

Frequently Asked Questions – Incoming 9th Graders

What is Frosh Seminar?

The Frosh Seminar class will provide every 9th grade student with a daily 50 minute period where they will meet with their Frosh Mentor (a junior or senior student). Each mentor will be assigned four 9th grade students. During this class, Mentors will check each of their “student’s” homework, help them with organization and study skills, review their class grades on a daily basis, and provide any additional assistance they might need. In addition, Mentors will assist 9th graders with the ins and outs of high school and help them get acquainted with the school’s culture. There will be a teacher assigned to monitor the Mentors and 9th graders and those teachers will also be contacting parents if their student is missing from class at any time. This 50 minute period will also be used for counselors to work with 9th graders on their 4 year academic plan. Students will receive ½ elective credit each semester.

Why was this course created?

In the past few years, RHS has seen a significant increase in the number of freshmen struggling to be successful during their first high school year. This course is designed to provide each student with a support system that will hopefully make the transition from middle school to high school a more positive experience. By pairing an incoming student with an upperclassman, we hope that every 9th grader will feel as if they have someone to turn to for assistance and know that they have someone looking out for them.

Do Mentors receive training?

All Frosh Mentors will receive training during May and again in August before the school year begins. They will be provided with a curriculum which includes study skills, organization skills and test preparation. In addition, Mentors will meet quarterly with our Frosh Mentor Coordinator.

Do I have to take this course?

Yes - every incoming 9th grade student will automatically be enrolled in this course. It will not affect any other course requests as a 7th period has been added to the schedule for next school year.

Are there other options for 9th grade assistance?

In addition to the required Frosh Seminar class, support classes will be offered for Algebra 1-2 and Biology 1-2. Students will be recommended for these

courses by their current Algebra or Biology instructor if they feel that the student needs extra support in order to be successful. In addition, students who are struggling in English may be recommended for an English Skills class. All of these courses are offered for elective credit but would require that the student drop an existing elective course in order to enroll. Again - placement in any of these support courses are made only with the recommendation of a student's current instructor.

Does the addition of a 7th period impact extracurricular activities?

No - the school day still ends at 2:30 so it will not impact any athletic practices, marching band or any other extracurricular activity. Bus transportation has been adjusted to accommodate the earlier start.