



RUMSON-FAIR HAVEN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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September 11, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope the school year is off to a great start. We are extremely excited to see the implementation of our new schedule, stemming from more than a year's worth of hard work and planning by our faculty and staff, as part of our continual efforts to improve the educational experience at RFH!

Over the course of last year, our investigation and planning for the 4-day rotating block schedule prompted thoughtful conversations regarding the importance of improving and matching our instructional and assessment strategies/methods to the academic, social-emotional, and college and career-ready needs of our students. With that in mind, a reconsideration of End of Marking Period Assessments (EMPAs), historically administered on designated dates in November, January, and June and worth one-fifth of a student's MP grade, was undertaken. Though cumulative, high-stakes assessments can be extremely important for the preparation of our students for the future, they can also be extremely stressful. In addition to the EMPAs that we've administered, the number of lengthy standardized tests that our students sit for has increased over the last decade. These include the NJ State Learning Assessment, the NJ State Graduation Proficiency Assessment, the PSAT, the pre-ACT, the SAT, the ACT, and the Advanced Placement exams.

This year, RFH will administer Summatives in lieu of EMPAs. This adjustment allows our teachers, experts in their content areas and pedagogical methods, to collaborate as instructional teams on when and how to most consistently and naturally assess the learning that has taken place over time in their courses. These Summatives will be administered approximately three times per year during the regular 57-minute instructional period in each full-year academic course (no schedule adjustment will take place) on dates determined and communicated by the teachers as appropriate to their content, pacing, skill instruction, and student readiness. Student performance on Summatives will be reflected in grades calculated directly into existing assessment categories in the Genesis grade book for each course rather than a stand-alone category for a single assessment, as was the case with EMPAs.

Allowing our teachers flexibility in administering Summatives in a fashion consistent with the learning in their classes when it makes the most sense for our students, will enable more meaningful and authentic assessments resulting in more meaningful and authentic feedback on student performance and learning.

Since our schedule now provides students with opportunities for choice, time management, independence, and academic and personal growth, it is important that our assessments reflect the same. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure that our students leave RFH extremely well-prepared for the opportunities that await them in the future.

Sincerely,

Sarah Fitzgerald
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

A Commitment to Excellence

Our mission is to empower all of our students with the tools to find their passions and thrive as knowledgeable, confident, resilient, creative, and compassionate citizens of a global community.