to everyone that is a part of the Open High School community.

#### Section I

Everyone has access to the Constitution.

#### Section II

The Constitution will always be kept in the office and administered per student request; it shall also be published on the school's website. If there are any changes to the Constitution, all published Constitutions must be updated within two (2) weeks of ratification. One (1) copy of the previous Constitution must be saved by the Sponsor of Reps. All students have access to previous Constitutions.

### ***Constitutional Bylaws***

1. Volunteer Credit: students shall perform thirty (30) hours of community service each year, one hundred and twenty (120) hours over the course of all four (4) years at OHS.
2. Textbooks shall be returned or paid for before report cards and/or transcripts are administered
3. Attendance is mandatory in Class Meeting, Family Meeting, and Town Meeting. If a student misses three (3) consecutive meetings due to unexcused absences, their attendance record will be brought to the attention of the Family Head. The family will review those absences and discuss the situation with the student. If the student continues to disregard Family, Class and/or Town Meetings, the family may decide on appropriate consequences. If the Family Head misses three (3) consecutive meetings due to unexcused absences, the family has the right to discuss said absences and/or bring these absences to the attention of administration
4. All moderators of Town Meeting shall hold a copy of the OHS Constitution

5. The moderator of Town Meeting shall not be allowed to make a proposal while functioning as moderator unless he/she has approval from Reps. In such a case, said moderator must make it known that his/her proposal is not a representation of Reps, but announced as a student of OHS.
6. OHS is required to have a form of lounge for all student access that may serve as an area to study, recreation, and communication. The lounge may be closed by a majority vote of Reps; this decision may be brought, by appeal, to Town Meeting, where it may be overturned by  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Town Meeting. Once closed, the lounge may be reopened by a majority vote of Community Court and/or a detailed agreement stating the deadline for the evacuation of the lounge.
7. Reps is required to maintain an available refrigerator and microwave for student use.
8. The privilege of using other facilities outside of OHS may be taken away for improper use. All privileges taken away are automatically given back at the end of the school year or in accordance with another agreement.
9. The privilege of using school property may be taken away due to improper use or abandonment shall it be deemed necessary. Said property may be returned in agreement of parties or upon the following semester and/or school year.
10. All proposals for class fundraisers and events must have a starting date and be presented via a written source.
11. No eating, drinking, or concession selling in/during Town Meeting.

### ***Bill of Rights***

In order to maintain the tradition and spirit of Open High School, the Bill of Rights contains a list of essential privileges all students, teachers, and staff are granted. The Constitution defines the framework by which a member of the Open High Community may seek redress for their grievance(s). It is the responsibility of all members to uphold these rights.

1. All members of the Open High community have the right to be called by their preferred name.
2. Every member of the Open High community has the right to an assigned space for personal belongings.
3. All students have the right to peacefully assemble/protest their beliefs and opinions.
4. All members of the Open High community have freedom of expression in accordance with the OHS Constitution and RPS Policies.
5. All members of OHS have the right to vote in Town Meeting.
6. All members of OHS have the right to appeal to Community Court.
7. All students are allowed a lunch period off campus unless a scheduling constraint, inclement weather or an outside threat poses a danger to the students
8. Students have the right to a student lounge.
9. Every current student of OHS has the right to attend prom.
10. Each class sponsor and/or officer has the right to know their financial status and to determine the goals/rules of the class in compliance with the OHS Constitution and RPS Policy.