



June 2017

Dear Incoming Grade Nine Students and Families:

Congratulations on completing middle school! In preparation for the upcoming year, we want to be clear with each family about expectations for their child's first year of high school at Rising Tide.

The grade nine Guiding Question is "How can we recognize and demonstrate courage?" Students will explore this question through the Advisory curriculum, which focuses on orientation to the school, community building, goal setting and future planning, and wellness. As part of our Wellness program, Advisors will guide students through activities and discussions designed to explore important topics, including substance abuse, healthy living, relationships, personal identity, and media literacy.

The academic offerings for grade nine students consist of English I, U.S. History II in the World, Introductory Physics, either Geometry or Algebra I, either Latin or Spanish, Visual Art Foundation, Theater Foundation, Physical Education, and Elective courses. In these classes, students will work to become increasingly independent and active learners. Students should expect to spend approximately two hours on homework per night. Teachers will be available to help students during scheduled Academic Support time every Tuesday and Thursday.

The grade nine year includes many special opportunities for enrichment inside and outside the classroom. We will start the year with an important orientation and team-building trip to Camp Takodah in New Hampshire from Wednesday, September 6, through Friday, September 8. We also aim to have a field-work trip during a school day this year. In addition, students will have the opportunity to participate in our athletics program and a variety of clubs.

Students and Grade Nine Advisors are expected to read our community book, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. Students should come to school ready to participate in various discussions and activities connected to the book. Also, students and their families should consult the attached supplies list to ensure that they arrive with the **required** scholastic materials on the first day of school.

Individual schedules and Advisory group assignments will be available at the Open House on Tuesday, August 29. Elective course choices for the first semester will be distributed to students in the first week of school.

We look forward to seeing you at the end of the summer to get started on our year together!

Sincerely,

The Grade Nine Advisory Team

Required materials for grade nine students:

English:

- A binder with white lined paper, dividers, and a pocket for handouts

History:

- A binder with white lined paper and dividers

Latin:

- A three-ring binder with white lined paper and dividers
- Low-odor dry erase markers
- Flashcards
- A Latin-to-English/English-to-Latin dictionary

Math:

- A two-inch three-ring binder with white lined paper, graph paper, and dividers
- A ruler
- A graphing calculator. Students will not need a TI-83 or TI-84 for Algebra I, but they will need it in future math classes, so we suggest families make this purchase in grade nine.
- Geometry: A compass, a protractor, ruler, and a graphing calculator (see above)

Science:

- A calculator (same as the math calculator - see above)
- A ruler with metric markings
- A three-ring binder with white lined paper or graph paper

Spanish:

- A three-ring binder with white lined paper and a folder for handouts
- Low-odor dry erase markers
- Flashcards
- A Spanish-English dictionary to keep at home

Theater

- One single-subject notebook with a pocket or separate folder for handouts

Visual Art:

- An 18-inch transparent plastic ruler

In addition, all students should come with the following supplies:

- Plenty of pencils, blue and black pens, erasers
- Colored pens (for correcting)
- Highlighters
- Loose-leaf paper
- 3 ½ x 5 inch index cards
- Boxes of tissues for classrooms