



Dear RPS Families,

We miss our students and families and hope that you are all doing well as you receive this letter. Even as students are busily working through completing coursework for the current school year we have been busily preparing for next year. Your first step in coming back to school in the fall is to make course choices for the 2020-2021 school year. The course selection process is an opportunity for families to help students develop interests and pursue passions. We have developed an online system using Google forms that will allow you to submit your choices from the comfort of your home using a phone, computer or tablet. Below, we have provided some basic advice for course selection and we will be providing video content on RPS @ Home to help you navigate the process. Additionally, counselors and other school personnel will be available to answer any questions you may have. Visit your school website to access the course selection forms and to get information on available support as you make your class choices.

Basic Advice for Course Selection

1. Middle School student requirements:
 - a. At least one semester of physical education each year which can include a dance class or can be completed through individual physical activities.
 - b. A class that includes a module in career investigations. These modules are available in all middle school Career and Technical Education classes and in some other electives. Career investigation is typically taken in the 6th grade. Through these modules, students will begin creating a personal Academic and Career Plan that will guide them in making course choices throughout middle school and high school to support their future plans.
2. High School students must take classes that fulfill graduation requirements.

	Standard Diploma	Advanced Studies Diploma
English	4 years	4 years
Math	3 years	4 years
Science	3 years	4 years
History/Social Studies	3 years	4 years
Health/PE	2 years	2 years
CTE/Fine Arts	2 years (can also include World Language)	1 year
Electives	4 years with 2 years being part 1 and part 2 of a course (sequential electives)	3 years
World Language		3 years of one language -or- 2 years each of 2 languages
Economics & Personal Finance	1 year	1 year
Other	~ Virtual Course (All Students) ~ Training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED) - (All Students) ~ At least one Advanced Placement, Honors, or International Baccalaureate Course or Career and Technical Education Credential (NOT Required for Rising Seniors)	

	~ Demonstration of the five Cs - Students will acquire & demonstrate skills in critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship (NOT required for Rising Seniors)
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3. If you have questions about what your high school student needs to take to graduate, please reach out to their school counselor.
4. Encourage your middle or high school student to take classes that are challenging but not overwhelming. Seek out accelerated and honors level courses in middle school and Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Dual/Concurrent Enrollment opportunities in high school. Middle School students who plan to attend specialty schools or regional programs must complete Algebra I during the middle school years; world language experience is also highly recommended.
5. Have your child consider classes that support skill development or that allow them to explore a career or an interest. For high school students there are ample Fine Arts opportunities and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses offered at school locations and at the Richmond Technical Center. There are also CTE and Fine Arts opportunities in middle school.
6. There is plenty of time in high school to develop interests within the curriculum; encourage your child to explore by creating a full course schedule each year. A full high school schedule has 8 courses per year.
7. It's best to include several choices in your course selection just in case a scheduling conflict does not allow for your first choice.

Course Selection Timeline
by May 10

Course selection forms made available to RPS families

June 5, 2020

All course request forms completed & submitted online by families

Week of June 15

Course confirmation/verification sheets sent home to families with student selections for the 20-21school year.

August 31-September 3

Families are invited to pick up student schedules at their school site.

If you have any questions about course selection, feel free to contact me at cveney@rvaschools.net or reach out to your child's school counselor.

All the best,

Candace

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