

Rice Lake High School Student Services Newsletter



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Join us on Monday, February 19th from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Mr. Pacholke will communicate information on how parents can schedule conference times in Skyward.

Scheduling for 2018-19 School Year Enters Next Phase

Scheduling for the 2018-19 school year is underway. The process is a long one that requires a great deal of time by both students and faculty. What results is a schedule that accommodates the vast majority of student requests while maximizing the use of the facility and staff. Students submitted course requests in January.

If you have not already done so, please log into Skyward Family Access and review your son or daughter's course requests for next year by selecting "Schedule" and then "View Available Courses for 2018-19 in Rice Lake High School". Please note that you will need a browser version of Skyward to see next year's course requests. If any changes need to be made, please contact a counselor by Thursday, March 1st. Counselors will be available at Parent/Teacher Conferences to assist you with scheduling questions or any other concerns you may have.

Scholarships

Seniors – Be sure to check the scholarship files in Student Services or the scholarship webpage on the student services website for scholarship information. As scholarships come in, they will be announced in the morning announcements, made available to you in student services and online on the Student Services page. Students can also access the website of the college or university they plan to attend to look for available scholarships. If you have any questions, see a counselor or Mrs. Hansen.

Important Contact Information

Dial 715-234-2181 and say the name or dial the extension:

Attendance: 5641
Food Service: 5184
Financial: 5657

Student Services

Mrs. Hansen (Secretary): 5657
hansenp@ricelake.k12.wi.us

Ms. Ebner: 5470
Last Names A-L
ebnerj@ricelake.k12.wi.us

Mr. Shomion: 5335
Last Names M-Z
shomionm@ricelake.k12.wi.us

Ms. Neuser (Nurse): 5110
neuser@ricelake.k12.wi.us

Mr. Morey: 5262
School Social Worker
moreyj@ricelake.k12.wi.us

It is the policy of the Rice Lake Area School District, pursuant to s. 118.13 of Wisconsin Statutes, and PI9, that no person on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability may be denied admission to any school in this District or be denied participation in, denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program. In addition, it is the policy of the RLASD that no person on the basis of gender identity or gender expression, be denied admission to any school in this District or be denied participation in, denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program.

Northern Lakes Regional Academy 2018-19 Enrollment Process

Northern Lakes Regional Academy (NLRA) is the Rice Lake Area School District's rigorous STEAM focused and project-based high school open to all area students. We offer a small, self-paced, and individualized learning environment with an emphasis on projects involving science, technology, engineering, aesthetic design, and mathematics. NLRA students get increased academic flexibility in their high school curriculum in exchange for increased accountability. NLRA students earn academic credit and meet proficiencies in required and elective learning targets through:

- Utilization of our digital fabrication and design lab (Fab Lab)
- Participation in required interdisciplinary projects and skill based workshops
- Small group and individual projects designed by students and mentored by staff
- Involvement in community events
- Personalized online course-work
- Opportunities to participate in sports, clubs, and some traditional courses at Rice Lake High School

NLRA is now enrolling students for the 2018-2019 school year. Students and parents interested in making NLRA their school of choice must register for and attend an information session with one of NLRA's lead teachers to learn more about NLRA's unique learning environment and the application process. These sessions will be held at our facility (33 Ann Street in Rice Lake) and can be scheduled by contacting NLRA Co-lead Teacher Mr. Jeremy "Pete" Peterson at peteronje@ricelake.k12..us or calling 715-234-2181 ext. 5458. Due to recent enrollment trends, we anticipate having to hold a lottery for admittance for new NLRA students in the 2018-2019 school year if the number of applicants exceeds our capacity. Given the likelihood of this lottery, students are strongly encouraged to come to one of the early information sessions in order to apply February 15, 2018.

Sophomore Conferencing

Sophomore conferences are now being held with students and parents. If you have a sophomore son or daughter and have not scheduled your conference yet, please contact Mrs. Hansen at 715-234-2181 ext. 5657. Mr. Shomion and Ms. Ebner will be holding conferences during February and March between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

New "Early College" Options

The "Early College Credit Program" & the "Start College Now" program have replaced the Youth Options program in Wisconsin. These two new separate programs for the UW System & the Technical College system allow a student at RLHS the opportunity to attend WITC or UW-Barron County here in Rice Lake. More information on these new programs can be found on the RLHS website under the Student Services tab. These statewide programs have an application deadline of March 1 for fall semester. Students interested in these opportunities for next fall need to see Mr. Shomion in Student Services before the March 1 deadline.

ACT Plus Writing and Work Keys

On February 27th and 28th, all eleventh grade students in the state of Wisconsin will be taking the ACT and the WorkKeys Assessments. The ACT Plus Writing will be held on Tuesday, February 27th and the ACT WorkKeys will be held on Wednesday, February 28th. Please schedule your student's appointments around these two days.

It is very important that your son or daughter participate in both assessments because they can take the ACT for free and colleges can accept these scores for admission, so the only way they would need to take the ACT as a senior, is if they want to retake it for a higher score; however, this test will be at your expense. The ACT WorkKeys is a new assessment for high school students to take. It certifies your student for foundational skills that are essential for the workplace. Your student will be scored a Bronze, Silver, or Gold. If your child receives a Bronze, they have the foundational skills for 16% of the jobs in the ACT WorkKeys database. If they score Silver, they have the necessary skills for 67% of the jobs in the ACT WorkKeys database. If they score Gold, they have the skills necessary to be successful for 93% of the jobs in the database. Many companies require applicants to take the ACT WorkKeys in order to apply for a position with their company because they want to measure their work skills. The results of this assessment are priceless whether your son or daughter is going to college or straight into the work force. These results speak volumes to your child's work ethic and abilities because employers can tell if you are the type of employee they want based on your results.

Thank you for your patience. This testing is a change that was implemented for all public school districts in Wisconsin a few years ago. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Pacholke, Ms. Ebner, or Mr. Shomion.

HealthMatters

"Migraine headache, a common health problem in youth that is ranked highest for disability among neurological conditions and is one of the leading reasons for school absences" (Conley, Bickel, Wingert & Gilmore, *School Nurse*, 01-2018). If your child experiences headaches that affect their ability to attend school, there is a new web site available through the Headache Action Plan Project for Youth (HAPPY) that you may find helpful. The HAPPY program aims to provide a systematic approach to pediatric migraine management that includes information for students, parents, school nurses and health care providers. The web site contains information about what causes pediatric headaches, provides ways for kids to explain their headaches so others can more effectively help them, provides information on how to take control of headache pain and recommends options for treatment. There is even a section for health care providers, in case your child's doctor would appreciate more information about recent treatment recommendations from pediatric migraine experts.

The web site is:

<http://www.headachereliefguide.com/index.php>. Check it out!

~Submitted by Trisha Neuser, School Nurse

ACT Aspire (9th and 10th Grade)

All 9th and 10th grade students will take the ACT Aspire assessment on Tuesday, April 17th as a state requirement. Students will be testing in the areas of Reading, Math, Science, English and Writing. This a computer-based test that can be thought of as a pre-ACT test. Students will receive scoring in each subject area that indicates if they are: In Need of Support, Close, Ready, or Exceeding. In addition, students will receive a numerical score and a predicted score of how they will do on the ACT test that they take during 11th grade. It is important for students to get a good night sleep and eat a healthy breakfast before this test. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Pacholke, Mr. Shomion, or Ms. Ebner.

UW Placement Testing

New freshmen admitted to the UW System campuses will be asked to take placement tests at a regional testing site. Students may register beginning February 1st by using Web registration. Registration can be completed at <http://testing.wisc.edu/centerpages/regionatesting.html> Students will be able to see which sites are open and receive immediate confirmation that can be printed. Students will not be sent confirmation letters so it is important that they print out or write down the confirmation information. Please keep in mind the following items when registering:

- Popular test sites fill quickly – Register Early.
- Choose dates carefully – check calendars. Changing a test date is difficult.
- Scientific (not graphing) calculators are permitted but not required.
- Be sure to indicate on the website if you are interested in taking a foreign language placement test.

Test Day Schedule

8:00 – 10:00 Seating, Orientation, & Math Test
10:00 – 10:10 Break
10:10 – 11:50 English Test
11:50 – 12:00 Break
12:00 – 1:00 Foreign Language Test (optional)

Test Dates and Nearby Locations

UW-Barron County: April 14 & June 9
UW-Eau Claire: April 7, 28, May 5, June 2 & 16
UW-Stout: March 24, April 7, 14, 28, & May 5

Forward Exam 10th Grade

All 10th grade students will be taking the WI Forward Exam in April. This exam will be in the area of Social Studies and will consist of two 50-minute computer-based tests. The Forward Exam is a new assessment at the high school level and is replacing the WKCE for required state testing for Social Studies. Students who have a 4th term history class will be testing during that time. Students not enrolled in a history class 4th term will be testing at an alternate time.

Advanced Placement Classes

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. It exposes high school students to college-level material through involvement in an AP course, and it gives them the opportunity to show that they have mastered it by taking an AP Exam.

Colleges and universities can then grant credit, placement, or both to students who have done so depending on the score they receive on the AP Exam. The granting of credit and/or placement is at the discretion of each individual college and university. At RLHS in 2017-18, we offer AP courses in Chemistry, Physics, English Lit. & Comp, Calculus, Statistics, European History, and 2D Studio Art.

Please see the chart below for this year's AP testing schedule. Each test will take approximately 3.5 hours. The cost for each exam is \$85.00. Please see the last page of this newsletter for more information on AP testing. For more information or if you have questions, please contact Mr. Shomion.

Testing Schedule

AP Chemistry

Mon. May 7th, morning

AP Physics 1

Tues. May 8th, afternoon

AP English Lit. & Comp.

Wed. May 9th, morning

AP Studio Art

Portfolio due Fri. May 11th

AP Calculus (AB & BC)

Tues. May 15th, morning

AP Statistics

Thurs. May 17th, afternoon

AP Euro History

Fri. May 18th, afternoon

Test Taking Strategies

Multiple Choice

- Read directions carefully.
- Choose the best answer. More than one answer may be correct, but the most inclusive is the best answer.
- Read it in steps. Read the beginning part of the statement and finish the answer in your mind. Then look for the correct answer in the choices given.
- Look for answers in other questions. Answers often pop up in other questions.
- Do not change answers. Statistically, if you switch answers, you are likely to get it wrong.

Essay Questions

- Create a topical outline of what to write before you begin.
- Write a strong thesis sentence stating your topic.
- Limit each paragraph to one main idea.
- Include supporting examples and other details. Write as if your reader is not knowledgeable about the subject.

When You Need to Guess

- Do not change answers. Unless you know for sure you are wrong, go with your first impression.
- Guess false when absolute words (all, never, must, only) are used.
- Guess true when general terms (most, could, some, may) are used.
- Guess false when reasons are given using words like since, because, effect, and reason.
- The longest and most inclusive multiple choice option is a good guess.
- "None of the above" is a poor guess.
- Guess "all of the above" if that option is used only occasionally, or if you know two of four options.
- If there are a number of options, eliminate the highest and lowest. Choose one that is left.
- B, C, and D are the best choices in five-answer, multiple choice questions.
- If two of the four choices are almost identical, pick one of the two.
- If two of the four choices are opposite, pick one of the two.
- Guess true or C for a wild guess when no other clues are available.
- Best Idea: Study hard so you don't have to guess.

From UW-Platteville Academic Support Programs

Helpful Tips for Winning Scholarship Applications

Ever wonder what the folks who award the scholarships want to see?

Tip #1 Complete the application in full. Be sure to complete the entire application. If a question doesn't apply, note that on the application. Don't just leave it blank.

Tip #2 Follow directions. Provide everything that is required, but don't supply things that aren't requested – you could be disqualified.

Tip #3 Neatness counts. Make a copy of all the forms you receive. Use the copy as a working draft. Always type the application, or if you must print, do so neatly and legibly.

Tip #4 Make sure your essay makes an impression. The key to writing a strong essay is to be personal and specific. Include concrete details to make your experience come alive – the who, what, where and when of your topic. The simplest experience can be monumental if you present honestly how you were affected.

Tip #5 Watch all deadlines. To help yourself keep on track, impose a deadline for yourself that is at least one week prior to the stated deadline. Use this "buffer" time to proofread your application.

Tip #6 Make sure your application gets where it needs to go. Before sending the application, make a copy of the entire packet. If your application goes astray, you can always reproduce it quickly. Make sure your name appears on all pages of the application. Pieces of your application may get lost unless they are clearly identified.

Tip #7 Give it a final once-over. Proofread the entire application carefully. Be on the lookout for misspelled words and grammatical errors. Ask a friend, teacher or parent to proofread it as well.

Tip #8 Ask for help if you need it. If you have a problem with the application, don't hesitate to call the funding organization.

Tip #9 Remember – your scholarship application represents you! Your ability to submit a neat, timely, complete application reflects on you. It's your face to this organization. Take pride in yourself by submitting the best application you can.

Alternative Pathways

What does it mean to have a disability?

Does it mean that you lack the physical capabilities of an Olympic athlete? Wait . . . that's most of us.

Does it mean that you lack the compassion of Jesus or Gandhi or Mother Theresa? Oops . . . that's most of us, again.

Does it mean that you're not a genius like Einstein? Well . . .

We each have strengths and weaknesses, after all. We are all "differently-abled." Someone who can't walk may be a math whiz. Someone who can't do algebra could be the best friend you could ever hope for. Someone who struggles to talk at all, or who stutters, could be great at working on engines.

Einstein was a genius, but he was also slow to talk, and when he went to school, the teacher sent him home declaring him "impossible to teach." People speculate that Einstein either had a learning disability or that he was on the autism spectrum.

John McEnroe was a great tennis player, but also threw tantrums more worthy of a toddler than an adult. Maybe his emotional development was at a less-than-optimal level?

Helen Keller was both blind and deaf, but she also became a world-famous speaker and author, eventually publishing 12 books and several articles.

Who is NOT disabled? Maybe your body is fine now, your intelligence at least average, and your emotions on an even keel. What's the likelihood that things will always go well for you?

Experts suggest that disability is the norm, not the exception.

Who will become physically disabled (in the United States)?

16.2% of adults have trouble hearing

9.4% of adults have some vision impairment

15.6% of adults have some problem with other physical functioning (like walking)

Who will be emotionally impaired?

According to the Surgeon General, 22-23% of adults have a diagnosable mental disorder, in any given year.

Who will be cognitively impaired?

7% of adults have a cognitive disability: mental retardation, acquired brain injury, or Alzheimer's disease

Overall, rates of significant disability vary with age. For children it's 5.8%. For young adults, it goes up to 13.6%. For middle-aged persons (45-64), it's 29.2%. Among the elderly, the disability rate rises to 53.9%. Thus, we are all more likely to (eventually) have a disability than to not have one. Is this so bad? Don't assume that everyone with a disability is depressed! Helen Keller, for instance, was happy and well-adjusted in addition to being an accomplished author and speaker.

If you are glad that you're NOT disabled now, when you see someone with a disability, don't think "I'm glad I'm not like him/her." Instead, think "How will I want to be treated when I also become disabled?" Start being that person today.

~Submitted by Linda Tollefsrud

MN-WI Reciprocity

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Application for Reciprocity Fee Status for the 2018-19 school year will be available in April on-line at www.heab.wi.gov. This MUST be completed to get the tuition break for Wisconsin students attending a Minnesota college. See a counselor for more information.

Student Services Year at a Glance

February

- **19:** Parent-Teacher Conferences
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- **27:** ACT Plus Writing (11th gr.)
- **28:** ACT Work Keys (11th gr.)

March

- **1:** Early College Options Forms Due for Fall Semester
- **23:** End of Term Three; Spring Break Begins at end of school day

April

- **3:** School Resumes; Term Four Begins
- **9-12:** Forward Exam (10th gr.)
- **17:** ACT Aspire Testing (9th and 10th grade)
- **28:** Prom @ Elks
- **30:** Academic Awards Night

May

- **2:** Community Service Day
- **7:** Parent Teacher Conf.
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- **7:** AP Chemistry test – AM
- **8:** AP Physics test – PM
- **9:** AP English test – AM
- **11:** AP Art Portfolio due
- **15:** AP Calculus test – AM
- **17:** AP Statistics test – PM
- **18:** AP Euro History test – PM

June

- **4:** Senior Banquet and Awards Night
- **6:** Graduation @ 7:30 p.m.
- **6:** End of Term Four



The FAFSA Matters: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is the entry point for federal student aid and often for state, college and private financial aid as well. It is important to complete this form quickly and properly. Visit the government's website now to apply. <http://fafsa.ed.gov>.

- **Search for Scholarships:** After the grants and financial aid from the federal government and the college, scholarships are one of the best ways of bridging the financial gap. Search for scholarships early and often.

- **Work-Study Programs Help:** These programs help students earn money for college, and they also prepare college students for life. "Students who participate in the federal work-study program are more likely to graduate and be employed six years after college than their similar counterparts who don't participate in the program."

- **Learn About Student Loans Now:** Don't wait until you need money to learn about the differences between federal and private student loans. Invest the time to research them properly now so you can make smart financial decisions later.

ACT with Accommodations

Any student who is planning to take the ACT with accommodations on a Saturday test date should contact Mrs. Amos **after** registering for the test online **and** indicating a need for accommodations and/or English learner supports during the online registration process. Mrs. Amos is the Testing Accommodations Specialist for the high school. Her email is amosj@ricelake.k12.wi.us or students can stop and see her at school. Test registration can be completed at www.actstudent.org

February 2018

To: Parents of Advanced Placement Students

From: Mike Shomion, AP Coordinator

715-234-2181 ext. 5335

shomionm@ricelake.k12.wi.us

2018 AP Exam Schedule:

Chemistry – Mon. May 7, morning

Physics 1 – Tue. May 8, afternoon

English – Wed. May 9, morning

Studio Art – Portfolio due Fri. May 11

Calc. AB/BC – Tue. May 15, morning

Statistics – Thurs. May 17, afternoon

Euro Hist. – Fri. May 18, afternoon

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. It exposes high school students to college-level material through involvement in an AP course, and it gives them the opportunity to show that they have mastered it by taking an AP Exam. Colleges and universities can then grant credit, placement, or both to students who have done so. **The granting of credit and/or placement is at the discretion of each individual college and university.**

Your student has the option of taking the AP Exams this May. We will give the exams at RLHS on the dates listed above.

In early July, the results of AP Examinations are sent to students, their secondary schools, and the colleges they select. Each AP Exam grade is a weighted combination of the student's score on the multiple-choice section and on the free-response section. The final grade is reported on a 5-point scale: 5 = extremely well qualified; 4 = well qualified; 3 = qualified; 2 = possibly qualified; 1 = no recommendation. Each college decides which AP Exam grades it will accept in return for credit. Many institutions accept grades of 3 and above. Because this varies from school to school, you need to check each specific college's AP policy. You can typically find this information on the school's Web site.

This year, the Chemistry exam will be given Monday morning, May 7th, and take approximately 3.5 hours. The Physics 1 exam will be given Tuesday afternoon, May 8th, and will last approximately 3.25 hours. The English exam will be given Wednesday morning, May 9th, and will take approximately 3.5 hours. On Friday, May 11th, the Studio Art portfolios are due. The Calculus exams are set for Tuesday morning, May 15th, and will take approximately 3.5 hours each. The Statistics exam will be given Thursday afternoon, May 17th, and take approximately 3.25 hours. Finally, the European History exam will be given in the afternoon of Friday, May 18th and last approximately 3.25 hours.

The cost of each exam is \$85.00, to be paid by a check made out to Rice Lake High School. The fee needs to be delivered to Mrs. Hansen, our secretary in Student Services, by Wednesday, April 11th, 2018. Mrs. Hansen will give each student a receipt, and a copy will be given to me. I will then order exams for all students who have paid for an exam. **Any student who signs up for an exam but is unable to take it, forfeits \$15.00 to the AP Program. Any student who qualifies for free or reduced lunch at our school should see Mr. Shomion to learn about a reduced fee.**

Students who are interested in AP exams need to pick-up an informational bulletin from their AP instructor, or me, before registering for the exam(s). **Please be aware that the AP exams do not take the place of required placement tests that colleges require of all their incoming freshmen.** If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me at 234-2181, extension 5335. Thanks.