

James Stefankiewicz
Superintendent



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RED BANK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

OUR MISSION: TO ENSURE THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS & PERSONAL GROWTH OF ALL STUDENTS WHILE DEVELOPING IN THEM A PASSION FOR LEARNING.

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

September 22, 2011

Dear Parents:

The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) was instituted to create high academic standards. It measures compliance through state tests. In the State of New Jersey high schools are measured by Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on the results of the 11th grade High School Proficiency Exam (HSPA). The NCLB Act sets benchmarks for "adequacy" which have been increasing in the last years and will be culminating with 100% of students testing "proficient" by 2014. Schools reaching these benchmarks are deemed to have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). For the 2010 -2011 school year **RBR has successfully met all 41 of the 41 indicators!**

As an exceptionally innovative and progressive school district, RBR has implemented programs and practices over the past five years which have met all federal requirements under the NCLB Act in an attempt to bring all our students to adequacy while instituting research tested practices that benefit the entire school population.

These include:

- The Freshman Academy- to demystify the large high school for the incoming freshman. Research supports that student success in high school is determined in the crucial freshman year.
- Creating Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) RBR sought and won a \$1.2 million grant to help redesign our entire school into smaller learning communities, an extension of the Freshmen Academy and our long standing and extremely successful four-year vocational school programs. Students and their families decide areas that engage student interest for concentrated study.
- Block Scheduling- implemented last year to increase the depth of study for more student centered and experiential learning opportunities. The creation of block scheduling allows every student to have a study hall period where enrichment programs can be conducted as well as extra tutoring and practice test taking.
- Expansion of the AVID program which prepares and motivates students to increase their educational rigor to enroll and succeed at the most challenging courses including Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate.
- Professional Development - key to implementing all the above. Special summer workshops were also offered with specific training for staff working with at-risk populations.
- Summer Slam has extended our students' school year.
- Increased tutoring, practice HSPA testing; requiring that all students take the PSAT.
- A school improvement team where parents and staff collaborate on ideas to better the school district.

Part of the NCLB Act encourages parental involvement in their school districts, an important indicator of school success. We encourage our parents to get involved with our school through one of our parent groups or on the aforementioned school improvement team. I hold monthly Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings which all parents are welcome to attend. We engage in a constructive conversation where we can all learn from one another in the quest to make RBR the very best high school.

Sincerely,

James Stefankiewicz
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