

# SCHOOL COUNSELING FAST FAQS

## **READING YOUR SCHEDULE**

### **How do ABCD Days work?**

Some of our classes (English, Math, RD 101, Chorus and Band) run on an ABCD rotation. A rotation is four days long and continues throughout the school year. While your English and Math classes will meet every day, you will also have additional time in these classes scheduled during the ABCD rotation. RD 101 will meet twice during the rotation. ABCD days are announced on morning announcements and are posted outside our main office.

### **Is Period 5/6 or 6/7 a double period?**

No, although your schedule states a Period 5/6 (if you are an 8th grader) or 6/7 (if you are a 7th grader) this does not mean it is two periods long. These periods are listed this way because at some point in between the period a bell rings dismissing one of the grades to lunch (Period 5 lunch for 7th graders and Period 7 lunch for 8th graders).

### **Where can I find my locker number and combination?**

When your final schedule is available in August, you will see a three digit number on the top left of your schedule. The three digit number is your locker number. The set of numbers that follow in parenthesis is the combination. Be sure to take a look at our Locker Tutorial on the RDMS Website for instructions on how to open your locker!

### **Who is my School Counselor?**

For the 2022-2023 school year, Mrs. Binder will be the School Counselor for 7th grade and Ms. Ross will be the School Counselor for 8th grade. Your School Counselor will be assigned to you for the two years you are here at RDMS.

## **GETTING READY FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR**

### **How will I know what my homework is for each class?**

During each class, your teacher will inform you of any homework to complete and will post it in the classroom. We recommend writing it down in a calendar or planner. In addition, each teacher's Week-At-A-Glance (accessed from the website under Staff Directory), will include important information for class, such as homework and upcoming projects as well as information about tests and quizzes. Please be sure to check each of your teachers' websites every night!

## **SCHOOL COUNSELING FAST FAQs – Cont’d.**

### **When are teachers available for extra help?**

Teachers are generally available before (by appointment) or after school for extra help each day of the week, except on Wednesday. If you have a question about an assignment, test, or quiz—simply ask your teacher for help! Be sure to check with your teacher when he or she is available; this information can also be found on their River Dell website.

### **How can my parents speak with one of my teachers?**

Every teacher can be reached directly by telephone or e-mail; contact information is available on each teachers’ River Dell website. If you need assistance getting in touch with a teacher, contact your School Counselor.

### **HOUSEKEEPING QUESTIONS**

#### **What is OneNote?**

OneNote is an interactive and collaborative online notebook, part of the Microsoft Office Suite. OneNote allows students access to their teachers’ digital content and resources while in school and at home. Parents can access their child’s homework, assignments, notes, assessments, and projects in OneNote by visiting each teacher’s River Dell website.

#### **What is Genesis?**

Genesis is our student information system. In Genesis, we keep record of your demographics, contact information, attendance, schedule, and grades, among other things. Through the Genesis Parent Portal, parents/guardians have access to their child’s attendance and grades so that they can stay informed. Progress Reports and Report Cards are also available through Genesis. All new families will receive their login information over the summer prior to the start of the new school year.

#### **What is Community Pass?**

Community Pass is our system of collecting important forms and fees. Forms should be completed prior to the start of school. Every family must pay a \$75 fee annually per student for laptop insurance coverage. If a student is interested in participating in any of our clubs or sports, an annual \$50 fee is required. This one fee allows a student to participate in as many clubs or sports as they would like. All new students will receive Community Pass registration information over the summer prior to the start of the new school year.

## **SCHOOL COUNSELING FAST FAQs – Cont’d.**

### **What if my contact information changes during the year?**

If you have a change in address, telephone number, or e-mail, it is important that you let us know! Please notify the School Counseling office so that we may ensure your records are up to date in both Genesis and Community Pass.

### **What do I do if I am absent or know that I am going to be absent?**

If you know you are going to be absent, a parent/guardian must notify the school. We offer two convenient methods:

1. *Contact the Attendance office (preferably before 7:30 a.m.) by calling 201-599-7200, ext. 7286, each day you are absent, or*
2. *On the Genesis Parent Portal, click ATTENDANCE, then click NOTIFY ATTENDANCE OFFICE and fill out the required information online, anytime day or night.*

If you are absent due to a communicable illness, you must bring a doctor’s note and report to the Nurse’s office upon entering the building. Please visit the Health Services tab under Quick Links on the Middle School website for information concerning administering medication in school, health issues, etc. When you are absent, we encourage you to check the teachers’ websites for anything you might have missed in class. If you are absent for an extended period of time, please call the Attendance line to report your absence. When you return to school, it is important to speak with each of your teachers to discuss due dates for homework/assessments you might have missed while you were absent.

### **What do I do if I am going to be late to school?**

*If you are going to be late to school, a parent/guardian must call the Attendance office to notify the school at 201-599-7200, ext. 7286. Upon arrival to school, you must sign in at the Main office and obtain a late pass for class.*

### **What do I do if I have to leave early?**

If you are leaving early, you must bring a note to the Main office (preferably during homeroom) indicating the time of your pick up. You will receive an Early Dismissal pass. You will then report to the Main office to await for your parent/guardian to sign you out.

## **SCHOOL COUNSELING FAST FAQs – Cont’d.**

### **MATH PLACEMENT**

#### **My child is entering 7th grade in the fall. How is his/her Math placement determined for 7th grade?**

If a student satisfies both of the criteria below, the student is placed into Advanced Math 7; otherwise, the student is placed into Math 7.

- 6th Grade Math Class Test Average  $\geq 90\%$
- Linkit Form B  $\geq 80\%$

#### **My child currently is a 7th grader at RDMS. How is his/her Math placement determined for 8th grade?**

- If a student is currently in Math 7 and has an assessment average of  $< 84\%$ , the student is placed in Math 8.
- If a student is currently in Math 7 and has an assessment average of  $\geq 84\%$ , the student is placed in Advanced Math 8.
- If a student is currently in Advanced Math 7 and has an assessment average of  $< 85\%$ , the student is placed in Advanced Math 8.
- If a student is currently in Advanced Math 7 and has an assessment average  $\geq 85\%$ , the student is placed in Honors Algebra 1.

#### **My child is in Honors Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Does he/she take the 8th grade NJSLA Math 8 test or the NJSLA Algebra 1 test?**

Students enrolled in Honors Algebra 1 are taught both 8th grade Math content and high school Algebra 1 content. However, the student only takes one NJSLA Test—the Algebra 1 NJSLA test.

#### **How does a *teacher recommendation* impact my child’s Math placement?**

- If a student has achieved the average for placement in a level, a recommendation is not needed. For example, if the assessment average for placement into the Honors Algebra 1 class is 85 and the student has that assessment average, he/she is placed in the Honors section. No teacher recommendation is required.
- If a student falls short of a cutoff, but the teacher feels that the student is capable of doing the work, the teacher may recommend up.
- If a student or parent is not satisfied with the Math placement, the student or parent can contact the Math Supervisor, Jen Ali, to discuss any questions, concerns or requests.
- Please see the MATH PATHWAYS chart on page 13 for an overview of the most frequently taken paths in Math for grades 7 through 12.

## **SCHOOL COUNSELING FAST FAQs – Cont'd.**

### **SCHOOL COUNSELING FAST FAQs SUMMARY**

We have an Open Door Policy at RDMS, which means you are welcomed and encouraged to visit with your counselor to discuss any issues which may arise. Since you will have the same counselor for both 7th and 8th grades, they will be your main contact at RDMS.

We hope the SCHOOL COUNSELING FAST FAQs have answered many of your questions. Please feel free to contact us with any other questions that may arise at 201-599-7255.