

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Greetings Roughriders,

I hope this communication finds you well. This past week allowed us as an administrative and counseling team to visit with KQA and MMS to discuss the course request and scheduling process. I know many of our current RHS parents have incoming freshmen, so please take a moment to ask about our visit this past Thursday. Part of that day was focused on going through the elective forms and reviewing the course request form. I was able to attend both sessions, and the students were very excited about the new building and all of the possibilities that the schedule and RHS as a whole offers. The deadline for turning in your elective sheets to your 8th grade representative is Friday, 2/24th.

We will begin meeting with our current 9th-11th graders to discuss and plan their schedules. We will begin with larger grade level meetings and then pare down to individual appointments. The hope is that all of our counselors meet with each of their current RHS students before school concludes this spring. Part of this process will be the students and the parents signing off on their schedules so as to significantly reduce or even eliminate the need for schedule change requests in the fall.

As an administrative team, we continue to meet with our committees, making policy adjustments to this school year as the need arises and to look forward to the 23-24 school year with planning. Mr. Addington is loading courses in the master schedule and working with our Technology team. Ms. Ham is working with our SEL committee making adjustments as needed to our advisory program. Mr. Walker is getting ready for our spring sports while supporting the winter sports as they conclude their seasons as well as working with potential financial sponsors for spaces in our new campus. I have been working with all of our contracted companies to finalize the equipment and furniture needs in all 125+ spaces at the new building. This includes partnering with our architect and construction team to ensure that we have what we need and also stay under budget. Not an easy task.

All administrators also continue to work with their academic departments discussing their needs and making plans on how to have a successful conclusion to the school year.

In addition, as an administrative team, we continue to work with students and their families on attendance. Please keep in mind that the great majority of our students have exemplary (95% or higher) attendance, however the students who exhibit lower than acceptable attendance (10% or higher absence rate) typically perform much poorer than their peers. Our RHS team includes administration, counselors, our School Resource Officer, our district truancy officer, and our mental health professionals. All of these people work to partner and provide support with parents and the students themselves.

A few upcoming dates to remember are our Spring Parent Teacher Conferences on 3/7 and 3/9. Both of these dates will be between 3pm and 7pm with 3/7 being by appointment only, and 3/9 being more of an open classroom format. Please join us on either of those evenings as we continue to support our students.

Lastly, we had some major events this weekend. We had well over 20 schools join us at RHS for our Robotics Competition. I enjoyed watching competitive teams that focus on critical thinking, creativity, ingenuity, problem solving, and engineering. If you get the chance to attend a future event, I strongly encourage it. This weekend in Denver at Ball Arena was the State Wrestling Championships. We sent down nine wrestlers to the competition, and they performed outstandingly. I'll share more specific details in our upcoming newsletter this Friday.

A final shout out for our Poetry Out Loud finalists who performed their pieces in front of their teachers and peers. They will be attending the Poetry Out Loud state competition on March 1st.

Sorry for the slight delay in our letter this week. I do hope you have enjoyed your extended weekend. As always, please contact me if you have any questions.

David Benson
RHS Principal