

RIVERHEAD HIGH SCHOOL

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February, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we enter the second half of the school year, it is imperative that we examine our accomplishments as well as our areas of need, as we plan for the next school year. Your continued input is essential to this process. If any of us at Riverhead High School can help further support your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Please review the following information with your child:

1. Student Scheduling

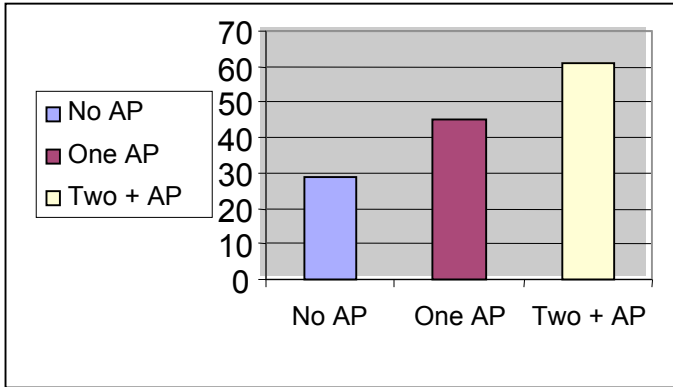
A great deal of time, care, and effort is devoted to assuring that each student is placed into an educational program that will best meet his or her individual needs. Input is sought from students, parents, teachers, and counselors. The scheduling process is a lengthy one, starting in December and ending in July. It is the goal of the staff, through this process, to ensure a smooth opening of the new school year, one marked by a minimum of disruptions due to schedule changes. Any changes in these course selections must be submitted in writing by the student and parent to his/her guidance counselor prior to **June 1st**. **THERE WILL BE NO STUDENT/PARENT INITIATED SCHEDULE CHANGES AFTER JUNE 27th**. Our students must be committed to their course selections as we design a schedule for the next school year that is student centered and fiscally responsible.

2. Get Ready Now To Succeed In College

A number of studies show that students who take Advanced Placement (AP) courses are much more likely to earn a bachelor's degree. In fact, the U.S. Department of Education found that students participating in rigorous, college-level courses in high school – and specifically AP courses – are much more likely to complete college.

What's the difference between AP and other College-Prep or Honors Courses? Many schools have created valuable honors courses for their student's, however AP courses are the only ones actually designed by teams of college professors, who work alongside secondary school teachers.

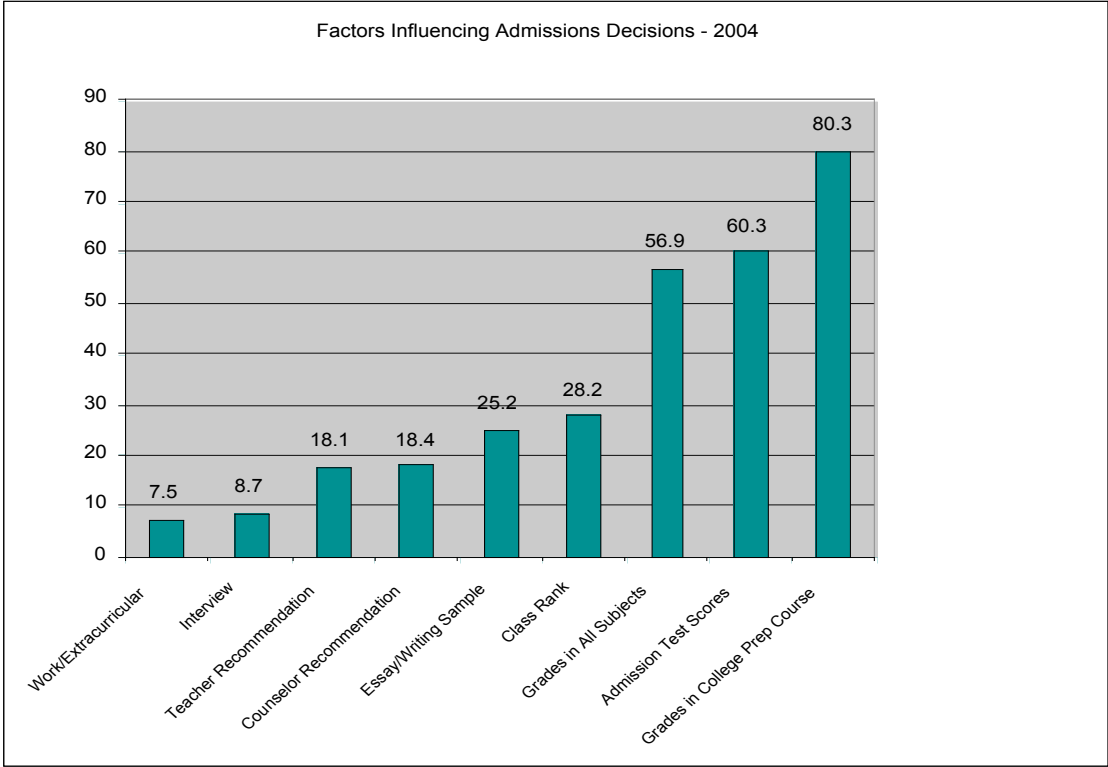
As Clifford Adelman said in his national research, *Answers in the Tool Box: Academic Intensity, Attendance Patterns, and Bachelor's Degree Attainment* (1996), U.S. Department of Education, the results are clear and depicted in the graphs below. There is no question that student achievement is directly related to the quality of instruction and the rigor of the courses we provide to our students.



AP and College Success
 Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely than their peers to complete a bachelor's degree in four years or less.*

Source: Camera, Wayne (2003), *College Persistence, Graduation, and Remediation. College Board Research Notes (RN-19)*
 New York, NY: College Board

Percent earning a bachelor's degree in less than four years



National Association for College Admission Counseling, 2005

Why should students take an AP Class if they are not looking to earn credit or placement? Make no mistake about it, college admission committees look for AP coursework as an indication of a student's academic commitment and achievement. Even if earning college credit or placement isn't your goal, you can still benefit from taking AP classes. The AP Exams provide colleges and universities with additional information about a student's ability to succeed in college-level study. "AP Exams affirm the rigor of a student's course work. Though admissions policies vary, if I were a student, I wouldn't assume that the college of my dreams didn't care about AP Exam grades in the admission process."

- Bruce Walker, Vice Provost and Director of Admissions, University of Texas

Did you know that, "One in four freshmen at four-year colleges doesn't return for his or her sophomore year, according to the Education Trust, a nonprofit group that promotes higher academic achievement. One in two freshmen at two-year colleges does not return." - Cara Solomon, *College-Prep Expectations Don't Mesh with Realities*, Seattle Times. It is our obligation to provide the kind of high school education that serves as the foundation of success for a college education. Together, we will achieve this.

3. School Visitors

Please be advised any adult entering the school building will be asked to present photo identification and sign-in when entering the school building. You will then be asked to wait for an escort. We appreciate your attention to this procedure as we try to ensure the safest environment for your children.

4. Student Absence

If your child is absent, please document it with the attendance office by either calling (631) 369-6745 the day of the absence or send in an absence note with your child upon his/her return to school. The absence note should include the child's first and last name, the date and reason for the absence. I would also like to introduce the appointment of our new neighbor aide, Mr. Don Nelson. Mr. Nelson and the school administration have and will continue to conduct home visits and "neighborhood drives" to proactively combat excessive lateness and truancy. Thank you for your time and cooperation with these procedures.

5. Hall Sweeps

At any time during the school day, a hall sweep may be conducted. Hall sweeps are conducted after the late bell to make certain all students are in their respective classroom. Every child must understand how important it is to be prompt to class. The normal consequence for lateness is PM detention.

6. "Caught You Doing Good" Dance

The Council For Unity sponsored a "Caught You Doing Good" Dance on Thursday, February 7th. Students earned a ticket to the dance based on the following criteria:

- Academic & behavioral eligibility
- Possessed satisfactory attendance

The dance was a success!

7. Student ID's

Students are asked to possess a school issued ID card on a daily basis. Students may be asked, at any time, by any school employee to provide a school issued ID card. Juniors and seniors must have their school ID to leave school grounds during their lunch period. This procedure is in place to try to ensure the safest environment for the school building and more importantly the students at Riverhead High School.

8. Open Campus

Credit bearing juniors and seniors have the privilege of leaving school grounds during their designated lunch period. Once again, a school issued ID card must be shown to leave school grounds during this time.

9. Dismissal

At the conclusion of the school day, a RHS student has a variety of extra curricular opportunities such as teacher assisted extra help, clubs, activities, athletics, etc. We ask that students do not leave the school building at dismissal and return to either take the 4:00 p.m. bus or enter an extra curricular activity late. We want to ensure the safest environment possible for our students and we want to make sure a student can be accounted for at the end of the school day. A student jeopardizes his/her opportunity to ride the school bus if the above scenario takes place.

10. Black History Month / Unity Celebration

On Thursday, February 28th, Riverhead High School will conduct a Black History / Unity Celebration at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Please join us!

11. PTSO Meeting – February 28th

The next PTSO Meeting will be conducted on Thursday, February 28th, in the Riverhead High School auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Presenters during the evening will be Robyn Gaston-Berger - mental health initiative and James Verdisco -exercise physiologist.

12. **Youth and Family Workshop presented by Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy invite Riverhead Parents**

Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy in conjunction with The Suffolk County Youth Services Project Director's Association and the Suffolk County Youth Bureau are presenting "Now More Than Ever Families Together..." a youth and family development training on Monday, February 18th from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Holtsville. For more information please call (631) 360 – 7595.

13. **SAT and ACT Exam Information – Please review dates with your child**

February 9th – ACT – this exam will not be given at RHS

March 1st – SAT – at RHS at 7:15 a.m.

March 7th – ACT registration for April 12th exam

April 1st – SAT registration for May 3rd exam

April 12th – ACT – at RHS at 7:15 a.m.

May 3rd – SAT – at RHS at 7:15 a.m.

May 6th – SAT – registration for June 7th exam – this exam will not be given at RHS

May 9th – ACT registration for June 14th exam

June 7th – SAT - this exam will not be given at RHS

June 14th – ACT – at RHS at 7:15 a.m.

14. **Please Join Us - Important February Dates:**

Thursday, February 7th - 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM - Council for Unity Dance – HS Cafeteria

Friday, February 8th – 8:00 PM – 11:00 PM - Interact Club Dodge Ball Competition – HS Gym

Tuesday, February 12th – 7:30 PM - Board of Education meeting – HS Auditorium

Monday, February 18th – Friday, February 22nd – Mid-Winter Recess – School Closed

Monday, February 25th - Thursday, February 28th – 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM - Adult Education Registration

Tuesday, February 26th – 7:30 PM – Board of Education meeting – HS Auditorium

Thursday, February 28th – 7:00 PM - Black History / Unity Celebration in the HS Auditorium

Thursday, February 28th – 7:30 PM – PTSO meeting – HS Auditorium

15. **Upcoming March Dates:**

Sunday, March 9th – Daylight Savings time begins

Tuesday, March 11th – 7:30 PM Board of Education Meeting – HS Auditorium

Tuesday, March 11th – 7:30 PM – High School Winter Concert, Hovey Hall, Pulaski St. School

Tuesday, March 18th – Awareness Day/Essential Skills

Tuesday, March 18th – 7:30 PM – Board of Education Meeting - HS Auditorium

Thursday, March 20th – Monday, March 24th – Easter Recess – School Closed

Tuesday, March 25th – 7:30 PM - Board of Education Meeting – HS Auditorium

Thursday, March 27th – 7:30 PM – PTSO meeting – HS Library

I would like to congratulate Mr. Robert Jester on being named the Channel 55 New York Lottery Teacher of the Week. I would also like to congratulate our students on some of their recent achievements.

- A number of our athletic teams were recognized as Scholar/Athlete Teams with grade point averages over 90%.

- A number of our athletic teams were honored with the Sportsmanship Award.

- RHS defeated East Islip HS in the News 12/Cablevision Long Island Challenge. The second round match will take place March 7th. We wish our team good luck during the next academic competition.

- We had students compete and win at the Deloitte Challenge. The competition focuses on ethics, decision making, money and business. The winners will be moving on to the New York State competition.

- We had a student place second in the New York State TESOL Annual Essay Contest.

Please visit our school website for more information regarding the above items as well as other RHS happenings

I look forward to working with you and your children for many years to come and hearing their stories of success.

Respectfully,

Mr. Zimbler
Principal