



ROCKPORT MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

24-26 JERDEN'S LANE, ROCKPORT MA 01966
(978)546-1234 (HS) (978)546-1250(MS) www.rpk12.org

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MARYBETH RYAN, CMAA, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

January 27, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Believe it or not, we are already halfway through the 2016-17 school year. Curriculum coordinators and teachers, in collaboration with the administration, have been working to review this year's classes, curriculum and structure to ensure that we are best meeting the needs of your students each day. As part of this review, we identified several important areas of focus for the 2017-18 school year. We hope this letter will serve to highlight and inform you of the most exciting and significant changes coming your way.

As a team of high school teachers, guidance staff, and administration, our first task in reviewing the schedule was to take a deep look into the current course offerings. We reviewed current enrollment numbers, past course requests, and surveyed students and other school districts to find out what electives are most interesting and relevant to our current population. In doing this, we revealed a number of electives that are undersubscribed. Each department has worked hard to re-envision its elective offerings based on the feedback we have received. We hope you will take the time to review the new offerings in our 2017-18 Course Catalog.

In addition to new elective offerings, the feedback from students and staff indicated that the current master schedule did not allow enough common time for teachers and students to connect outside the confines of their scheduled classes. After researching best practice and current schedules at a variety of other schools across the state, we realized that many districts have adopted a Powerblock-type schedule. This schedule allows for students to actively participate in study groups, teacher-led support times, enrichment, and transitional support groups along with other advisory-type programs. This shift from traditional Directed Learning (study hall) time will allow students more common time to complete work and to collaborate with our professional staff and with each other. Please take the time to review the attached proposed schedule for 2017-18. We hope you will all join us on Thursday, February 2nd at 7pm in the John Lane Auditorium to hear more about this proposed schedule and the many opportunities it may provide our students.

In addition to the parent/guardian evening scheduled for Thursday, February 2nd, we will be meeting with all grade-level students (grades 8-11) on Wednesday, February 1st to review the course selection process for the 2017-18 school year. If, after these presentations, you have



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any questions/concerns about the new changes, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are excited for the possibilities that lie ahead and understand that with any change comes a bit of uncertainty and discomfort. We are happy to host additional evening, afternoon, or morning sessions to accommodate parent/guardian schedules if needed.

We look forward to seeing you all on February 2nd at 7pm in the John Lane Auditorium. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to sharing more detailed information with you soon.

Sincerely,

Amy E. Rose

Amy Rose
Assistant Principal