

January , 2023

Dear Eighth Grade Students and Families:

We are working closely with the RCMS administrators to guarantee that our placement expectations and recommendations continue to be consistent with the demands and rigor of high school. All classes, regardless of the level, are designed to address college preparation. This letter will inform you of the many factors that go into placement considerations for high school so that both students and parents/guardians have an opportunity to plan accordingly throughout the school year and the course selection process.

As you may be aware, students in eighth-grade classes will be placed in either Honors or College Prep (CP) classes for their freshman year of high school. Students are placed in classes where they will succeed and grow. Many considerations go into the placement of students. Students need a placement that will maximize the likelihood of their success in each particular course. This placement is critical especially in consideration of all the other courses a student is taking as well as ensuring to leave time for other academic pursuits and team sports and/or other activities both inside and outside of school.

*Students are recommended for placement in all classes that best fit the student's learning style; degree of academic and behavioral independence; their seriousness of purpose; organizational skills; persistence as a learner in challenging situations; their ability to think abstractly and creatively; and their reading and writing ability. Consistent homework completion, class participation, and effort are very important considerations as well.*

You will hear more about the course selection process during the Randolph High School Course Selection Parent/Guardian Night in the spring. For now, we want to stress the importance of the multitude of factors that determine and impact our recommendation; the overall average maintained throughout the academic year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade is only **one** factor, among many, when considering placement for next year.

The following characteristics are highlighted for your consideration:

1. Consistent homework completion showing quality, consistency, and accuracy
2. Reading level at time of placement (iReady)
3. Writing skills, including informational and persuasive writing
4. Degree of independence (i.e. the ability to successfully work unsupervised)
5. Intellectual curiosity (i.e. an in-depth interest in that particular subject area)
6. Abstract reasoning, creative thinking, and problem solving skills
7. Organizational skills
8. Attendance, participation and effort in class, both individually and collaboratively
9. A seriousness of purpose and a growth mindset
10. Grade Point Average (GPA) for three terms

Our expectation is that all students will graduate from high school college and career ready. To achieve that goal, we want all of your children to be appropriately challenged and successful in their high school classes. As individual teachers make individual recommendations about individual courses, only you and your child will initially see what those collective recommendations would mean for your child's academic schedule for their ninth grade year at RHS.

If after going through the process of high school course selection, you have questions about the recommendation made by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in any course, please reach out to that teacher to ask your questions and to receive more information about the recommendation. If you have questions in general about the process, please feel free to reach out to me at any point.

We look forward to working with you as the transition to high school begins for the Class of 2027!!

Sincerely,

William Conard, Ed.D.