

August 2016

Welcome back to a new school year! Sophomore year should be an exciting one! We are going to be building on the freshmen year and move forward! The sophomore class had a meeting last Thursday and WOW! What a group of great kids! Very positive and high energy! The best class the assistant principal, Mr. Douglas, the class advisor, Mrs. Huber and I have worked with!!

It seems that as your student gets older and more independent (many of the sophomores are driving this year so they are becoming more independent already), communication becomes more important for all of us. Your student needs to take responsibility to communicate with you, their teachers and with me. If they have a question, a concern, are absent from class or need to share information sophomores should be communicating with us. Remind your student we are here to help make high school work better for them this year - so communicate, communicate, communicate!

We are in the process of checking everyone's Schoology account and our Peer Counselors are assisting all new 10-12th graders to make sure their accounts are up and running. Please let us know if you are unable to get your Schoology account working. We kept all accounts from last year for students and parents to access grades, homework, etc. online. Take some time to have your student show you all that is available to you on the Schoology program!

This year the theme for Homecoming is "board games". The sophomore class has chosen the board game "Battleship" for their float. Float construction will start on October 8th. Information will be coming out soon to student and parents regarding the Homecoming activities and sophomore color dress code – students wear their class color to show class spirit. It should be a great year for the sophomore class!

Monday, August 29th is Back to School Night. It will start at 6:30 p.m. and you will have an opportunity to briefly meet your sophomore's teachers to find out what your student will be learning this year in each class and be able to put a teacher's face with a name. Bring your student's schedule of classes so you know which classrooms to attend. I look forward to seeing you here!

I reminded the sophomores that if they are considering going straight to a four year colleges after graduation from RHS, they should pay close attention to their grades this year. This is the first semester of grades the four year colleges will be looking at when considering a student for entrance. The a-g GPA for grades 10-11 as well as the rigor of courses a student takes is important to the colleges. Please take time to review the information in the Academic Planning Guide. The APG is found on the RHS website under the Counseling tab.

Mrs. Tillery from the College and Career Center will be sending out the information regarding the PSAT and the mock PSAT/ACT offered through RHS. These tests will give your sophomore much needed information regarding the SAT and ACT. By taking one of these options sophomore students are able to see their strengths and weaknesses prior to taking the college entrance exams junior year. We do review the results with students who take the test but know the colleges will not see the score results. You should hear from Mrs. Tillery to get the link for

the registration process soon! We should have plenty of space for everyone who wants to take the tests. I encourage you to contact Mrs. Tillery if you have any questions about student options for preparing for the SAT/ACT prior to signing up for the exams

The sophomore class is doing an amazing job with community service hours! There are many community service opportunities coming into our College and Career Center as well as the Counseling Office. If your student is looking for an opportunity to work on this graduation requirement, have your sophomore stop by one of the two offices to pick up a community service form. Remember, the community service must be for a non-profit organization. Sophomores should be turning in their community service hours as they complete the service. If it is an ongoing service, you may want your sophomore to turn in the form on a monthly basis so we can document the hours regularly. RHS does recognize students who have completed 150+ hours with our Distinguished Community Service Award – something you can list on a UC and private college applications as well as on scholarship applications. Keep turning in those forms.

With community service in mind, the annual Thunder Galleria will be held December 12th in the RHS cafeteria. This is a student run holiday event for local underprivileged children. Many clubs and sports teams participate in organizing a booth to participate in the event. Students are also paired up with young children to assist in the “shopping” at the Thunder Galleria. If your student is interested in participating with the Board of Directors for the Thunder Galleria or would like to put together a booth for that night or would like to volunteer time to assist with various parts of the event, please stop by the College and Career Center soon.

Wednesday, August 24th is Club Rush. There will be many different clubs out in the quad area during our extended lunch time to recruit student enrollment. We encourage our students to get involved with clubs on campus! This is a great to make new friends who have similar interests. Have your sophomore join a club or find out how to start a new club by seeing Mr. Thompson, the RHS Activities Director.

Mark your calendars for College Night! This year the event will be held on October 6th at Whitney High School. More information will be coming to you regarding the specifics. Its never too early to start checking out the colleges that interest your sophomore. You might want to spend some time on Naviance with your sophomore to check out the College Super Match program. I highly encourage you to spend time this year on the program to consider the options that fit you and your sophomore best.

If your sophomore has a job please remember they need to have a work permit. All students who are employed must have their work permits to be in compliance with the federal and state labor laws. Work permit applications are available in the College and Career Center and also on the RHS website. Work permits take 2-3 days to process.

Welcome Back! Please take time to stay informed of what is happening on the RHS campus this year. You can check the RHS website regularly or join us on twitter.

Sincerely,
Ms. Carr