CLASS OF 2017
FOUR YEAR PLANS &
NINTH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS
This presentation is designed to assist current 8th grade parents and students with the high school scheduling process. During this process, if you have any questions, please see the last slide for contact information.
2013-2014 SCHEDULING TIMELINE

• ROJH Counselors will explain all information included in this PowerPoint to students in English classes:
  • February 11 Patterson
  • February 13 McConnell, Lopez
  • February 14 Smith
  • February 15 Jordan

• Red Oak High School is hosting a parent session and Elective Fair for current 8th graders on February 28.

• All 8th grade students should return a completed four year plan and 9th grade course worksheet to their English teacher by March 18th.

• 9th grade courses will be entered into the computer through English classes:
  • March 18 Patterson
  • March 19 Smith
  • March 20 Jordan
  • March 21 McConnell, Lopez
COURSE CATALOG AND CAREER INVENTORY

• 2013-2014 Course Catalog
  • The Course Catalog can be downloaded at www.redoakisd.org. Click on “search” at the top right. Type in “course catalog” in the search box. Click on the 2013-2014 version.
  • We highly recommend that every family read the section entitled “General Information” (pages 4-28)
  • All students need to read all core and elective options. These will not be covered in detail in class due to time constraints.

• Career Interest Inventory
  • All 8th grade students have been assigned a Career Cruising account to use for their benefit throughout high school and through college application processes.
  • A 39 question Career Interest Inventory is available for students to take in order to determine what careers match their interests. Students who complete this inventory will receive one free homework pass to use in a core class for the 5th six weeks.
  • Instructions and login information for completing the career inventory is on a handout which will be given in class during the counselors’ visit.
Credit - a term which indicates that the course was successfully completed

- In order to receive “credit” in high school a student has to achieve a 70 or above in the course AND be present at least 90% of the time in the class. If a student does not have at least 90% attendance in a class, a student can lose credit for a class and have to repeat the class even if their grade average is passing.

- Each high school course is assigned a certain number of credits. A one year class can earn 1 credit. A one semester class can earn ½ a credit (.5). A one year class that meets for two periods in a row can earn 2 credits, etc. (Please see catalog for exceptions)
HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION VOCABULARY

• **Transcript**- an academic record which indicates the final semester average for each high school class taken, the credit(s) earned for each class, and the total number of credits. A transcript covers all high school credit classes taken from 7-12th grade. Unlike a report card, it does not show six weeks averages, teachers, periods, or semester exam grades. A transcript is what colleges will ask for during the application process.
HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION VOCABULARY

- **Four Year Plan** –

A “Plan” - a place to start, a goal to aim for, a changeable, tentative, and flexible organizer for all four years of high school

It is **not** set in stone. It is **not** unchangeable. It is **not** a permanent contract.

However, without a plan, how would you know what you should take now? Everyone needs a plan to succeed!
HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION VOCABULARY

• **Graduation Plan**

• *In the state of Texas, there are three plans that a student can follow towards a high school diploma: 1) Minimum 2) Recommended 3) Distinguished*

• The Minimum Graduation Plan is for special circumstances and must have a counselor and administrator approval. *(Therefore we will not discuss this plan further in the training).*

• The Recommended Graduation Plan will be followed by the majority of students. The state assigns the classes that you must have to graduate with a diploma. It is your responsibility to make sure that these classes are on your four year plan and eventually on your schedule for 9th-12th grade.

• The Distinguished Graduation Plan is for students who want to go above the Recommended requirements. In addition to the Recommended requirements, there are some advanced measures that you will have to achieve. We will talk about this later.
This worksheet will be used to choose your schedule options for ninth grade. Every year, you will receive an equal opportunity to choose the schedule options for the following year. In the 9th-12th grade, if the scheduling options do not mirror your four year plan, you will change your four year plan to match your real schedule. As you keep up with the changes, your counselor at the high school will be able to help you make better decisions and help you ensure that you are taking all of the necessary courses to graduate.

The Red Oak High School Course Worksheet for ninth grade is lime green in color. After you complete and turn in this form, we will help you use the form in the computer lab to enter your course selections into the database.

You will not be able to select the periods and teachers, but entering the information will help the counselors to have your course selections in quickly and efficiently. By the time you are seniors, you may be able to schedule your own periods and select your own teachers. The future is exciting!
HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION VOCABULARY

- Career Pathways (CATE):

  Red Oak High School has many elective options. Several of these options follow a career path. For example, if you want to be a cosmetologist, there is a required path of courses that you must take in order to complete the entire program that leads to this vocation. By completing some programs, you can receive a certification (which is faster and less expensive than going to technical school after graduation). Research all of these options in the course catalog before you decide on any elective. (CATE stands for Career and Technology Education)
HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION VOCABULARY

• **Early Release/Late Arrival**-

  For juniors and seniors who are not missing credits and who have passed the EOCs, they can select “Early Release” or “Late Arrival” for one period as a junior or two periods as a senior in place of a class. These students leave school to work at a job or on their homework. It pays to turn in your work, study for tests, and to always do your best!
Choose a graduation plan. In general, students in all regular classes (without any advanced courses) are typically on the Recommended Plan, but you may choose as long as you meet requirements for each (see page 5-7 of the course catalog). If you are unsure, you can change your mind, but it is easier to start with Distinguished and go back to Recommended rather than planning on Recommended and then going to Distinguished. Remember that the Distinguished Plan requires (in addition to classes) a combination of four advanced measure which are listed on page 4 of the Course Catalog).

Once you know your plan, review the requirements for your plan so that you know which classes you have to have in order to graduate. Not following this plan would prevent you from graduating even if all of the classes you take are passing. For example, if you do not have one year of Fine Arts, you wouldn’t graduate.

COUNSELORS WILL COME BACK TO THE ENGLISH CLASSES 2-3 DAYS AFTER THE FIRST VISIT TO ASK STUDENTS WHICH PLAN THEY ARE CHOOSING. STUDENTS WILL THEN BE GIVEN A TEMPLATE OF THEIR PLAN TO FILL OUT AND TURN IN ON MARCH 18th. STUDENTS WILL ONLY HAVE A SAMPLE PLAN UNTIL THEN.
LET’S BEGIN

• STEP TWO

• Complete the Career Interest Inventory online. This will help you to focus your attention in key elective areas. This is fun and easy and you receive a free homework pass for completing it. If you do not have internet access, please contact Vickie Holmes to help you reserve a computer after school one day.

• This should be used as a guide to help you to make educated decisions about your elective classes. Sometimes it is overwhelming because there are so many choices. It is recommended that you focus on an area that aligns with your interests, talents, and passion.

• Website: www.careercruising.com

• Username: RED-student id#

• Password: mm/dd/yyyy (student’s birthday)
LET’S BEGIN

• STEP THREE

Read the Course Catalog. Review all course options. Pay attention to the number of credits (a ½ credit means you need two one semester classes to fill a whole year). Pay attention to when you can take the class. You cannot put a class that is for 11th and 12th graders in your four year plan under 10th grade.
LET’S BEGIN

• STEP FOUR:

Make a list of questions and bring your list to The ROHS Parent session and Elective Fair on February 28th at Red Oak High School. Visit all tables (even the ones you have not considered to be of interest to you). Ask questions, meet high school staff, have fun! After this event, if you have any questions that are unanswered, please email Vickie Holmes.
LET’S BEGIN

• STEP FIVE

With a parent/guardian, begin discussing your four year plan and ninth grade schedule. Complete the Four Year Plan and the High School Course Worksheet (green). Remember that your required Principles class in 9th grade should correspond to the electives you choose in 10th-12th grade. Continue the PowerPoint for detailed instructions.
COMPLETING THE FOUR YEAR PLAN

• Choose a four year plan that matches your graduation plan and situation. A counselor will bring you a template that matches the plan you choose 2-3 days after the initial classroom visit by the counselors.

• Do not change the core classes that are typed in on your plan. These are correct for now. There will be substitutions you can make after ninth grade** (as you will see in reading pages 5-7 of the course catalog), but for simplicity, please follow the typed sequence. Remember this is just a plan. Your actual schedule each year will be on a course worksheet.

• Fill in the blanks for each open line on the preliminary four year plan.

• Make sure to follow the correct sequence of courses (if applicable) paying attention to the prerequisite requirements in the catalog.

• ** before you graduate, other options may be added to the catalog and almost everyone will, in some ways, have changes to their preliminary four year plan. It is important now that you understand how the plan works and plan accordingly for a career pathway if desired.
COMPLETING THE ROHS COURSE WORKSHEET - CORE COURSES SECTION

• Print your name
• Under “Core Courses”, check one of the available options for an English class.
• Check one of the available options for a Biology class
• Check one of the available options for a math class (all students who were NOT enrolled in Algebra I (High School credit) in 8th grade MUST check Algebra I). This includes all PreAlgebra PreAP students and Math 8 students. It is required to graduate, and it must be taken in 9th grade if it was not taken and passed in 8th grade. For the students who are in Geometry in the 8th grade, please write in “Algebra II” or “Algebra II PreAP”.
• Check one of the available options for World Geography
Students who are not enrolled in SPANISH I HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT in 8th grade, MUST check one of the following:

- Spanish I
- French I
- American Sign Language

(In the four year plan, in the 10th grade column, you will write in the next level of the class you choose here)

Students who are enrolled and passing SPANISH I HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT in 8th grade, MUST check:

Spanish II

For Spanish II students wanting another language, you may finish the two required years (Recommended Plan) or three required years (Distinguished Plan) of Spanish and then begin another language or you may take American Sign Language as an elective in your four year plan simultaneously with Spanish. It is not recommended that you take Spanish and French simultaneously.

* If you are fluent in Spanish, you may write in “Spanish for Native Speakers” in this section
COMPLETING THE ROHS COURSE WORKSHEET- FINE ART SECTION

• All students must check ONE of the following:

  • Band
  • Art
  • Choir
  • Theater
  • Dance (if Dance is chosen in this section, it will count as the student’s fine art credit. If it is chosen in the PE section, it will count as the student’s PE credit. The class is the same in both sections; the difference is how it is counted towards your graduation plan).
COMPLETING THE ROHS COURSE WORKSHEET - PE/ATHLETICS

• All students must check **ONE** of the following:
  • PE
  • Football
  • Basketball
  • Volleyball
  • Softball
  • Aerobic Dance (if Dance is chosen in this section, it will count as the student’s PE credit. If it is chosen in the Fine Art section, it will count as the student’s Fine Art credit. The class is the same in both sections; the difference is how it is counted towards your graduation plan).
  • NJROTC
  • Golf
  • Tennis
  • Track
  • Soccer
  • Baseball

• A STUDENT PLAYING MORE THAN ONE SPORT NEEDS TO CHECK THE SPORT THAT THEY ARE STARTING THE YEAR WITH (FOOTBALL IS BEFORE BASKETBALL, ETC.) REMEMBER MOST ATHLETICS REQUIRE A TEAM SELECTION PROCESS. SEE CATALOG FOR DETAILS.
COMPLETING THE ROHS COURSE WORKSHEET- OTHER ELECTIVES

• All students MUST choose at least ONE “Principles” class.

• Most Principles classes are one semester. If the class you choose is one semester, you MUST choose another one semester class. Remember that Speech is required to graduate; this is an option to take with the Principles class to get this requirement out of the way. Principles of Health also counts for the Health requirement.

• HOWEVER, Principles classes are the first level of CATE Career Pathway Classes. If you are interested in a Career Pathway, you MUST take the Principles class that matches that Pathway. (See pages 22-26 in the catalog)

• (Also see Prerequisite requirements under the elective course you are interested in as a junior/senior).
COMPLETING THE ROHS COURSE WORKSHEET- ALTERNATE SECTION

• Just like in junior high, the classes you select:
  • 1) May not have enough students enrolled to keep the class
  • 2) May have more students than available seats (juniors and seniors get priority)
  • 3) May have a conflict with another class in your schedule

Therefore, it is to your benefit, to let the high school counselor, Mrs. Osborne, know what class to replace another class with in one of these situations (above) by filling in the alternate lines at the bottom of the green form. When at all possible, she will use one of these classes if needed rather than randomly selecting for you. (In some instances these classes may not work with your schedule and she may still need to adjust your schedule. However filling this out gives you a greater chance of getting what you request).

*Fill in an alternate class of your choice in blanks one and two at the bottom of the page continuing to keep in mind your requirement for a fine art, PE, and principles class.

THE COURSE WORKSHEET AND FOUR YEAR PLAN ARE DUE ON MARCH 18 IN YOUR ENGLISH CLASS
ENCOURAGEMENT

• Entering high school can be exciting and scary for both students and parents. Following the below list can help ease your mind and make the transition calm and fun:

• Start the process as soon as possible. There is too much information to plan correctly in one week. You have five weeks to work on it - manage your time and make a plan to complete it by March 18th.

• Go step by step. Don’t skip a step. Participate in all opportunities to help you have all of the information (including reading the course catalog, completing the career interest inventory, and attending the Elective Fair).

• If you get frustrated or overwhelmed, stop and email Vickie Holmes with your questions. Please allow 24 hours for a response. In the meantime, spend time with your family without worrying about it.

• If you do not have internet access, contact Vickie Holmes. We will schedule a convenient time in the computer lab for you.

• The staff at ROJH has sincerely enjoyed the class of 2017, and you will be greatly missed! We wish you the best in your high school planning, high school career, and future ventures!
DURING THE PROCESS, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

- Questions involving general inquiries, deadlines, career interest inventory, homework passes, four year plan structure/changes, course worksheet, rare situations, elective fair, and course catalog:
  
  Vickie Holmes, 8th grade Counselor vickie.holmes@redoakisd.org

  or Paula Barnes, 7th grade Counselor paula.barnes@redoakisd.org

If the question requires additional assistance, the above counselors will forward your question to the appropriate high school staff member.

- Athletic questions: Johnny Johnson, ROJH Athletics johnny.johnson@redoakisd.org

- Specific advice on which level (PreAP or regular) of a core class to take: Please see page 16-17 of the course catalog or contact your child’s 8th grade teacher in that subject

- STAAR EOC Questions for high school: Bring your questions to the parent session at the ROHS Elective Fair, visit the TEA website, or contact Vickie Ratliff at Red Oak High School (victoria.ratliff@redoakisd.org). The state has the ability to change requirements during legislative sessions. The answers that we have now may change.

- Please allow 24 hours for a response