

**“Richmond Academy”
Grade 8 Parent/Guardian
Meeting**

April 4, 2017



Meeting Agenda

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Transition Planning
- ❖ Description of Grade 9 Program
- ❖ *Discovering Opportunities*
- ❖ Information Items
- ❖ Question and Answer Period
- ❖ Building Tour (if you're interested)

2016-2017 Staff

- ❖ Principal – Lois Landry
- ❖ Vice Principal – Jason MacLean
- ❖ Guidance Counsellor – Margie MacMillan
- ❖ Resource and YSF staff:
 - ❖ Deanna Martell, Paula Landry, Heidi LeRoux, Danielle O'Brien, Joey Samson
 - ❖ Teaching staff (this year=32.4 FTEs)

Transition Planning

- ❖ Grade 8 - 9 Transition:
 - Vice Principal, Student Services, & Guidance visit feeder schools to gather information
 - Includes EREC and REC
 - YSF students may make several visits
- ❖ Orientation Day – Wed., May 10, 2017

A note about REC

- Our school functions on a “School within a School” basis, so although students from the western end of the county are already IN this building, our goal is to have them see high school as a “new place”
- There will be almost as many changes for them as for students from EREC

Grade 9 School Day

8:45-9:50	Period 1
9:50-10:55	Period 2
10:55-11:10	Recess
11:10-12:15	Period 3
12:15-12:55	Lunch
12:55-1:40	Period 4
1:40-2:40	Period 5

Grade 9 English Program: Across 4 days

- ❖ 4 periods Math
- ❖ 4 periods English Language Arts
- ❖ 2.5 periods Science*
- ❖ 2.5 periods Social Studies*
- ❖ 2 periods French or Mi'kmaw Language
- ❖ 2 periods Phys. Ed. (every second day)
- ❖ 2 periods of Electives or Health in rotation
 - PE and electives are in boy/girl groupings
 - Electives in one semester, Health in the other
 - 1 period of Career Development

Grade 9 French Immersion Program

- ❖ 4 periods Math
- ❖ 3 periods English Language Arts
- ❖ 2.5 periods Science*
- ❖ 2.5 periods Social Studies*
- ❖ 4 periods Français
- ❖ 2 periods Phys. Ed. (every second day)
- ❖ 2 periods of Electives or Health in rotation
 - PE and electives are in boy/girl groupings
 - Electives in one semester, Health in the other
 - 1 period of Career Development

Electives in 2017-2018

- Students will likely get to select from several possible electives.
- This will allow them to explore courses that may interest them in high school
- Each elective that they choose will be offered by gender (e.g., boys or girls only) and for about 2.5 months
- Students will cycle through these electives on their orientation visit

Sample Schedule

Period	Day A	Day B	Day C	Day D
1	English	Health Art/Music	Math	Science
2	Phys. Ed	Math	Social Studies	English
3	Math	Science	English	Career Dev't
4	Math	Science	English	Health Art/Music
5	Social Studies	French Français Mi'kmaq	Phys. Ed.	French Français Mi'kmaq

Common Question

- ◎ How are Homerooms Selected?
 - Immersion students are in one class
 - Discovering Opportunities 9 is in another (more on this program later)
 - The remaining students are dispersed by administration based on recommendations by grade 8 staff or our experiences with students, availability of resources

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Policies of Note

- ❖ School Code of Conduct – follows provincial policy, with operational definitions from SRSB (e.g., Drinking at dances)
- ❖ Attendance Policy
 - Junior High vs. Senior High
 - Policy expected in September, 2017
- ❖ New Assessment Policy (Date TBD)
 - Significant change of expectations

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Policies of Note (*continued*)

- ❖ Smoking Policy - Smoke Free Places Act
- ❖ School Leaving not permitted until students are in grade 11 and 12
- ❖ Dress Code
- ❖ Homework Concerns – Provincial Policy
- ❖ Security Policy - sign out/in procedure / Visitors
- ❖ ALL POLICIES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

NOTE:

- The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will be now be writing policies that will not be amended or “individualized” by Boards or Schools. Those will be communicated to parents/guardians as they are received from the province
- Upcoming:
 - Assessment Policy
 - Attendance Policy
 - Removal of any NO FAIL policies

Extracurricular

- ❖ Student Council
 - Grade 9 Rep chosen in September
- ❖ Extracurricular Committees
- ❖ Grade 9s – encouraging active participation
- ❖ Sports Teams: Golf, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Hockey, Table Tennis, Badminton, Track and Field, Softball
 - Though not all teams every year

Other Information Items

- ❖ Class Size: 15 -20 per class*
- ❖ Student Fees (\$20/student or \$30/family)
 - Locker rental
 - Various supplies for projects
 - Special presentations
 - School photo sitting fee
 - Full list available online!

Other Information Items (*continued*)

- ❖ Chartwells' Cafeteria Services
- ❖ Health Concerns: Allergies
- ❖ Newsletters: Posted on website, with reminder in the *Reporter*
- ❖ School Advisory Council

Other Information Items (*continued*)

- ❖ *SchoolsPlus*
- ❖ Mental Health Position (GASHA)
- ❖ Youth Health Centre
- ❖ Recreation Partnership
 - noon table tennis/games room

Communicating with Parents

- ❖ PowerSchool and the Parent Portal
 - All current SRSB students and their parents/guardians have the portal information. Students and/or Parents/Guardians can contact the school for that information now or in September
- ❖ Website – all information, policies, etc
 - reca.srsb.ca

Guidance Services

- The Guidance Office monitors students' academic requirements, including graduation and the post-secondary selection process, as well as career and personal counselling for students in need

Guidance: Academic Counselling

- Course Requests & Course Changes – based on scholastic needs and career aspirations; for Grades 10, 11, and 12
- Graduation Tracking – credit checks; transcripts; scholarships/bursaries
- Academic Calculations – scholastic awards; graduation rankings
- Assessment – Organization, Study, and Test Taking Skills & Strategies
- Self-Advocacy – to learn communication between student and teacher

Guidance: Career Counselling

◎ Career Discovery

- LST 9 (three cohorts) – career exploration; application/resume/cover letters; interview/interpersonal/social media skills.
- Various online resources, specifically Career Cruising.

◎ Post-Secondary Options

- University
- College (NSCC, private colleges and training, etc.)
- Strait to Work (NSCC transition program)
- Apprenticeship

Guidance: Personal Counselling

- ◎ Personal counselling issues can include: stress & anxiety, family conflicts, friendships, relationships, self esteem/self image, peer pressure, school, fears, decision-making, life transitions, grief, etc.
- ◎ Referrals to guidance services can be made by: student, parent, teacher, administration, SPPT, Youth Health Centre, or a peer.
- ◎ Mental health issues are referred on to mental health professionals; however, guidance can remain as the students' on-site support.

Guidance: Organized Events

- AARAO Career Fair Day (annually, in Oct/Nov)
- Career Discovery Day /Health Day
- Grade Level Assemblies (student loans, etc.)
- Classroom Presentations (test and exam stress, etc.)
- Post-Secondary Representative Visits (lunch sessions & curriculum based)

A Note about Exams

- ⦿ Students in grade 9 write four exams
 - English, Math, Social Studies, Science
 - English, Mathématiques, Sciences, and one of Français or Sciences Humaines
- ⦿ Prepares them for Provincial Exams in grade 10
- ⦿ First exam in January is written before the others with procedures to prepare for the others

Contact Information

Contact any member of the administration team:

- ❖ Via Phone at (902) 345-4949, or
- ❖ Via email at firstname.lastname@srsb.ca
- ❖ Our website will have full list in September

When in doubt: Ask Karen Burke or anyone on our secretarial staff

Plan for May 10

- Students arrive via bus from EREC at 9:00 am
- Beauport students are welcome as well. You can call ahead if you like.
- Various presentations
- Cycle through electives/career course
- Tour of building
- Recess as a group (just grade 8s)
- EREC departs at 11:30 am

Discovering Opportunities

- Deadline for applications: Fridayday, April 7. Applications are online at reca.srsb.ca
 - Hand them in at guidance office at REC or EREC

Questions

- Tour of the building is available upon request