

August 2011

Dear Students and Families:

Our high school faculty, staff and administration are pleased to extend a warm and personal welcome to you and your child. I am proud to note that once again, Red Bank Regional was named one of the nation's top performing high schools. We look forward to working together and building new relationships. The goal of our administration and faculty is to deliver challenging course work and quality instruction that will inspire you to achieve success.

September 6th is the first day of school for students. This will be an A Day, the schedule is posted on our website www.rbrhs.org. Day two will then be a B Day. To help ease the transition for our incoming 9th grade students, RBR will hold its 9th Grade Orientation for students on Tuesday, August 30, 2011 at 2pm at the high school. Information regarding orientation is also enclosed and posted on our website. In an effort to *go green*, all information and relevant forms for students grade 10-12 are on the web, and freshman parents are urged to sign up for our Parent Portal. The Portal allows access to important information such as grades, attendance and student schedules. All forms should be completed and returned to your study hall teachers by September 9th.

Schools have been called upon to implement new regulations designed to deter harassment, intimidation and bullying. We ask that you work with us to continue to promote tolerance respect and understanding. When we face difficult situations let's continue to work together as a team to communicate, educate and support our children.

RBR provides all students with a personalized approach to learning. In their freshman year all students are assigned to one of three freshman houses, a faculty team which offers careful monitoring of student performance and attendance. In grade 10, any student not in a vocational academy has the opportunity to select from one of four career academies. The curriculum is developed with a focus on student interest and 21st century literacy and global competency skills.

We understand that not all students learn the same way. At RBR we take pride in our strong teachers and our nationally recognized top performing high school. As learners you must strive to achieve your academic potential. You must help and support each other by promoting tolerance, respect and understanding. Your principal and faculty are here to support each of you and to help you reach your goals.

Finally, it is not too late to get involved. Students at RBR are still able to participate in many activities and athletic teams. There are many opportunities for family involvement. Enthusiastic and involved family members are an inspiration to their children. The high school years go by very quickly. Thank you for your commitment to RBR and to your child's education.

Sincerely,

Risa Clay
Principal
732-842-8000 x210

PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN

- **Student Schedules**

Enclosed is your new class schedule indicating class blocks, teacher names, subjects and room assignments. Also appearing on each schedule is your assigned locker and locker combination. Parents, please stress to your child the importance of keeping this information secure.

In some instances, changes have been made to a student's elective course selections. Some changes were necessitated by scheduling conflicts. Freshman, sophomore and junior students are provided enrichment study halls as needed to support academics.

**QUESTIONS CONCERNING YOUR SCHEDULE CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE GUIDANCE OFFICE
BEGINNING AUGUST 22, 2011.**

- **School Calendar**

Enclosed is your 2011- 2012 school year calendar. The faculty and administration of Red Bank Regional High School places a high priority on student attendance. The classroom experience can never be replicated when students are absent.

We appreciate your cooperation in scheduling family vacations and personal commitments during school holidays and after school hours. Family vacations during days school is in session will be recorded as "unexcused" absences. Please note that mid-term and final examinations cannot be made up if students miss them due to an unexcused absence as defined in the student handbook. Mid-term exams are scheduled for January 27, 30, 31, and February 1, 2012. Final exams will begin June 11, 2012. These dates may change depending on inclement weather. Please be aware that the school has the flexibility to add days to the school calendar.

The first day of school for all students is Tuesday Sept 6th. This is a full day with the first block beginning promptly at 7:35am and dismissing at 2:31pm.

Back to School Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 22nd, from 7pm- 9pm. As per past practice, there will be a delayed opening (9:30am) the next day. On Friday, September 23rd students are expected to report to first block by 9:30am. All transportation pick-up times will be 2 hours later than usual.

- **Schedule for Opening Day: A Day**

Our opening day, September 6th, will be an A Day. The second day of school, September 7th will be a B Day.

- **RBR Goes Green**

Families can now access student report cards and attendance through the Genesis Parent Portal on our school website. All necessary start-of-the-school-year forms may be found on a special tab on this website. DON'T miss this! Sign up for the Portal which can easily be accessed 24/7 through your computer and is safe and secure.

- **Summer Enrichment Programs**

School is no longer a ten-month endeavor. This summer was a busy one, with the high school filled on most days with students and staff. Our annual four-week freshman transition program included a record number of students from all of our sending districts. We continued to offer annual programs to build the skills of our English Language Learners in reading, writing, social studies and math. Special Education students also benefited from an extended school year. A very talented group of students worked together in a Visual and Performing Arts Academy hosted by RBR. A successful component of our summer programming is the inclusion of "Pre-AP" coursework, which included our AVID students in a math and English component.

- **Summer Institute for Staff Development: Highlights**

During the week of August 22nd staff members will attend a summer professional development week. Workshops feature training in technology, co-teaching strategies for special education and general education teachers, classroom management, literacy and reading strategies for adolescents and specialized topics developed by our staff. Our Smaller Learning Communities grant covered the costs for this training.

- **BUC Pride**

This was a very busy summer for our athletic program. We hosted many tournaments, leagues, and camps in preparation for the 2011-2012 season. This fall should be very exciting as we kick off the season on Friday, September 9th at Count Basie Field with the varsity football game at 7:15pm. We are especially thankful for the hard work of our dedicated maintenance staff that were able to maintain our beautiful playing fields despite a record dry and hot summer. Good luck to all the coaches and athletes-GO BUCS! Buc Backer Bash on September 10th. Join us for a special fundraiser hosted by our Buc Backers details enclosed.

- **Federally Subsidized Breakfast and Lunch Program**

An application for a free or reduced school meal program is enclosed. Families meeting the income guidelines for this program are encouraged to return a completed application as soon as possible to ensure delivery of services to your child. Families completing applications may expect applications to be processed within one week from the time of submission. Students will be responsible for their own meals during the processing period. If your child was receiving federally subsidized meals in June 2011, your child will continue to receive those meals through September 30, 2011. You must reapply by September 30th to potentially receive free/reduced priced meals after that date.

For additional information and/or assistance completing this application please call Ms. Theresa Horan at 732-842-8000, extension 1202. The high school office is open every day from 7:30am–2:30pm throughout the month of August. After September 1st, the high school offices are open until 3:30pm.

- **Universal Student ID Card**

Enclosed is a flyer (freshman packets only – returning students have ID cards) explaining the use of the photograph Universal Student ID cards at the high school. All freshmen and transfer students are issued a photo ID card free of charge during the first week of school. Photo ID cards are to be carried at all times by each student. This Universal Card displays an individual barcode number for each student and permits students to use the card as a source of identification and as a means to borrow reference materials from the Media Center. In addition, the card serves as a personal debit card in the school cafeteria, eliminating the need for a student to carry cash to school. Please stress to your child the importance of keeping this card in a safe and secure place on their person at all times. There is a fee for card replacement. Parents can add money on line to your child's lunch card through *My Lunch Money*, its easy and convenient.

- **Yearbook Portraits for Underclassmen – Senior Make-Ups**

Yearbook pictures for freshmen, sophomores and juniors are scheduled for September 7 and 8 in the rear of the auditorium. Seniors who missed their photo opportunities will be re-scheduled October 27. Do not miss these dates to have your photos taken for the yearbook.

- **Military Recruiters – Federal Legislation Requirements/Exemptions**

RBRHS receives funds from the federal government under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The law requires that districts receiving these funds must, upon request, provide military and college/university recruiters access to the names, addresses, and telephone listings of high school students. **Parents and students, who wish to receive information from the military and/or colleges/universities, do not have to sign or return this form.** If this form is not completed and returned, the district will provide the military and colleges/ universities, upon request, with the student's name, address and telephone number. Forms are available in the Guidance office and on the school website.

- **SOURCE Foundation Fundraiser**

Let's get ready for some football!!! On October 1st, located near the football field rain or shine, RBR's *The Source*, our school-based youth services program, is kicking off the year with its 4th Annual "**End Zone**" **Backyard Bar-B-Q**. This fundraiser salutes the Buccaneer football team as RBR face-off against Holmdel High School. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for a student/child. Details are included in this mailer and on the website. Ticket includes BBQ and admission to game.

- **RBREF Day At The Races**

Parents are welcome to participate in the Red Bank Regional Education Foundation (RBREF) **Day at the Races, Saturday, October 15th** at the Monmouth Park Picnic Area. This adult-only affair will feature an exquisite buffet prepared by our own Chef Roskowinski and the RBR Culinary Club. More details are included in this mailer and on the website. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and families. Last year the RBREF donated funds for a MAC lab for our Media Center.

- **Two River Alert**

Sign up for text alert, email or phone messaging on this system. Be notified in case of emergencies or for events at RBR. Please refer to www.tworiveralert.com for additional info and see the RBR website for sign up information.

- **Student Handbook**

All students receive a student handbook on the first day of school. Our handbook is also available for review on our website. It is important to review student code of conduct. All students and parents/guardians are asked to sign an acknowledgement form stating that they have reviewed school policies. Several policies are also on our website. Please take specific notice of the revision to our cell phone and late policies, as they have changed significantly for this year.