

RED BLUFF UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Freshman Parent FAQ

Answers to all the questions you didn't know you had!

2016-2017



Dear Freshman Parent(s),

The transition to high school represents a significant shift for both parents/guardians and students in terms of responsibility, workload, social environment, and the parent/guardian's role in a child's education and in the school. As far away as graduation might seem right now, these next four years are your child's preparation for college, the military, or the workforce, so naturally students are asked to take increasing ownership of their high school experience. Self-advocacy and accountability are encouraged, with support from school staff and, of course, from you.

Families will notice plenty of changes when moving up from middle school, especially if the new freshman is a first or only child. High school offers more freedom for students, but also demands more personal responsibility. There are higher expectations in the classroom and on the playing field, but also the potential for incredibly rewarding relationships with teachers, coaches, and other staff members. Additional administrative offices, support resources, and extracurricular opportunities serve the students well, but also add to the complexity of this new, larger environment.

While it can feel overwhelming, you may be surprised at how quickly your 9th grader adjusts. In case you need help keeping up with your child, this handbook was developed to anticipate and answer some common questions asked by parents/guardians of freshmen at Red Bluff High School. This is intended to be a living document, with ongoing revisions, so if you have comments, or questions we've missed, please send them to Michelle Ackley (mackley@rbhsd.org, or 530-529-8720).

We wish you and your freshman student(s) a wonderful year ahead!

Sincerely,

The RBHS Parent Partnership Team

Q&A: Attendance, Arrival, and Dismissal

- **What time does my child need to be at school in the morning?** First period begins at 8:00 a.m., and any student not in the classroom at that time is considered late for school.
- **What is the attendance policy for the high school? What happens if my child misses too many classes?** Regular attendance is critical for a student's success. For details on RBHS's attendance policy, see the RBHS Student and Parent Handbook *Attendance Guidelines* section.
- **How can I check my child's attendance record?** The easiest way to access students' attendance records is through your Parent Portal. Through this platform, parents and guardians can check both daily and class attendance.
- **Where can I drop off/pick up my child?** Drop off and pick up is in front of the Library on Douglas Street.
- **What if I have to pick up my child from school before dismissal?** You must check your student out through the Attendance secretary in the Main Office.
- **What if my child will be arriving at school after school starts?** Students arriving late should check in with Attendance to receive a late slip which is required to get into class when tardy.
- **What if my child is going to be absent or tardy?** You must call Attendance to explain the reason for a student's absence or tardiness. Messages may be left at 529-8711 at any time of the day.

Q&A: Health Services

- **What types of services are available through RBHS for my student?** At RBHS, a full-time nurse and health clerk provide care for accidents, illnesses, and other medical situations.
- **What if my child becomes sick during the school day?** Students feeling ill should ask to visit the nurse's office. If, after meeting with the nurse/health clerk, it becomes apparent that the student cannot remain in school for the rest of the day, staff will contact the parent or guardian.
- **What if my child needs to take medication while at school?** In general, students are not to carry medicine with them during school hours. If your child needs to take medicine during the school day (prescription or over-the-counter, on either a long-term or temporary basis), you should check with the nurse's office so that proper procedure is followed and the School Medication Authorization Form is filled out properly. Education Code Section 49423 states: *Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 49422, any student who is required to take, during the regular school day, medication prescribed for him by a physician, may be assisted by the school nurse or other designated school personnel if the school district receives (1) a written statement from such physician detailing the method, amount, and time schedules by which such medication is to be taken and (2) a written statement from the parent or guardian of the student indicating the desire that the school district assist the student in the matters set forth in the physician's statement.*

Q&A: Academics

- **Where can I find contact information for my child's teachers? What is the best way to contact them?** The RBHS website has a directory of phone extensions and e-mail addresses, and teachers will provide specific contact information for you at the RBHS Curriculum Night in September. You can also access teacher contact info through your Parent Portal. In most cases, e-mail is the most effective means of communicating with teachers, because it allows both the teacher and the parent/guardian to respond on their own time, avoiding a game of phone tag.
- **Will I meet my child's teachers?** Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend the RBHS Curriculum Night, which is held in September. At this event, you will rotate through your child's schedule, meeting his/her teachers and learning about his/her courses.
- **How will I be kept informed of my child's academic progress?** Report cards are issued at the end of each semester, with progress reports being mailed home every 6 weeks. You can also view his/her report through the Parent Portal, accessible via a link on the RBHS home page. If you have specific concerns or questions at any time, you may initiate a conversation or request a meeting with your child's teacher.
- **How do students get extra help?** Most teachers are available at lunch and/or after school hours on certain days. Your child should check a teacher's availability and arrange to come in early, stay in at lunch, or stay after school for extra help. Homework help is also available through our afterschool ASSETS program. Students who come prepared with specific, focused questions will gain the most from these sessions.
- **What if my child needs a tutor?** Students should sign up and attend our afterschool ASSETS program for tutoring needs.
- **Will my child have access to the school library during school? After hours?** The library is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. While students may not miss class to use the library, they may visit the library before school, during lunch, and after school.
- **When and how do underclass students sign up for courses for the following year?** Ninth graders will meet with our school counselors and be scheduled in large groups for their sophomore year courses in February. Parents will be notified of the day and time of their student's sophomore course registration so that you may attend with your child.
- **Do I need to purchase school supplies before the year begins?** On the first day, students should bring paper and something to write with. Beyond that, each teacher will let your student know what type of notebook, folder, or other supplies s/he will need for class. If purchasing supplies is a hardship for your family, please contact your child's school counselor who will work with you to make sure your child has all necessary items.
- **Does my child need his/her own computer for schoolwork?** During the school day, no. For work done outside of school, access to a computer is important, but your child does not need one of his or her own. If your child is having difficulty finding a computer to help him or her complete assignments, s/he should talk to the school counselor.

Q&A: School Counseling

- **What is the function of school counselors?** RBHS school counselors support students in personal and social issues, academic affairs, and college & career planning.
- **When will my freshman meet his/her school counselor?** Within the first month of 9th grade, our school counselor will be visiting freshman classes to do presentations. Even before that meeting, students and parents/guardians are welcome to contact the school counselor and/or use the department's resources.
- **Whom should I contact if my child is struggling academically or socially and hasn't been able to solve the problem him/herself?** One of the major roles of the school counselor is to help students and families navigate academic, social, and emotional difficulties. The counselor will work with you and your child to explore the variety of student supports available at RBHS.
- **What are the academic policies for dropping and adding courses?** Schedule Change Request Forms may only be submitted to their counselor within the first three days at the beginning of each semester. Any schedule change requested after the designated window will require a parent meeting with the counselor and instructor.
- **What is Summer School?** Summer school generally runs from mid June through the month of July. It offers students the opportunity to take classes for credit recovery only.
- **RBHS School Counseling website:** The School Counseling Department page on the RBHS website offers college and career planning information, contact information for all counselors, and helpful resources.
<http://www.rbuhsd.k12.ca.us/counseling>

Q&A: Extracurricular Activities

- **What extracurricular opportunities are available to RBHS students?** Students drive the creation and success of every activity, so encourage your child to try an established club or build a new one. Announcements in the daily bulletin will publicize activity meeting schedules, so students should listen carefully and check daily, especially as the school year is getting started. Student Government produces a Club Day during lunch within the first few weeks of school for students to get information.
- **I understand that there are class officers and class activities. What does this mean for my 9th grader?** Every class has its own officers, beginning in 9th grade. Led by four class officers, elected early in the first term, 9th Grade Leadership serves as a core group to communicate the varied interests of class members to the entire grade. Activities are focused on building class solidarity and spirit, and raising funds for senior year activities. Students must apply for Leadership prior to the school year beginning. If they did not apply for their freshman year, they can apply for 10th Grade Leadership during Spring scheduling for the next school year.
- **Can my child play a sport and participate in a club, jazz band, or theater production also?** Students may participate in a variety of athletic and extracurricular activities, but must be mindful of over-extending themselves. Membership in some groups (notably athletic teams, dramatic productions, dance, choir, and band) requires a significant time commitment, and may make involvement in certain others either difficult or impossible. Students should speak with coaches and instructors in advance to avoid conflicts.

Q&A: Athletics

- **What should I expect if my son or daughter chooses to play a sport?** Expect a rewarding experience and plenty of hard work. RBHS offers a wide range of athletic teams, spanning freshman, junior varsity, and varsity levels, most of which involve a significant commitment of time and dedication. Most sports have games or mandatory practices every day before or after school during their season. Successfully balancing participation in a sport with academics and other priorities can teach truly valuable life skills. Students are required to attend school regularly and maintain a 2.0 GPA to be academically eligible to participate on a team, although incoming freshmen are considered automatically eligible for a fall sport. Student-athletes also must conform to expectations of behavior and conduct both on and off the field, during school hours and beyond.
- **When does each athletic season begin? When are tryouts?** While exact dates vary somewhat by year and sport, generally the fall season runs from the beginning of school through November, winter from December through February, and spring from March through May.
- **Do students change clothes and/or shower for physical education classes?** Students are required to wear P.E. clothes, and all are required to have appropriate athletic shoes. Because of tight class schedules, most do not have time to shower after class.

Q&A: Miscellaneous

- **Can I text or call my child during school?** Student phones are to be turned off during the school day, except during break and lunch. If parents or guardians need to get a message to a student they should contact the Main Office.
- **Where is the student store? What does it carry? When is it open?** The student store is located across from the Main Office. It carries apparel, PE clothes, ASB cards, Yearbook orders, and Dance tickets. It open every day during school hours.
- **Can I buy RBHS clothing and merchandise online?** Yes. You can buy items online at https://webstores.activenetwork.com/school-software/red_bluff_high_school/.
- **What safety and security measures are in place at RBHS?** The following safety measures are in place each day at RBHS:
 - IDs for all students, faculty, and staff
 - Regular practice of lockdown drills
 - 30+ cameras monitoring the campus and perimeter
 - School Resource Officer on site
- **Are freshmen allowed to leave school during lunch?** No. All freshman must remain on campus throughout the school day. If a student is caught off campus, the student will be sent to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.
- **How do school pictures work, and when do they happen?** The school currently requires students in Grades 9–12 to be photographed by Studio 530. This happens during the school day within the first month of school. These images are used for the school’s student database and for the yearbook.