



June 30, 2026

Dear Incoming Grade 9 Students and Families:

Congratulations on completing middle school! We are excited to have you join us in the Upper School at Rising Tide Charter Public School. Below you will find information about what to expect next year, as well as information on summer reading expectations and classroom supplies. Please see the next page of this letter for a list of required items for grade 9 classes.

Individual student schedules and Advisory group assignments will be available through the Community Portal in mid-August.

The grade 9 Guiding Question is, “How can we recognize and demonstrate courage?” Students will explore this question throughout the year as part of their courses and other grade-level activities. In grade 9, we also ask students to build self-awareness, become more independent and active learners, develop consistent work habits, and set goals for the future. Students will be challenged to think critically and view ideas from multiple perspectives in all classes. They should also expect to read challenging texts independently, develop research skills, and communicate effectively through both speaking and writing. In order to be prepared for classes each day, students should expect to spend approximately two hours on homework per night. Students are expected to demonstrate their growing skills as Self-Directed Learners by seeking help from teachers in class and during Academic Support and teacher office hours.

As part of our academic program, grade 9 students will take English I, U.S. History I, Introductory Physics, a Math course (Geometry or Algebra I), a World Language course (either Latin or Spanish), Visual Art Foundation, Theatre Foundation, Physical Fitness, and Elective courses. Students will also participate in a comprehensive Wellness program, which includes units about mental health, substance abuse, sleep, nutrition, relationships, and social media. The grade 9 year includes many special opportunities for enrichment both in and outside of the classroom, and students will have the opportunity to participate in our growing athletics program and a variety of clubs.

Students are expected to acquire and [read one of the summer reading choice books](#). They should choose from the following books: *This Vicious Grace* by Emily Thiede, *We Deserve Monuments* by Jas Hammonds, *Iron Widow* by Xiran Jay Zhao, or *They Went Left* by Monica Hesse. Students should come to school in September ready to participate in various discussions and activities connected to the book they have read.

Fluency in multiplication and division facts is key for student success in Upper School mathematics courses. All students should have their multiplication and division facts memorized. They can practice for free at [factfreaks.com](https://www.factfreaks.com).

We look forward to seeing you at the Open House on **Monday, August 31st**.

Sincerely,

The Grade 9 Advisory Team

Required materials for Grade 9 students:

For All Classes: ☐ Pens and pencils ☐ Highlighters	
English: ☐ One 1-inch, three-ring binder ☐ White lined paper ☐ One set of binder dividers ☐ One portable (in-binder) hole punch	
History: ☐ One 1-inch, 3-ring binder ☐ White lined paper ☐ One set of binder dividers	
Visual Art: ☐ One 18-inch transparent plastic ruler	
Theatre: ☐ One pack of colored pencils ☐ One 1-subject notebook with a pocket (or separate folder for handouts)	
Science: ☐ One 1-inch, three-ring binder ☐ White lined paper ☐ Graph paper ☐ One set of binder dividers ☐ One scientific calculator (<i>same as the Math calculator - see below</i>)	
Latin: ☐ One 1-inch, three-ring binder ☐ White lined paper ☐ One set of binder dividers ☐ One pack of dry erase markers ☐ One pack of 3" x 5" index cards	Spanish: ☐ One 1-inch, 3-ring binder ☐ White lined paper ☐ One set of binder dividers ☐ One mid-size notebook ☐ One pack of dry erase markers ☐ One pack of 3" x 5" index cards
Geometry: ☐ Scientific calculator OR a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator* ☐ One 1-inch, 3-ring binder ☐ White lined paper ☐ Hole-punched graph paper ☐ One set of binder dividers ☐ One 12-inch ruler ☐ One protractor ☐ One compass	Algebra I: ☐ Scientific calculator OR a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator* ☐ One 1-inch, 3-ring binder with: ☐ White lined paper ☐ Hole-punched graph paper ☐ One set of binder dividers ☐ One 12-inch ruler
*Students are not required to have a graphing calculator for Algebra I or Geometry but will need a Texas Instruments (TI) Graphing Calculator for future courses, so families are encouraged to invest in one now, if possible.	