

# **Parent Information Meeting Robinson Secondary School**

**For Rising Ninth Grade  
Parents and Students  
January 2018**

# Agenda for tonight's meeting

- ▶ **Graduation Requirements**
- ▶ **Academic Advising Information**
- ▶ **Course options and details in differences among levels of courses**
- ▶ **Information about the International Baccalaureate Programme**

## **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedules have 7 courses**

- 1. English**
- 2. Math**
- 3. Science**
- 4. History**
- 5. Health & PE**
- 6. Elective\***
- 7. Elective\***

**\* World Language, Fine Art, or CTE**

# Advanced Studies and Standard Diploma

	Standard Diploma Credits Required	Advanced Studies Diploma Credits Required
English	4	4
Mathematics	3	4
Sciences	3	4
History/Social Sciences	4	4
Health and P.E.	2	2
World Language, Fine Arts, or CTE	2	3 1- Fine Art or CTE
Economics and Personal Finance	1	1
Electives	3	3

# Changes to Graduation Requirements

All students are now required to be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Our HPE 9 curriculum already includes CPR and AED training, and will now also include the Emergency First Aid component.

A reminder that beginning with the Class of 2015, students are required to take a personal finance course in order to graduate.

Options to satisfy this requirement include:

- Personal finance course in grades 9, 10, 11 or 12
- Self-paced online personal finance course over summer or during school year
- IB Economics in grade 11 or 12
- IB Business in grade 11 or 12

# New Online Course Catalog

Robinson's Homepage → Full Menu → Student Services → High School → Academic Advising HS → Course Catalog

RISING 9TH GRADE COURSE  
OFFERINGS

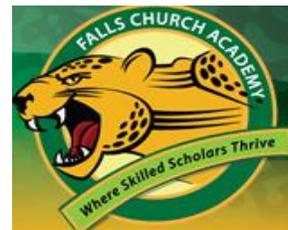
[View our course catalog](#)

CURRENT STUDENTS COURSE  
OFFERINGS

[View our course catalog](#)

# Academy Courses

- What are Academy courses?  
Specialized courses that are offered off-campus.



- Typically taken in the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades

# Academic Advising Process

Timeline	Event
Today and tomorrow	High school counselors will meet with rising 9 <sup>th</sup> graders during Science classes
Jan 18 <sup>th</sup> - Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>	Middle school counselors will then meet with all 8 <sup>th</sup> grade students to guide them through the course selection process*
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Return your completed Course Selection Sheet to your middle school counselor
Spring	Verifications mailed home

\* Middle School Counselors will provide students with a list of course recommendations for core classes and world languages to help guide students in making decisions about course placement.

# Deadlines & Schedule Changes

- Please adhere to all deadlines
- Be aware that any changes made after March 15, 2018 will only be made if space is available in the courses
- Why can't we just make the schedule change process easy?
  - Classes get full. We make decisions regarding teacher positions and the number of classes based on the number of students registered for each class.

# Who should enroll in Honors courses (in grades 9 and 10) and IB DP courses (in grades 11 and 12)?

Students who...

- ▶ Are intentional with their work.
- ▶ Are organized in their study habits.
- ▶ Are self-aware and self-sufficient.
- ▶ Bring reading and writing skills to the courses.
- ▶ Are reflective about their learning.
- ▶ Are willing to negotiate with more challenging and sophisticated work.

# English Options in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## English 9

- Reading and writing in a variety of genres
- Guided discussion and scaffolding of works and writing process

## English 9 HN

- Reading and writing in a variety of genres
- More independent work done at home
- Further development of skills and analysis
- Greater expectation of class discussion participation and presentations

# History Options in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## World History 1

Content: Prehistory to 1500

SOL: World History I (freshman level)

Skills Focus: *More skill-building*

Workload Expectation: Regular skill-reinforcing homework assignments

## World History 2 HN

Content: 1500 to present

SOL: World History II (sophomore level)

Skills Focus: *More skill-refining*

Workload Expectations: Daily homework readings and occasional outside of class projects

- Reading comprehension
- Analytical writing
- Document Analysis
- Discussion (e.g. Socratic Seminar)

# Science Options in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Biology

- Good transitional year
- Development of organizational skills
- Most labs come with explicit directions
- Reports based on answering direct questions
- Students can take honors/IB later as skills develop

## Biology HN

- Students manage long-term projects on their own
- Strong emphasis on student lab design
- Reports based on more writing
- Developing own ideas and conclusions

# Math Options in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Geometry

- Pre-requisite of Algebra 1
- Students use geometric models to solve problems
- The course emphasizes two and three-dimensional reasoning skills

## Geometry HN

- Pre-requisite of Algebra 1
- Faster pace
- Requires considerably more analytical thinking
- Requires mastery of all Algebra I topics particularly advanced topics such as solving absolute value equations
- Provides greater emphasis on formal proofs and an emphasis on logic

## Algebra 2 w/Trig HN

- Pre-requisite of Algebra 1 and Geometry
- Includes additional topics of trigonometry embedded into the Algebra 2 curriculum

**SAVE THE DATE:  
SPECIAL MATH  
INFORMATION NIGHT:  
FEBRUARY 1ST**

# World Languages Options in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Chinese
- French
- German
- Latin
- Spanish

• If your child has not yet started a language or would like to switch languages.

• If your child successfully completed level 1 (or 1b) in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

• If your child successfully completed Immersion 2 or Level 2 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3



# **Special Education Information Services**

**Along with Pam Hutson, Robinson's  
Special Education Department Chair,  
Robinson counselors will place students  
in appropriate courses to best meet their  
IEP and 504 needs.**



# The IB Learner Profile...

...is the IB mission statement translated into a set of learning outcomes for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As IB learners, we strive to be:

- Inquirers
- Principled
- Knowledgeable
- Caring
- Thinkers
- Open-minded
- Communicators
- Balanced
- Risk-Taker
- Reflective





# How are AP and IB different?

## Advanced Placement Program

- ▶ Teachers design course to ensure success on test; emphasis on content
- ▶ Emphasis on analytical reading and writing
- ▶ Breadth over depth
- ▶ End of course test to determine college credit
- ▶ One shot assessment – includes multiple choice, short answer and essay
- ▶ Focused on discrete subjects
- ▶ Goal of program is to provide college credit for high school coursework

## International Baccalaureate

- ▶ A program with a prescribed curriculum and integrated subject matter
- ▶ Emphasis on reading, writing, speaking skills as well as the learner profile
- ▶ Depth over breadth
- ▶ Multiple assessments
- ▶ IB emphasizes taking one's education and applying it
- ▶ Opportunity to earn a diploma above and beyond the H.S. diploma, providing college admissions advantages



# IB Diploma Requirements

## To be completed in grades 11 and 12

- ▶ Coursework – one exam-level class in English, World Language, Social Studies, Math, Science and an Elective (3 at the Higher Level for both junior and senior year; and 3 at the Standard Level, taken in junior and/or senior year)
- ▶ Extended Essay (EE)
- ▶ Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
- ▶ Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

### ISSUES TO CONSIDER WHEN MAKING COURSE SELECTIONS:

- You should have completed Algebra 1 in grade eight. If you have not, we recommend taking Algebra 1 in grade nine, Geometry over the summer between grades 9 and 10, and then continue in the math sequence.
- The ideal situation is that students take as many years of language as they can, and become as fluent as they can. That could mean 4, 5 or even 6 years of a language.



# Individual IB Course Options

## To be completed in grades 11 and 12

- ▶ **Students not wishing to pursue the full IB diploma may take one or more IB class in subjects of interest.**
- ▶ **Students will earn certificates for these courses and may also be eligible for college recognition based on these certificates.**
- ▶ **Students decide whether or not to pursue the full IB diploma in February of their sophomore year.**
- ▶ **Each year, students should consider teacher recommendations as well as their current work and challenge load.**



# Typical IB Diploma-Bound Sophomore Schedule:

- English 10 Honors or English 10
- World Language level 3
- Honors or AP Comparative Government
- IB Chemistry or Chemistry
- Honors Algebra II or Algebra II
- PE/Health/Driver's Ed
- Elective

# ROBINSON IB DIPLOMA PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

4.77

Average grade  
obtained by diploma  
candidates in May  
2017 exams

84%

Percentage of 2017  
diploma candidates  
who received the IB  
diploma

1220

Total number of  
current students in at  
least one AP or IB  
course

316

Current total number of  
junior and senior diploma  
candidates

780

Current number of students  
who are taking at least one  
IB exam this year



# Advice from Junior and Senior Diploma Candidates:

- ▶ “YOU are responsible for your education, not your teacher, parent, or friends. Do not blame any of them for how well or poorly you do, especially your teachers. Becoming responsible for your education means that you need to make decisions to **BENEFIT YOUR** education, sometimes that means changing your priorities. If you choose to go forth and pursue advanced courses, make an effort to know everything you can about them. Challenge yourself to be educated.”
- ▶ “Don’t go into it immediately set on whether or not you want to do the diploma because your opinions will change. Try to find a balance of classes, not making everything too easy or difficult. Take a couple of challenging courses in the areas you excel best in so if you want to potentially go for IB, you’ve taken the classes.”



# Student Transfer Process

- ▶ **Students not in the Robinson district, but in the boundaries for Woodson, Centreville, Fairfax, and Lake Braddock may apply for student transfer.**
- ▶ **Student transfer is contingent on student's current course selection, grades and a counselor recommendation.**
- ▶ **The county online portion of the application for student transfer is open from February 5 to May 1.**
- ▶ **There is a newly established annual fee of \$100 per student to be paid with the application.**
- ▶ **Students who wish to be considered for student transfer at Robinson should pick up a packet with more information after tonight's meeting.**
- ▶ **Optional 4 year planning meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM**



# Considerations in Planning for High School Courses

Academic  
Challenge

Academic  
Success

Extra-  
curriculars

**Create a healthy balance!**

**OPTIONAL IB DIPLOMA**  
**4-YEAR PLANNING MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in**  
**Robinson's Davala Hall**



# Questions???

**Please write your questions on the index cards provided at the table by the door. Include your name and email address.**

**We will get back to you this week!**



# Contact Information:

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The IB office and HS Student Services Office are located in the main hallway.

703.426.2254 (IB office)

703.426.2130 (Student Services Office)