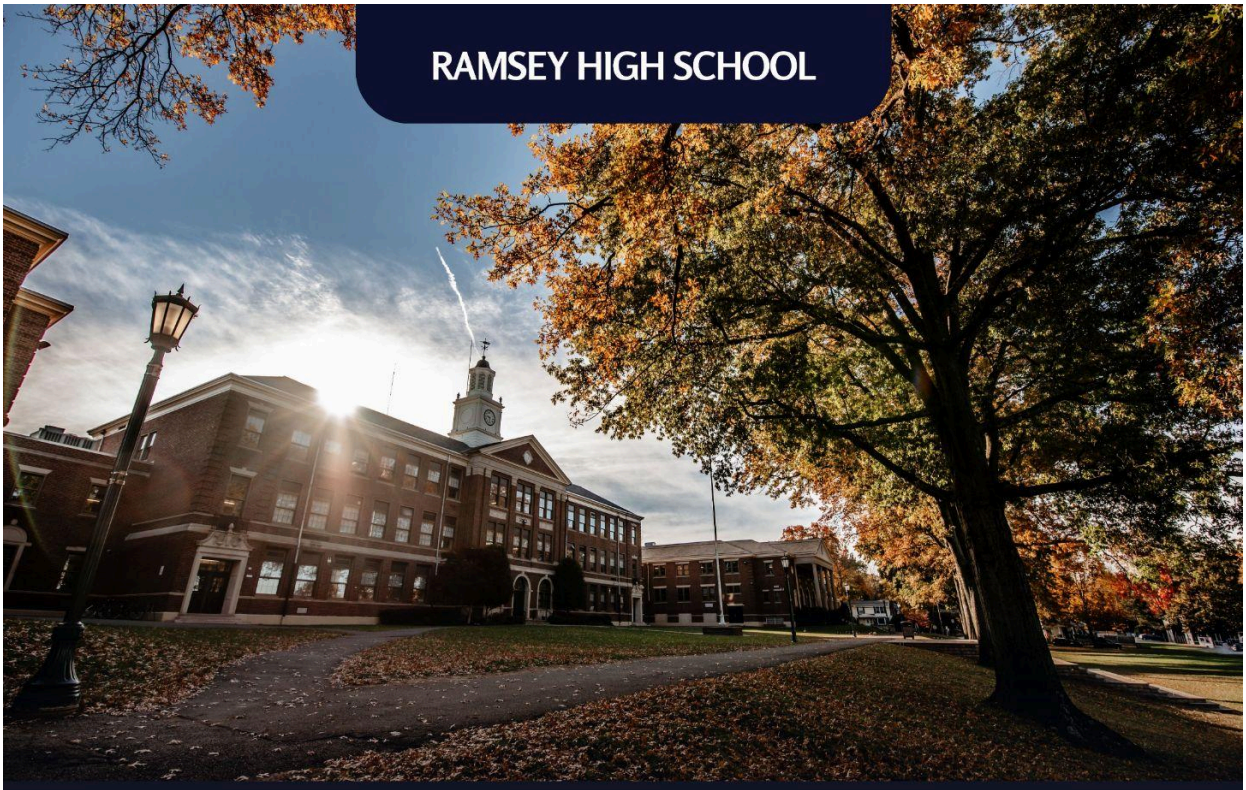


Ramsey High School HANDBOOK

2026-2027

RAMSEY
HIGH SCHOOL

256 East Main Street
Ramsey, New Jersey 07446
Phone: (201) 785-2300
Fax: (201) 818-2656

Revised 10/2/26

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

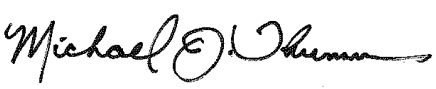
Dear Students and Parents:

This handbook is designed to provide both students and parents with the rules, regulations, and procedures of Ramsey High School. It advises you of the many clubs and activities available to students of all grades; it reviews some very important policies and procedures; and it details common building practices. Your understanding and knowledge of the contents of this handbook will assist you, guide you, and make it easier for you to be an informed and productive member of Ramsey High School. In essence, we work together in creating a learning community that is safe and secure for all students, parents, faculty members, staff, and stakeholders.

Ramsey High School is staffed by talented, caring, and dedicated professionals and surrounded by supportive families and community. Each of these variables allows us to maintain a dynamic learning atmosphere. As a District, we have adopted The Profile of a Graduate which emphasizes the competencies we expect our students to acquire by the end of their Ramsey High School career. We consider Ramsey High School to be an open and genuine learning environment. As a result, students will be supported and encouraged to pursue a Profile Project that aims to provide students an opportunity to explore a personal interest while engaging in the practice of integral skills for their future careers or academic endeavors.

We take great pride in the reputation of our school. I am well aware of our traditions as well as our potential for growth. I will continue to monitor and adjust our practices, policies, and programs in order to provide you with more opportunities to share what you have learned and further develop your talents and skills. Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Thumm, Ed.D
Principal

Mission Statement
Ramsey School District inspires students to maximize their potential, striving to be better tomorrow than they were yesterday.

Vision Statement
We envision an inclusive school community that recognizes each student's unique strengths. We aim to be a place where every student feels a sense of belonging and has the opportunity to pursue their passions and reach their full potential. We strive to develop well-rounded individuals who are responsible, resilient, and ready to become active citizens in their local, national, and global communities.

MISSION

KEY CONCEPTS

Strengths First
We celebrate the unique strengths of each student and staff member. By focusing on strengths, we aim to create a community where every individual feels welcome, valued, and respected.

Stronger Together
While recognizing the strengths of the individual, we also believe that we are stronger together. We value the power of teamwork and encourage students, educators and families to work together to achieve common goals.

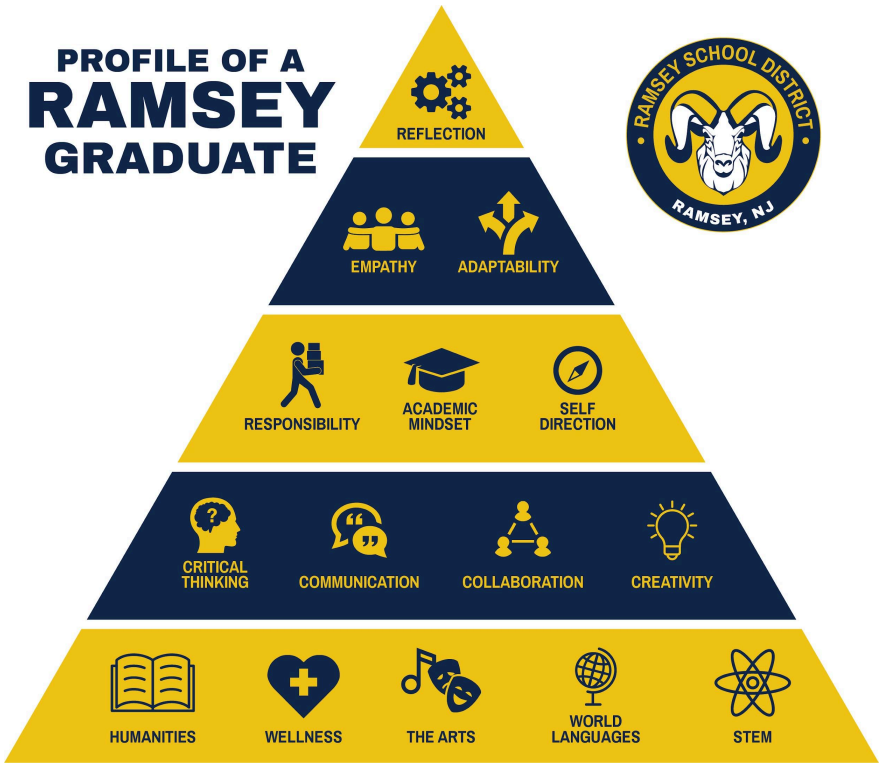
Rich Tradition
We honor the rich tradition that has shaped our school district since its inception in 1908. Tradition connects us to our past, grounds us in the present, and guides us toward a future where we respect our roots while embracing progress.

Continuous Improvement
While respecting our rich tradition, we also believe in the continuous growth and development of students, staff, and the community. By embracing new ideas and approaches, we prepare students to navigate and succeed in a rapidly changing world.

PHILOSOPHY OF RAMSEY HIGH SCHOOL

Ramsey High School, founded in 1908, serves a suburban community whose vision, like that of the staff, is to provide a quality education for its youth. The single most important role of the school is to empower students to become autonomous learners who will continue to recognize and solve problems throughout their lives. Through its curriculum, Ramsey High School will achieve this goal by informing, guiding and challenging students to understand that new knowledge brings new questions and responsibilities. Realizing the interdependence of skills, content and changing technology, the school will establish an atmosphere in which students increase their competence in acquiring information, in thinking through issues and in communicating ideas and opinions.

An additional role of the school is to develop intellectually and vocationally informed students capable of participating in both domestic and world affairs. Thus, the school will instill in its students knowledge of, and respect for, the diverse cultural heritage of the United States.



This Profile of a Ramsey Graduate provides a clear vision of what we, as a school community, hope all Ramsey students will possess and be able to demonstrate by the time they walk across that graduation stage after having benefited from 13 years of education that has intentionally fostered these competencies.

HABITS OF MIND	
Reflection	Reflecting on your own learning and experiences; thinking about your own thinking.
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS	
Empathy	Work with, and understand others' views and needs with an open mind.
Adaptability	Adapt to complicated challenges, persist when obstacles arise, and understand different views on a problem or solution.
PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES	
Responsibility	Make good choices that reflect integrity and accountable behavior in an effort to promote growth as a student, as a person, and as a community member.
Academic Mindset	Positive attitudes and beliefs about themselves as learners that increase their academic perseverance and prompt them to engage in productive academic behaviors.
Self Direction	A commitment to lifelong learning by setting goals, prioritizing and engaging in independent learning.
THE 4C'S	
Critical Thinking	Reason effectively using relevant information to make a judgment, decision, or solve a problem.
Communication	Listen effectively and express ideas for a range of purposes and audiences using multiple resources.
Collaboration	Work effectively with others towards achieving a common goal while being helpful and respectful.
Creativity	Generate ideas, learn from mistakes, and elaborate and refine ideas to maximize value.
CONTENT MASTERY	
Humanities	A baseline understanding of knowledge in English Language Arts and Social Studies and the ability to transfer that knowledge to other situations.
Wellness	A baseline understanding of knowledge in Physical Education and Health and the ability to transfer that knowledge to other situations.
The Arts	A baseline understanding of knowledge in the arts and the ability to transfer that knowledge to other situations.
World Languages	A baseline understanding of knowledge in World Languages and the ability to transfer that knowledge to other situations.
STEM	A baseline understanding of knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and the ability to transfer that knowledge to other situations.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE RAMSEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Board of Education has adopted a series of ethical principles for the Ramsey Public Schools. The high school staff will address them throughout the year. They include:

1. **CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY** Based upon:

   a. **Acknowledgement of Authority.** Acceptance of the need for primacy of authority in given circumstances. An acknowledgement that privileges and rights in a democracy should be balanced by a sense of obligation to others. Socially conscious conduct, though neither passive nor obsequious.

   b. **Global Awareness.** Consciousness of the interdependence of all peoples, social systems, and natural systems which necessitates cooperation among all nations.

   c. **Justice, Fairness.** The entitlement of every person to that treatment which is his or her impartial and unprejudiced due.

   d. **Patriotism.** The support of, or love of one's country especially through an understanding of its advantages; not inconsistent with vigorous opposition to specific government policies or actions. Implies respect for and adherence to democracy, equality, equal opportunity for all.

   e. **Property Rights.** Acknowledgement of the right of others to possession of their property without interference.

2. **RESPECT FOR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT** Based upon:

   a. Care for and conservation of **all** the other living inhabitants of the earth.

   b. Care for and conservation of those prerequisites to life which were given to us in fertile trees, and flowering land; clean air; and pure water.

   c. Conduct based upon knowledge that the natural environment is not locally or nationally severable, but is everywhere a part of a larger and interdependent whole.

3. **RESPECT FOR OTHERS** Based upon:

   a. **Compassion. Service to Others.** That characteristic of meaningfully sharing and responding to the feelings and needs of others which leads to providing personal assistance and comfort to them.

   b. **Courtesy, Cooperativeness.** The recognition of our mutual interdependence upon our fellow human beings which causes us to treat them politely, to respect their utterances and wishes, and to work jointly with them for our common good. Innovation, spontaneous creativity, critical judgment, and dissent are all complementary and essential outgrowths of this attribute.

   c. **Honesty.** Trustworthiness and fairness in speaking and acting. The absence of fraud, deceit, and lying.

   d. **Loyalty.** Steadfastness of faithfulness to a person, custom or idea.

   e. **Moderation.** Conduct which is maintained within reasonable limits so as to avoid excessive or violent extremes.

   f. **Recognition and Understanding of Various Religious Traditions.** A social and historical perspective based upon an appreciation of the contributions of various religious and cultural traditions.

g. **Regard for Human Life.** Acknowledgement of the overriding importance of human life and the right of every human to the peaceful continuation of life. Includes understanding and practicing responsible sexual behavior. Also includes rejection of whatever endangers or diminishes the value of human life -- such as violence, drug and alcohol abuse.

h. **Acceptance.** The capacity for the practice of allowing and respecting the differing natures, beliefs, and standards of others. The condemnation of arrogance or animosity towards people of any racial, religious, sexuality or gender identity. The ability to permit dissenting beliefs, customs, or standards.

4. **RESPECT FOR SELF** Based upon personal:

a. **Responsibility.** The obligation each of us carries to explain, to justify our conduct. The resultant circumstance of being answerable for our actions and an understanding that our actions have consequences.

b. **Courage.** The willingness to face obstacles, including danger, with determination.

c. **Diligence. Commitment. Reliability.** The persistent desire and ability to apply oneself with care and effort to occupations and relationships.

d. **Frugality. Thrift.** Wise economy in the management of assets, including natural resources. The avoidance of unnecessary expenditures.

e. **Knowledge and Learning.** A desire for learning informed by a rational inquiry. The devotion to the development of the mind. Value-based education rightly assumes that learning will be transformed into positive character and behavior patterns.

f. **Moral Courage.** Firm adherence to morally based actions without regard to whether the consequences will be personally advantageous or disadvantageous. Includes integrity and self- honesty. Together, these are prerequisites to principled conduct.

g. **Self-Esteem. Pride.** Belief in oneself and one's own potential for successful participation in our society. Must be moderated with tolerance for others.

RAMSEY HIGH SCHOOL STAFF 2026-2027

Dr. Michael J. Thumm, Principal
Mr. Michael Biggan, Director of HS Education
Mr. Daniel DeMartino, Dean of Students

21st CENTURY LIFE & CAREERS Mr. Kenneth Veit, Supervisor of Visual & Performing Arts & 21st Century Life & Career	
Mr. Adam Baeira	Mrs. Ornella Incardona
Mr. William Bliss	Ms. Stephanie Ormaeche
Mr. Matthew Eodice	Mr. Jeremy Truppi
Mrs. Kaitin Goldberg	

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT & ESL Mr. Carmen Lacherza, Supervisor	
Mrs. Gina Altiero	Ms. Wendy Murray
Mrs. Michelle Colucci	Ms. Melanie Olson
Ms. Melanie Consiglio	Ms. Michele Reidel
Ms. Margaret Cosgrove	Mrs. Susan Rodriguez
Ms. Nina DeSantis	Ms. Christine Salerni
Mr. Keith Lyle	Mrs. Nicole Shahanian
Ms. Jennifer Mejia	Mr. Patrick Walsh
Ms. Lori Militello	

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT Mr. Kenneth Veit, Supervisor of Visual & Performing Arts & 21st Century Life & Careers	
Visual Art	Mrs. Sarah Calogero-LaNeve
Visual Art	Mrs. Danielle Robertson
Visual Art	Mr. David Levinson
Instrumental Music	Mr. Andre Baruch
Instrumental Music	Mr. Joshua Jenkins
Drama	Mr. Christopher Peterson
Music/Vocal	Mr. Matthew Wolf

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT Ms. Lemma Taha, Director of School Counseling	
Mrs. Christine Bradley	Mrs. Teresa Kilday
Ms. Brianna Hay	Mr. Andrew Reitter
	Ms. Sunni Roberts

MEDIA CENTER
Ms. Nicole Wohlrab, Media Specialist

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT Mrs. Melissa Cruz, Supervisor of Mathematics & Computer Science	
Mr. Christopher Bailey	Mrs. Susan Myhren
Mr. Thomas Digiore	Ms. Melanie Olson
Mr. Christopher Frangione	Mr. Kenneth Schmarge
Mrs. Maria Gaffney	Mr. Paul Urbanovich
Mrs. Marissa Jenkins	Mr. Robert Vottero
Mrs. Jeanne Kelly	Mr. Michael Walker
Mrs. Casey Nagle	

WELLNESS DEPARTMENT Mr. Anthony Petrock, Wellness Coordinator K-12	
Ms. Corinne DiStaso	Mr. Anthony Petrock
Mrs. Kaitlin Goldberg	Mr. Victor Tribuzio
Mrs. Margaret Gorman	Mr. Matthew Wynne
Mrs. Jessica Harte	

HEALTH SERVICES	
School Nurse	Mrs. Laurie Roche

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT Ms. Holly Falcone, Supervisor of Science & Profile Projects	
Ms. Chelsey Bishay	Ms. Nicole Palko
Ms. Alyssa Ehlers	Ms. Jaclyn Parrella
Ms. Erika Fromkin	Ms. Erika Scanel
Ms. Samantha Ker	Mr. Stephen Tabulov
Ms. Samantha Leschak	Mr. Stephen Trocolar
Ms. Alexis Mathew	Mr. Daryl Van Ry

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT Mr. Brennan Heffernan, Supervisor	
Mrs. Ann Alcaide	Ms. Emily J. Moore
Mr. William Abma	Mrs. Amy Murphy
Ms. Kaylin Bessler	Mr. Jaime Phillips
Mr. Chris Caserta	Mr. Andres Rodriguez
Mr. Keith Lyle	Mr. Daniel Willever
Mrs. Cassandre McKeefrey	

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT Mr. Brennan Heffernan, Supervisor	
Mrs. Maria Downey | Spanish	Ms. Diana Shults | French
Mrs. Tara King | Spanish	Dr. Gregory Starikovsky | Latin, French
Ms. Emine Ortega | Spanish	Ms. Tatiana Vlasova | French
Ms. Fernanda Vivas | Spanish	

SPECIAL SERVICES Dr. Donna Volpe, Director of Special Education	
Behaviorist	Ms. Valerie Gancarz-DeMarco
Learning Consultant	Ms. Kathleen Petrow
Social Worker	Ms. Jacquelyn Rizzo
School Psychologist	Dr. Hayley Spector
Speech Therapist	Mrs. Cecelia Scheid

PARAPROFESSIONALS	
Mrs. Diana Gampel	Mrs. Karin Toscano
Mr. Viktor Kanashiro	Ms. Diana Wollerman
Ms. Mary McGinley	

STEP PROGRAM	
Ms. Margarita Diakos	Mr. Jeremiah Clark

SAFETY AND SECURITY	
Mr. Michael Fanning	Director of Security
Mr. Joseph Farrow	Security Officer
Mr. Manny Alvarez	Security Officer

CUSTODIAL STAFF Ms. Nikoleta Kairoli, Head Custodian Mr. Vasil Karoli, Night Lead	
Ebtsam Abdou	Christopher Libbrecht
Rick Bolt	Erwin Santos
George Celaj	Luis Rivera
Paul Gallo	Edward Shameti
Nulufer Kizilrmak	Nertila Sinjaku

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS	
Athletic Office	Ms. Ivy Villalta
Attendance Administration	Ms. Jennifer Mejia
School Counseling Office	Mrs. Christine Thorp
Main Office	Ms. Jodi Steinhart
Main Office	Ms. Amy Syracuse
Principal's Office	Ms. Angela Trovato
Media Center	Ms. Gina Butler
Supervisors' Office	Mrs. Karen Stugart

BOARD OF EDUCATION	
Mrs. Laura E. Behrmann, President	**Ms. Jennifer Burns, Vice President**
Mr. Michael Augello	Mr. Anthony Socci
Mr. Nicholas Capuano	Mr. David Stitz
Mr. Stephen McKnight	Ms. Kate Schwanewede
Ms. Laura Leonard	

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION	
Dr. Andrew Matteo	Superintendent
Mr. Thomas W. O'Hern	Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Dr. Marc Biunno	Director of Academics
Mrs. Ruthanne Cairoli	Director of Human Resources
Dr. Donna Volpe	Director of Special Services
Mr. Ryan Kenny	Director of Technology
Dr. Molly Dinning	Director of Student Support Services
Ms. Danielle Schwartz	Communications Coordinator

HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	
Dr. Michael J. Thumm	Principal
Mr. Michael Biggan	Director of HS Education
Mr. Daniel DeMartino	Dean of Students

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT ORGANIZATION rhsptso@ramsey.k12.nj.us		
President	Karin Larsen	rhsptso@ramsey.k12.nj.us
Vice President	Brian O'Dea	rhsptso@ramsey.k12.nj.us
Secretary/Treasurer	Jen Lepori	rhsptso@ramsey.k12.nj.us

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION		
President	Melissa Young-Crozet	RHSAA07446@gmail.com
Vice President	Scott Fehmel	RHSAA07446@gmail.com

BAND PARENT ASSOCIATION		
President	Dori Mendel	dorimendel@gmail.com
Vice-President	Andrea Bednar-Thumm	abednarthumm@gmail.com
Treasurer	Carolyn Barrett	csbarrett0911@gmail.com

GALA		
Co-Chairperson	Kirsten Rostkowski	rhsgala@ramsey.k12.nj.us
Co-Chairperson	Andrea Godwin	rhsgala@ramsey.k12.nj.us
Co-Chairperson	Dawn Carrion	rhsgala@ramsey.k12.nj.us

2026-2027 School Calendar

2026		
September 1	Tuesday	First Day for Students
September 7	Monday	Labor Day*
September 21	Monday	Yom Kippur*
November 5-6	Thursday-Friday	NJEA Convention*
November 25	Wednesday	Minimum Day Students/Teachers
November 26-27	Thursday-Friday	Thanksgiving Recess*
December 23	Wednesday	Minimum Day
December 24- 31	Wednesday-Thursday	Winter Recess*
2027		
January 1	Friday	New Year's Holiday
January 4	Monday	Schools Reopen
Jan 12-13	Tuesday-Wednesday	Minimum Days
January 18	Monday	Martin Luther King Day*
January 19	Tuesday	Schools Closed, Professional Day*
February 15-19	Monday-Friday	February Recess*
March 26	Friday	Good Friday*
Apr 12-16	Monday-Friday	Spring Recess*
May 31	Monday	Memorial Day*
June 2-3	Wednesday-Thursday	Minimum Days
June 17-18	Thursday-Friday	Minimum Days
June 18	Friday	Last Day for Students
June 18	Friday	High School Graduation

Additional Notes:

1. Students do not attend school on days with an asterisk **(*)**.
2. The final day for students is scheduled for June 18th. This calendar has two emergency days. If we have more than two emergency weather days, vacation days may be removed in this order: April 16, 15, 14, 13, 12.. If emergency days are not used, school days may be removed in this order: June 18, then June 17.

TIME SCHEDULES 2026-2027

REGULAR TIME SCHEDULE

Warning Bell	7:55
Time Slot 1	8:00-9:00
Time Slot 2	9:04-10:00
Time Slot 3	10:04-11:00
Unit Lunch	11:00-12:00
Time Slot 4	12:00-1:00
Time Slot 5	1:04-2:00
Time Slot 6	2:04-3:00

Students should not arrive prior to school prior to 7:30 am (except in the case of Ramsey or Saddle River busing or other circumstances). Students who arrive at school before 7:45 am should report to the RHS cafeteria. Students may enter the building through the Main Street, Main Office (facing Island Ave), or Prospect Street entrances and remain in the cafeteria until the bell rings at 7:55 am.

SPECIAL DAY SCHEDULES

DELAYED OPENING TIME SCHEDULE

Arrival	9:50-10:00
Warning Bell	9:55
Time Slot 1	10:00-10:40
Time Slot 2	10:43-11:23
Time Slot 3	11:26-12:06
Unit Lunch	12:08-12:54
Time Slot 4	12:56-1:36
Time Slot 5	1:39-2:19
Time Slot 6	2:20-3:00

MINIMUM DAY TIME SCHEDULE

6 classes, no Unit Lunch	
Warning Bell	7:55
Time Slot 1	8:00-8:37
Time Slot 2	8:41-9:18
Time Slot 3	9:22-10:01
Time Slot 4	10:04-10:41
Time Slot 5	10:43-11:20
Time Slot 6	11:23-12:00

STUDENT GOVERNMENT
2026-2027

STUDENT CONGRESS

President	Maureen Sweeney
Vice President	Rory Chiossi
Secretary	Scarlett Algor
BOE Student Rep	Kate Schwanewede
Communication Dir	Hannah Kanter
Advisors	Ms. Shahinian/ Mrs. Wohlrab

SENIOR CLASS

President	Kaylee Finnegan
Vice President	Julia Bauer
Treasurer	Lizzie Rubin
Secretary	Alexis Fernandes
Advisors	Mrs. Nagle / Mrs. Gorman

JUNIOR CLASS

President	Hope Ernst
Vice President	Lucia Goulet
Secretary	Brooke Dallara
Treasurer	Madeleine Wasek
Advisors	Mrs. Thorp/ Ms. DeSantis

SOPHOMORE CLASS

President	Caroline Schreiber
Vice President	Lily Lehr
Secretary	Valentina Minervini
Treasurer	Colette Oberle
Advisor	Ms. Murray

FRESHMAN CLASS

President	Ella Badalamenti
Vice President	Joey Burns
Secretary	Brynn Peterfriend
Treasurer	Fionna Gleason
Advisor	Ms. Harte/Ms. Roche

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Ramsey High School invites and encourages active student participation in its co-curricular program. We seek to provide the kind of environment which fosters existing activities and is in harmony with the educational goals approved by the Board of Education.

Chartering a Club

If you would like to form a new club, you must submit a written proposal to the Building Principal that is consistent with Regulation 2430 Co-Curricular Clubs. New clubs are subject to approval and availability of BOE funds.

Building Use

School clubs and organizations are allowed the use of the rooms in Ramsey High School after school, but no loitering is permitted. The faculty sponsor must be present. To use the building after school hours for special purposes, play or assembly rehearsals or sports activities, arrangements must be made with the Ramsey Community School. As a rule, students should not plan for evening, weekend, or holiday meetings. Occasionally, however, it is necessary, as in the case of play rehearsals. At such times, some faculty members MUST always be present as a sponsor.

CLUBS

Alumni Club **Dr. Thumm**

Ramsey Alumni Association

The Alumni Club bridges current students with our growing graduate network to build lifelong connections, mentorship, and school pride. Operating in direct partnership with the PTSO and the High School Alumni Association, the club creates meaningful opportunities for students to interact with alumni, gain valuable guidance on post-secondary pathways, and discover what it means to be part of a lifelong school.

Art Club **Ms. Vlasova**

The purpose of Art Club is to provide students the opportunity to extend their knowledge and experience within the arts, beyond the confines of the classroom. It serves as a social avenue that enables students to meet others with similar interests. In addition, Art Club allows students to learn through teamwork, share ideas within a community, volunteer creativity to enhance our environment, and gain exposure to the arts and culture through art making.

Asian Cultural Club **Mrs. Bessler**

The South Asian Club welcomes all students to explore and celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures, traditions, and histories from across the Asian continent. Members share and learn about this vibrant heritage through activities like food tastings, music, film, and the celebration of major festivals.

Band Front (Color Guard) **Ms. McDermott**

Color Guard is the visual accompaniment to the Big Blue Marching Band. This ensemble can be seen at all fall functions the band attends including, football games, parades, and competitions. The guard also attends the annual band camp held in August and rehearses two evenings per week during the fall season.

Biology League **Mr. Trocolar**

The Biology I League is a highly competitive team that competes with high schools in the local area. The results of each competition are posted statewide after each of the four contests that take place from January through April. Practice sessions are held at Ramsey prior to each meeting with the advisor. Outstanding students that finish in the top 10% are recognized statewide.

Debate Club **Mrs. Alcaide & Ms. Mejia**

Ramsey High School Debate Club provides students with a rigorous and engaging opportunity to develop skills in civil discourse, argumentation, logic, research, evidence, and respectful communication. Students learn to construct and defend persuasive arguments while thoughtfully considering opposing perspectives. Competition is offered at both the Junior Varsity and Varsity levels, with opportunities for students to develop as competitors or become trained debate judges. Ramsey competes against eight top-level high school programs throughout Bergen County in approximately 7 Varsity and 5 JV competitions each season. While competition is an important component of the program, the club emphasizes intellectual growth, confidence, critical thinking, respect, and a commitment to productive civic dialogue. Students of all experience levels are welcome.

Drama Club **Mr. Peterson**

This student performance/production club presents two to three productions each year. Students may audition for roles in the plays or musicals, may work on stage crew in the construction and painting of scenery, or may work during the performance nights on the running crews, all the while learning numerous aspects of theatre production.

E-Sports

The Ramsey High School Technology Club is dedicated to providing students with the opportunity to use technology in meaningful ways. Members are encouraged to share their skills, thoughts and interests concerning technology with the school community. An emphasis is placed on the production of media through the use of audio and video technology. The eSports team will be offered as a pilot program in the 2026-27 School Year and it will function within the Technology Club.

Environmental Club **Ms. Leschak**

The Environmental Club is open to all students who wish to take an active role in environmental improvement. They discuss current issues affecting the global community but focus on local ecological concerns, those which affect the health of Ramsey and surrounding communities. This club is open to all who wish to make the world a better place in which to live through activism and volunteer work.

Fishing Club **Mr. Bliss**

The Ramsey Fishing Club provides a space for students of all skill levels to meet, share tips, and discuss their passion for angling. Members have the opportunity to put their skills to the test during periodic field trips to local lakes, reservoirs, and on occasion, the Jersey Shore.

French Club **Ms. Vlasova**

This club's goal is to provide opportunities for students to experience important and fun aspects of francophone culture that cannot be explored in class. Meetings take place once a month to celebrate National French Week, Mardi Gras, Three Kings' Day, and other francophone holidays as well as for charcuterie board and buche de Noel competitions . Membership is open to students of all French levels, although any student interested in francophone culture may join in the fun.

Gay-Straight Alliance **Mr. Lyle**

The Gay-Straight Alliance is a discussion/activism club whose purpose is to provide support to gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, genderqueer, pansexual, asexual, and questioning students. It is also a place to build bridges between heterosexual and cisgender students, who would like to serve as allies and those of the LGBTTQQIAAP+ community. All are welcome in GSA. The goal is to provide a safe environment, to educate the school community, promote tolerance and acceptance, and to fight discrimination and homophobia.

Grade Level Governments
Each spring, we hold elections for grade level governments. (Freshman class elections are held in the fall.) Students may run for president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer. Elected officers are responsible for representing their peers and providing direction in regards to social events and raising funds for future needs.

Freshman: **Ms. Harte / Ms. Roche**
Each spring, we hold elections for grade level governments. Students may run for president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer. Elected officers are responsible for representing their peers and providing direction in regards to social events and raising funds for future needs.

Sophomore **Ms. Murray**
Students may run for the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer. Elected officers are responsible for representing their peers and providing leadership and direction for social events and fundraising initiatives that support future needs. Throughout the year, officers may also collaborate with Student Congress to assist with schoolwide activities and events.

Junior **Ms. DeSantis / Mrs. Thorp**
Each spring, we hold elections for grade level governments. Students may run for president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer. Elected officers are responsible for representing their peers and providing direction in regards to social events and raising funds for future needs. Junior class officers are responsible for coordinating all events leading up to the Junior/Senior prom

Senior **Mrs. Gorman / Mrs. Nagle**
Each spring, we hold elections for grade level governments. Students may run for president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer. Elected officers are responsible for representing their peers and providing direction in regards to social events and raising funds for future needs.

History Club **Mr. Willever**
The History Club is a home for students who love history and want to explore that passion in new and exciting ways. Throughout the year, members of the club have conversations about historical issues, organize social awareness events, interact with guest speakers, play games, and experience historically significant places on field trips. The group has recently visited National Park Service sites such as the Home of Franklin Roosevelt, Princeton University, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Yogi Berra Museum. The club promotes community spirit and awareness. Students may also compete in National History Bowl competitions, a team trivia tournament hosted at local area high schools.

HOSA **Ms. Roche**
HOSA is a student-led organization for high school students interested in exploring careers in healthcare and the medical sciences. The club provides opportunities to learn about a wide range of health professions, including medicine, nursing, emergency care, public health, sports medicine, and other healthcare fields. As a new club, we hope to partner with local healthcare professionals to connect our students with professionals in the field and provide opportunities to gain firsthand insight into different healthcare careers, educational pathways, and what it takes to pursue a degree and career in the healthcare industry.

Interact Club **Mrs. Ehlers & Ms. Ker**

Interact is a student-led service organization affiliated with Rotary International, dedicated to making a hands-on difference in our community. Our defining passion is leading the fight against cancer: we serve as the primary host and organizer for our local Relay for Life event, driving year-round fundraising initiatives for the American Cancer Society through bake sales, concessions, and community drives. Beyond Relay, our members engage in impactful local service, from seasonal community gardening and volunteering at the Ladies' Christmas Tea to coat drives and intergenerational outreach. Interact is an active, year-round club open to anyone eager to build leadership skills, earn volunteer hours, and drive real change.

Italian Club **Ms. Incardona**

Students will explore the language, culture, cuisine, and traditions of Italy! Students will learn basic Italian language and phrases while exploring how the culture, history, and cuisine differ from region to region—from the northern Alps to the southern coast of Sicily.

Jazz Ensemble **Mr. Baruch**

The award-winning RHS Jazz Ensemble has made the NJAJE State Finals the last 3 years in which they have placed 3rd in the state and received the best Rhythm Section award. The Jazz Ensemble performs at several festivals and competitions each year, has participated in clinics with professional jazz musicians at Jazz at Lincoln Center, plays at Home for the Holidays and RHS band concerts. This year they will be performing at the Christmas Market in Vienna Austria. Acceptance into the group is based on auditions, which will take place at the end of September. Rehearsals take place on Tuesdays in October from 5-7pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-7pm beginning in November until May.

Latin Club **Dr. Starikovsky**

The mission of the Latin Club is to increase understanding of ancient Roman language and culture both for Latin students and for the school as a whole. Also, to highlight the importance Latin and Roman culture hold in society today.

Jewish Student Union **Mr. Bliss**

The Jewish Student Union is a club open to anyone, dedicated to providing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space for Jewish students and allies. The club is focused on celebrating Jewish culture and building community through engaging and educational activities.

Leadership Training Camp **Dr. Thumm / Mr. Biggan**

Students who show potential as leaders and those elected to serve as class officers, team captains and club leaders are invited to participate in this three-day training program. The staff is surveyed for their recommendations. Students learn the value of teamwork and taking the initiative as they review leadership qualities and requisite skills, learn to communicate effectively, and enter into problem-solving activities.

Library Council **Mrs. Wohlrab**

The Library Council is a service group open to all students who want to assist in the daily operation of the library media center. Students are trained in all aspects of the library's operation, including various computer programs and applications, and can earn 2.5 credits for a year's service.

Light the Candle (Art Club) **Ms. Vlasova**

Light The Candle is a service club dedicated to bringing joy and encouragement to children and teens in foster care and group homes. Members create and design personalized birthday cards for children of all ages and genders, which are then sent to the Light The Candle organization for distribution to foster children throughout the Northeast. Through creativity and service, the club provides members with an opportunity to brighten someone's birthday and remind children in foster care that they are valued and celebrated. No prior experience or qualifications are required—anyone can participate and make a meaningful difference.

Marching Band **Mr. Jenkins**

The "Big Blue" Marching Band consists of 140 students, including musicians and Color Guard members. This ensemble can be seen performing at all the Ramsey High School football games, as well as parades and competitions held up and down the East Coast. The band has a tradition of excellence in competition, receiving superior ratings and holding the New Jersey State Championship title in the Eastern Marching Band Association for 15 years. The band now competes in the Musical Arts Conference and was once again awarded a superior rating and the State Championship. The group attends an annual band camp in August and rehearses one or two evenings per week during the Marching Band Season.

Math League **Mr. Walker**

This group of mathematically talented students participates and competes in the Bergen County Math League and the New Jersey Math League. The competitive meets are held October through April. In each contest, students are given a group of problems which must be solved within specific time limits. The subject matter ranges in difficulty from elementary Algebra through Pre-Calculus.

Military Service Club **Ms. Roberts**

The purpose of the High School Military Club is to provide exposure, appreciation, and preparedness for any student interested in the armed forces after high school. Through regular meetings, the students will gain exposure as we research and compare the various branches, job opportunities and prerequisites required for each. They will also have the opportunity to tour a few bases throughout the year and immerse themselves into military life through select guided installation tours. Students will also gain a deeper appreciation and understanding for members of the armed forces both past and present through interview and service projects (22' VFW ribbon board). Along the way the students will be guided and measured for military preparedness through physical fitness tests and strength training programs curated by a physical fitness coach.

Mock Trial **Mr. Willever**

The justice system in action! Students in all grade levels assume the roles of attorneys, witnesses, and jurors in a legal proceeding. The program offers students the opportunity to express themselves dramatically, experience the law, utilize their critical thinking skills, contribute to a team effort, and enjoy themselves in a fun and exciting atmosphere. Trials take place in January and February at the Bergen County Courthouse in an actual courtroom. Trial outcomes are determined by a judge who scores each student's performance on all aspects of the trial. Teams that do well at the county level, may eventually progress to the state and national competitions. The Mock Trial program is sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.

Model UN **Mr. DeMartino**

Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, is an extra-curricular activity in which students roleplay delegates to the United Nations and simulate UN committees while representing different countries around the world. Model UN is a simulation of the UN General Assembly and other multilateral bodies where students perform an ambassador role while debating topics such as gender equality, climate action, global health, and more. Through public speaking, critical thinking and research, the Model UN experience allows students to cultivate skills and enrich their global affairs knowledge through interactive competition. At the end of most conferences, outstanding delegates in each committee are recognized and given an award certificate; the Best Delegate in each committee receives a gavel.

National Honor Society **Ms. Colucci/Mrs. Parrella**

Members are selected based on achievement and demonstration of scholarship, leadership, character, and service to the school and community. Meeting periodically throughout the year, society members plan the Fall induction, conduct two blood drives, tutor students across the district, and perform various service projects both within the district and the community as a whole. Selection and dismissal procedures are outlined elsewhere in the Handbook.

Physics Club / Science League **Mrs. Palko**

(Sept - January) The Physics Olympics Club offers a hands-on environment where students design, build, and test engineering projects to solve real-world physics challenges. Throughout the fall and early winter, members meet regularly to collaborate, construct prototypes, and fine-tune their entries according to official competition guidelines. All of this preparation leads up to the state-wide New Jersey Physics Olympics competition, held on a Saturday in mid-January, where team members represent the school and compete against teams from across the state in multiple event categories.

(January - April) The Science League offers students a direct way to showcase their academic skills in a statewide competition across Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, Forensics, and Anatomy. From January through April, members take a series of four monthly exams that test advanced subject knowledge against students from high schools across New Jersey. Scores contribute to both individual state recognition and our school's overall team ranking in each discipline.

Rambassadors **Ms. Kilday**

The Rambassadors are a dedicated group of student leaders who serve as the official representatives and welcoming committee for our high school. Driven by school pride, leadership, and hospitality, members foster a supportive campus culture and represent the very best of our student body at major school functions.Rambassadors work directly with incoming students to ease their transition into high school through orientation programs, campus tours, and peer guidance throughout the school year. They greet and assist parents, alumni, and community members during evening events, including Back to School Night, Homecoming, and Parent Nights. Rambassadors are selected through an application process that is publicized in the spring for students interested in taking on a leadership role for the upcoming school year.

Relay for Life **Ms. Ker / Ms. Ehlers**

The Relay for Life Club is a dedicated student organization responsible for planning, organizing, and running our high school's annual Relay for Life event. Focused on supporting the American Cancer Society in the global fight against cancer, the club has helped raise over $2,000,000 through school and community fundraising efforts.In leading this major initiative, club members gain valuable hands-on experience in event planning, fundraising strategy, team logistics, marketing, and community outreach. Students build real-world leadership and project management skills while learning how to make a lasting, compassionate impact on society. Relay for life functions within INTERACT.

Robotics Team **Mr. Truppi**

The Ramsey Robotics Team is a competitive robotics team. There are Varsity and JV levels. Teams compete in the FTC Challenge. Students have the opportunity to build robots, learn computer programming and computer assisted design (CAD), and develop teamwork and leadership skills.

Spanish Club **Mrs. Ortega**

The Spanish Club is an organization that provides the opportunity for students to study various cultural aspects of the Spanish speaking community. It promotes cultural diversity, provides volunteer opportunities within the community, and a chance to expand your knowledge and experiences with the Spanish language.

Special Olympics **Ms. Diakos**

Special Olympics provides students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities opportunities to develop their athletic skills, build confidence, and experience the excitement of competition throughout the school year. Our athletes participate in a variety of sports, including golf, pickleball, basketball, bowling, and track and field, with opportunities to compete in local and statewide competitions. Athletes also have the opportunity to participate in the Special Olympics Summer Games at The College of New Jersey, a statewide event that celebrates athletic achievement, sportsmanship, and inclusion. Through participation in Special Olympics, athletes strengthen skills such as teamwork, communication, coordination, perseverance, goal-setting, problem-solving, and self-advocacy while developing meaningful friendships and a greater sense of independence and belonging. Athletes are encouraged to challenge themselves, celebrate their accomplishments, and take on leadership opportunities, including the possibility of competing and/or serving as leaders at the Special Olympics National Summer Games. Through sport, our athletes demonstrate their abilities, inspire others, and proudly represent our school and community.

S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) **Ms. Roberts**

This is a club dedicated to educating students about, and preventing students from making destructive decisions. The Club welcomes all youth who seek support for healthy and safe development for themselves and others within the community. The Club invites active youth participation and expects youth leadership. The Club accomplishes our mission through caring, compassionate, and committed reinforcement of protective factors, through the elimination of risk factors for individual teens, and by pursuing best practices, sharing scientific knowledge, and integrating evidence-based approaches into our work from concept to implementation to evaluation. The S.A.D.D. Club runs successful poster campaigns which include “Week of Respect”, “Anti-Violence Week”, and “Alcohol Awareness Month”. Club members participate in an anti-bullying pledge and proactively educate peers throughout the year on poor decisions and their effects on themselves and others. Some S.A.D.D. members are also an integrated part of the Municipal Alliance within the town of Ramsey and help promote anti-bullying and anti-drug messages throughout the community by helping out with various programs within the community.

Stage Crew **Mr. Peterson**

Students serve the school by operating the lighting and sound equipment during all assemblies and public performances. Crew members also assist in stage preparation and set construction for our school plays and musicals, as well as affairs sponsored by non-school groups. Club members will be invited to join the Drama Club.

STEM Starters (formerly Chemistry League) **Ms. Fromkin**

The STEM Starters Club is dedicated to inspiring a passion for science, technology, engineering, and math in the next generation of learners. Throughout the year, our primary focus is visiting one of Ramsey’s elementary schools to deliver the hands-on experiments and interactive lessons that our high school club members design themselves. Members also have additional opportunities to engage young Ramsey students through various community STEM events. By combining fun lesson creation with direct mentoring, the club strives to inspire future scientists and engineers while giving high schoolers a supportive environment to build valuable leadership, teaching, and communication skills.

Student Congress **Mrs. Shahinian/Mrs. Wohlrab**

The Student Congress is a democratically elected group of officers and representatives from grades nine through twelve. These students organize and run activities designed to improve school spirit (pep rallies, Halloween Contest, Spirit Week, etc.), raise monies for community outreach, and act as the liaison between the student body and the administration by having representatives attend the Board of Education meetings and by meeting with the high school principal and Director of HS Education. Elections for officer positions take place in the spring for the following year and in September for general membership representatives.

Student Outreach Service (S.O.S.) **Mrs. Kilday**

This group is made up of students who have been invited to and attended the Emerging Leaders Academy over the summer. Students volunteer to help with Orientation, the Freshman Welcome Barbecue, 8th grade tours, Back to School Night, and various other school programs and needs. This group of leaders help to make RHS a better place by serving our prospective students, current staff and the community at large.

Student Radio/Morning Announcements **Mr. Lyle**

Open to all students. Our DJ's organize musical selections and programming for presentations over the school's intercom system from 7:30-8:00am. Students may also read the morning announcements, keeping the RHS community up-to-date on all vital goings-on. The Announcement Team meets at 8:55am each morning in the Media Center.

Songwriters Club (Art Club) **Ms. Vlasova**

The Songwriter's Club is a club meant to create a safe space for people to write and share their songs. Members receive lessons on new ways they can approach songwriting, whether through music theory, lyric writing, or other techniques that they can apply to their own work. Additionally, the club provides performance opportunities, such as playing at the open mic at Mindful Cafe.

Technology Club

The Ramsey High School Technology Club is dedicated to providing students with the opportunity to use technology in meaningful ways. Members are encouraged to share their skills, thoughts and interests concerning technology with the school community. The club meets once a month and members are encouraged to teach each other and offer projects. The club has built computers, helped teachers with technology, and taught each other the latest cutting edge innovations.

TEEEM **Ms. Gorman**

TEEEM (The Empathy Equality Entrepreneurship Mission) is a nonprofit providing K-12 schools and universities with free resources to equip students with real skills to make a real impact through its Social Entrepreneurship and Empathy Programs. By connecting schools with under-resourced communities worldwide, students gain hands-on experience in leadership and global citizenship while tackling modern challenges. TEEEM can be infused into classes or clubs at any level and can be customized for each school—empowering the next generation with the skills and mindset to drive meaningful change—one project at a time. TEEEM is currently reaching thousands of students in 100+ schools across multiple states and countries, helping 10+ communities worldwide.

The Ram Jams - Co-curricular **Mr. Wolf**

Only students who are part of the RHS Chorus program may audition for The Ram Jams. The Ram Jams are recognized by their high level of technical and performance excellence, as seen by their significant competitive success over the last few years. The Ram Jams have advanced to the ICHSA National Finals five times between 2020-2026 and last year achieved 4th place in the country. They have two published CARA-nominated studio albums - "Home Where I Belong" and "Unchained." Their recordings have been featured on several Best Of HS A Cappella Albums, and they have three upcoming releases this fall. The group performs a variety of music from traditional choral music, to jazz, to contemporary pop A Cappella. They have also been invited for featured performances at NJMEA and ACDA conferences and perform frequently in the North Jersey area. The Ram Jams are under the direction of Mr. Matthew Wolf.

The Ramsey Blues **TBD**

Any student at Ramsey HS is welcome to audition for The Ramsey Blues. The Ramsey Blues are a newer group started in 2022. The Ramsey Blues have a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year, compete in ICHSA, participate in festivals and concerts, and combine with Ram Jams at times for performances. The ensemble contains members from throughout the school, and is a great place for students to develop their skills for future and further growth. The group performs almost exclusively contemporary pop A Cappella music.

Unified Club **Ms. Diakos / Ms. Scheid**

Unified Club is an inclusive student organization dedicated to creating a school community where students of all abilities feel valued, connected, and celebrated. The club brings students with and without disabilities together to build meaningful friendships, develop leadership skills, promote acceptance, and create opportunities for all students to actively contribute to their school and community. Throughout the school year, Unified Club hosts a minimum of two social lunches each month, organizes a community outing outside of school each month, and provides monthly opportunities for students to volunteer and give back to the community. Students also participate in fundraising initiatives that promote inclusion and support a more welcoming school environment. A key focus of Unified Club is disability awareness and education, with students exploring topics related to disabilities, inclusion, accessibility, and acceptance on a monthly basis to foster greater understanding and empathy throughout the school community. Through these experiences, students of all abilities are encouraged to take on leadership roles, share their strengths and perspectives, and become advocates for inclusion. Unified Club strives to create a school culture and learning environment in which everyone belongs, everyone contributes, and everyone is celebrated for who they are.

Winter Guard

The Winter Guard is an outgrowth of the fall Color Guard program. This group is open to anyone who wants to join. Rehearsals begin in late November. This ensemble rehearses and competes in the tri-state area from January through April. Evening rehearsals are held twice a week (Monday and Wednesday), while competitions are held on Saturdays.

World Language Honor Society **Mrs. Vlasova/Mrs. Palko**

The World Language Honor Society recognizes students who demonstrate high achievement in world language studies and a sustained commitment to linguistic and cultural excellence. Members are selected based on strong academic performance in their language courses, as well as their demonstrated leadership, character, and service to the school and community. In addition, members actively promote the study of world languages and cultural understanding. The society meets regularly throughout the year. Members collaborate to plan the Spring induction ceremony, tutor students in world language courses, support school initiatives in world languages such as French exchange, cultural celebration, language clubs, and participate in various service projects that highlight global awareness and multilingualism.

PUBLICATIONS

Nugget **Mrs. Calogero-LaNeve**

The Ramsey High School yearbook (the Nugget) is published annually in June. Students work throughout the school year to document the unique events of that year and the school community. Membership on the staff is open to all interested students. Meetings are held throughout the school year weekly during lunch September through early May, with additional meetings as needed around deadlines. Yearbook allows students to contribute through creative writing, designing and arranging layouts, photography and meeting deadlines. A wide variety of jobs are available, with students usually being assigned to work on a particular section such as Underclass Portraits,Student Life or Sports. Yearbook staff works with an online platform and work can also be done at home with frequent communication and check ins.

Opus **Ms. DeSantis**

Opus is Ramsey High School's creative magazine. Editors and production staff meet weekly between September and May to participate in creative writing workshops, review student contributions, do art work, proofread, and do page paste-ups. The magazine is produced with the aid of Canva and a digital copy of the final product is completed by June. The Opus staff also sponsors an annual Launch Party with unplugged music and poetry readings in the spring.

RAM Club **Mrs. Wohlrab**

The student newspaper is a forum for the expression of views. The publication reports accurately and objectively activities, sports, academic life, and special events. Membership and participation are open to all interested students. A variety of staff positions are possible for students including business management, photography, art, reporting and editing. The Ram is published in-house using Adobe InDesign and the most up-to-date technology. The Ram staff preserves a tradition of excellence and has received recognition for reporting articles of "lifelong significance to its readers."

PRODUCTIONS

School Musical **Mr. Peterson**

Last year's productions of *Clue*, *Mean Girls*, and *Six* reached record-breaking audience numbers and 2025's award-winning production of *Into the Woods* involved over 120 students. It allowed students to display their musical and dramatic abilities on stage, and also offered opportunities to work backstage in production areas such as lighting, scenery, costuming, makeup, props, choreography, and publicity. Student involvement in the orchestra pit is also available.

School Plays

Students interested in dramatic acting, set construction, and other production elements are encouraged to participate in school plays. Under the direction of the advisor, the Drama Club produces three shows per year (Fall Play, Spring Musical, and a Spring Cabaret with a Broadway Guest Artist). The productions vary in theme from comical and satirical to musical and dramatic. Four courses in the Fine Arts Department, Speech/Drama, Theatre Arts I, Theatre Arts II: Acting and Directing, and Drama Workshop, should be considered by students interested in learning more about public speaking skills, acting, and theatre in general.

School Concerts **Mr. Wolf**

Concerts are regularly scheduled throughout the year. Some, such as the Winter Concert, are joint efforts of our vocal and instrumental music students and others highlight a particular group, i.e. Band, Chorus, etc.

HIGH SCHOOL GIFTED AND TALENTED

Ramsey High School students have enrichment opportunities through various courses like Profile Projects, Design Thinking, high level Honors courses, Advanced Placement courses, Student Outreach Services, Leadership Program, clubs, and activities. As a result, we aim to cultivate an environment that allows communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking skills to flourish on a daily basis.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

DECA **Mrs. Incardona**

An Association of Marketing Students

DECA is an internationally recognized co-curricular club that is an integral part of the Marketing I, II, Sports and Entertainment Marketing, and Fashion Marketing courses at Ramsey High School. The students compete in various marketing and management related events that are built upon nationally approved marketing competencies. Total international membership is 200,000, consisting of all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, Mexico, Germany, and Canada. Students are involved in various fundraising and civic projects. Past student projects have included running clothing drives, Powder Puff football, and an anti-bullying campaign. Students have competed at the International Career Development Conference for the past 25 years.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Ramsey students have an opportunity to participate in athletics through Physical Education, Intramurals, or interscholastic competition.
Ramsey believes that the athletic program has much to contribute to the overall education of our students. The interscholastic sports program includes the following: Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field, Girls Volleyball, Wrestling, and Cheer.
Ramsey High School is a member of the Patriot Division of The Big North Conference.

RAMSEY HIGH SCHOOL HEAD COACHES

201-785-2300 Ext: 21571
CLICK HERE for a list of coaches

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETIC COMPETITION

The Ramsey Board of Education follows the eligibility rules of the N.J.S.I.A.A. regarding participation in the interscholastic athletic program.

1. To be eligible for the fall and winter sports season, students must have passed 30 credits at the end of the previous year, **(June report card or summer school if class is taken again).**
2. To be eligible for the spring sports season, students must pass 15 credits, at the end of the fall semester, **(January – February report card).**

All ninth graders are eligible for the first semester of their Freshman Year.

ATHLETIC CONDUCT

One mark of a good player is sportsmanship. Fighting or the use of profanity is not acceptable. Use self-control. Do nothing which will bring discredit to your school. Win graciously; lose without alibi. Accept the official's judgment without question. Give the best that is in you for your team. Avoid any reference to the color creed or nationality of your opponent. All team cheering should be positive. There is no place for intimidating or demeaning chants, gestures, etc. All players must follow the BNC Code of Behavior for Athletic Contests. Disqualifications from a contest will result in suspension from participation in future game(s) in compliance with NJSIAA rules. The high school reserves the right to extend suspension from an athletic team for additional contests depending on the nature of the incident.

BNC CODE OF FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT AT ATHLETIC EVENTS

- Fans, coaches, and players are expected to honor and obey all rules and regulations of the NJSIAA and the Big North Conference
- Fans, coaches, and players are expected to treat the opponent, officials, and other fans with respect and courtesy. Their safety and comfort should never be endangered.
- Enthusiastically encourage your own team.
- Refrain from negative remarks and booing.
- Accept all decisions made by the officials.
- Remain in the stands while play is in progress.
- Do not throw objects; use noisemakers; or display signs or banners.

Any person obviously and intentionally violating the letter and spirit of the code will be subject to ejection from the contest and will/may not be allowed to attend any further athletic contests.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship, the quality of fair play, is of the utmost importance and needs to be given the highest priority in an athletic program. Therefore, the BNC Code of Behavior for Athletic Events must be stressed at all times.

INTER-COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Athletic Eligibility at the intercollegiate level is governed by regulations established by the NCAA. All students aspiring to play division 1 or 2 athletics must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, (previously known as the NCAA Clearinghouse). Below is the link that will connect you to the relevant information regarding NCAA eligibility, approved courses and standardized testing. For additional information, please see your School counselor, Director of Student Programs, Andrew Herre, or your coach. **NCAA Eligibility Center Website**

SCHOOL COUNSELING

Because we believe each student to be unique, we have designed and implemented a school counseling program to serve the needs of all students. Each counselor remains with a family to provide continuity, maintains an "open-door" policy, and works closely with other staff professionals to address issues as they arise and to help each student reach their full potential. The academic, emotional and social development of each student is of paramount importance.

SCHEDULING

The student's schedule for each succeeding school year is developed between January and the summer. Counselors meet each student to plan an appropriate program. Of course, parents are welcome at those conferences. Parents of students in the Junior Class are scheduled to meet with the counselor for a post-secondary planning meeting. Your participation in this planning culminates in your approval of the selected courses. Tentative student schedules are made viewable during the first few weeks of the summer recess.

Each year, we build our high school schedule from the "ground up" based on students' academic needs and elective preferences. In order to deliver a comprehensive schedule that meets the diverse needs of the student body, it is imperative that we get quality feedback from students and parents in a timely manner. Whether or not you make changes to this elective selection sheet, we ask that you sign and return this form to the Counseling Office no later than **the date we communicate when course selection begins in January.** In addition, we strongly encourage you to please check the portal to review your child's academic placements. We ask that you reach out to your teen's School Counselor no later than **the date we communicate with academic placements**, if you have concerns about those as well. Subsequently, once the course selection sheets are submitted, in order to balance class sizes and provide a comprehensive program of studies, your cooperation in meeting this deadline is crucial. We use both the academic placement and elective selection data to make important staffing and resource allocation decisions for the upcoming school year. Requests for changes to a student's academic and elective program after these deadlines **will not** be accommodated during the build of our Master Schedule. These requests will be considered after the Master Schedule is built and if the change is approved, you may need to schedule a meeting with your teen's counselor during the summer to adjust their schedule, if possible.

Student Scheduling for 2026 - 2027:

Juniors - Parents invited	February - March 2027
Sophomores	February 2027
Freshmen	February - March 2027
8th Graders (Smith and St. Paul's)	February 2027

SCHEDULE CHANGE PROCEDURES

In order to make a schedule change, a student must:

1. See their counselor and discuss the advisability of making the change. If the student and counselor agree the change is needed, the student must return a signed note requesting the change from a parent or guardian.
2. The counselor will review the request for change with the department supervisor and teachers. If all parties feel the decision is in the best interests of the student, a change will be made to the student's schedule.
3. The period to ADD a new course ends on Friday September 11, 2026 for full year and 1st semester electives, and Friday February 5, 2027 for 2nd semester electives.
4. Requests for a change in academic level (ex: changing from Honors to College Prep) should take place during the 1st marking period of the school year. Requests for level changes require consultation with the student's teacher and their supervisor. All requests must be submitted to the appropriate department supervisor no later than Friday November 13, 2026. Requests for a level change after this deadline may result in a grade of "W" (Withdrew Passing) or "U" (Withdrew Failing) on the student's transcript for the course they are exiting.

Dropping a Course		
Transcript Notation*	**Semester Course**	**Full Year Course**
a. Not recorded	Up to 4 weeks (Sept 25, 2026)	Up to 7 weeks (Oct 16, 2026)
b. Withdrawal P or F recorded (not included in GPA calculation)	Up to 7 weeks (Oct 16, 2026)	Up to 12 weeks (Nov 20, 2026)
c. "F recorded (included in GPA calculation)	After 7 weeks (Oct 19, 2026 and beyond)	After 12 weeks (Nov 23, 2026 and beyond)
*Exemptions for unusual circumstances are at the discretion of the Principal.		

EARLY RELEASE / WORK STUDY

Early release will be considered ONLY FOR SENIORS with prior approval from the Principal or designee. To be eligible: 1) A letter must be submitted from a parent or guardian indicating a request for early release; and 2) In the event the student is going to work, a letter must be submitted from an employer on company stationery indicating the starting time.

Underclassmen will be considered for early release in certain cases to be determined by a school administrator.

Students not eligible for early release based on employment may not transfer to an earlier section of the same course unless that student is registering for additional coursework and needs the time (period).

Students on early release prior to 2:00 p.m., found to be consistently in the building, will be reassigned to study hall. Juniors and Seniors scheduled for a study hall will automatically be released from school at 2:00 p.m. Freshmen and sophomores will be assigned to a 6th time slot study hall.

SAT TESTING DATES FOR 2026-2027

Testing Dates	**Registration Deadlines**
August 22, 2026	Aug 7, 2026
September 12, 2026	Aug 28, 2026
October 3, 2026	Sept. 18, 2026
November 7, 2026*	Oct. 23, 2026
December 5, 2026	Nov.20, 2026
March 6, 2027*	Feb. 19, 2027
May 1, 2027*	April 16, 2027
June 5, 2027*	May 21, 2027

* Test will be given at Ramsey High School

General Information

1. Registration for the **SAT** is through the College Board site: CollegeBoard
2. Ramsey High School Code is 311290.
3. The SAT is a "Reasoning Test" with mathematics and verbal sections. Test results are forwarded to colleges approximately four weeks after testing. Students receive scores approximately one week later.

PSAT

TEST DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026. All freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will take the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test. This testing experience is being offered free. Juniors will be assessed a registration fee of $25.00 to offset the National Merit Scholarship (NMSQT) cost. In addition to preparing students for the Scholastic Assessment Test, the PSAT serves as the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

ACT TESTING DATES

Test Date	Registration Deadline
September 19, 2026	August 14, 2026
October 17, 2026	September 11, 2026
December 12, 2026	November 6, 2026
February 27, 2027	January 22, 2027
April 10, 2027	March 5, 2027
June 12, 2026	May 7, 2027

To register for ACT: ACT registration

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Advanced Placement Tests for the 2026-2027 school year have been scheduled by the College Board.
Dates adopted are:
May 3-7, 2027
May 10-14, 2027

NJGPA (ELA and Mathematics Gr 11) TESTING DATES

March 8-10 (Make up Exams through March 19, if necessary)

NJSLA (ELA 9, Mathematics 9, and Science 11) TESTING DATES

Gr. 9 NJSLA ELA and Math (Alg 1, Geometry, Alg II) - May 17-19 (Make up exams on May 20-21)
Gr. 11 NJSLA-Science - May 17 and 18 (Make up exams on May 19-21)

COLLEGE BOARD SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (SSD)

A student with a documented disability may be eligible for accommodations on College Board tests. An SSD Student Eligibility Form must be submitted for each student requesting accommodations. To be eligible, the student must:
1. have a disability that necessitates testing accommodations,
2. have documentation on file at school that supports the need for requested accommodations and meets the Guidelines for Documentation, and
3. receive and utilize the requested accommodations, due to the disability, for school-based tests.

New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-ELA (NJSLA-ELA) and New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Mathematics (NJSLA-M)

The New Jersey Student Learning Assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy (NJSLA-ELA) and for Mathematics (NJSLA-M) measures the extent to which students are, or on track to be college or career ready in each of the two respective areas. The test in English Language Arts/Literacy assesses student proficiency in reading and comprehending a range of grade appropriate material independently. It also provides a measure of how effectively a student writes when using and/or analyzing sources. The test in Mathematics measures student competencies in the major and additional/supporting content in mathematics for grade or course, as well as student grade-appropriate mathematical reasoning and modeling skills**.** These new state regulations (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1) can be found here.

A SUGGESTED TIMETABLE FOR COLLEGE DECISION MAKING

(See College Application Procedures Handbook for additional information)

October - Junior Year

PSAT/NMSQT

Winter - Spring of Junior Year

- Research Schools - Campus visits, Scoir, Niche, Big Future

Spring - Junior Year

- Sign up for SATs and/or ACTs

  (Plan to take at least one before September of Senior Year)
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers
- Continue to research/visit college campuses
- Consider applying for early decision

Early Fall - Senior Year

- Discuss college choices with your counselor
- Decide what colleges you will apply to; file applications
- Retake SATs and/or ACTs (if necessary)
- Check Scoir college representatives visiting the high school and sign up appropriately
- File FAFSA and/or CSS Profile and review financial aid opportunities at colleges of interest
- Monitor scholarship opportunities the School Counseling website and do independent research/complete applications as necessary

Late Fall - Senior Year

• Apply to most schools by December

Spring - Senior Year

- Monitor email for Ramsey local scholarship application
- May 1st: Commit/deposit at the admitted college of your choice

GPA AND WEIGHTING PROCEDURES

To determine GPA, the final letter grades from all courses, except Physical Education and those designated Pass/Fail, are used. GPA is cumulative.

Our weighting system assigns quality points based upon the level of the course taken. Courses labeled Honors or Advanced Placement receive one additional point.

GPA Quality Points

Grades		Regular	Honors/AP
97-100	A+	4.3	5.3
93-96	A	4.0	5.0
90-92	A-	3.7	4.7
87-89	B+	3.3	4.3
83-86	B	3.0	4.0
80-82	B-	2.7	3.7
77-79	C+	2.3	3.3
73-76	C	2.0	3.0
70-72	C-	1.7	2.7
67-69	D+	1.3	2.3
60-66	D	1.0	2.0
59 or below	F	0	0

Mid-Year & Final Averages

If the decimal part of the average is .15, .5, .85 then the Mid-Year or Final Average MUST be rounded UP to the next highest grade. However, students need to earn 5 non-weighted points to pass a class.

High Honor Roll

All A's (A+, A, A-) and not more than one B (B+, B, B-).

Honor Roll

All A's (A+, A, A-) and B's (B+, B, B-) and not more than one C (C+, C, C-)

All provisions of the Ramsey High School Attendance Policy are applicable to all courses listed in the Curriculum Guide.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

1. Students failing to take a final exam when one is scheduled will be deemed not to have completed the course requirements and will fail the course. This applies to students without exempt status.
2. Exempt status shall be obtained by a senior in a CP, CPE, or CPC class who meets ALL of the following criteria:
   - At least 3 marking period grades of A- or better...AND
   - No marking period grade below B-...AND
   - A final unweighted average of EXACTLY 3.5 (no rounding) or above (See #4 below for AP classes)
3. Any student in an AP class will be granted exempt status provided they meet the following criteria:
   - Students must earn at least a B- or better in all 4 marking periods and take the AP exam given by the College Board in May.
4. In order for seniors in half-year elective courses to qualify for a final exam exemption, they must earn an A- (or above) average for EACH marking period. No grades of B+ (or lower) will be allowed.

5. A specific final exam schedule will be implemented at the close of the school year.
6. The make-up exam period is scheduled for students missing the initial testing period DUE TO ILLNESS. Documentation is required.
7. Final examinations in first semester courses are to be given during the last week of the semester. A specific schedule by department will be implemented. Exams will be two class periods.
8. Mid-year tests in full year courses may be given at the discretion of the teacher. These tests, whenever possible, will not be given during the last week of the semester.

WEIGHT OF FINAL EXAM GRADE AND DETERMINATION OF FINAL GRADE IN A COURSE

1. Final Exams will be worth 10% of the final grade in a course in which it is administered
2. To calculate the final grade in a course with a Final Exam:
    a. In a full year class:
        i. Each quarter is worth 22.5%
        ii. Final Exam is worth 10%
    b. In a semester class:
        i. Each quarter is 45%
        ii. Final Exam is worth 10%
3. To calculate the final grade in a course without a Final Exam:
    a. In a full year class:
        i. Each quarter is worth 25%
    b. In a semester class:
        i. Each quarter is 50%

FINAL GRADE AVERAGE

To determine a final average for a course, convert the four (4) marking period grades and the final exam grade to a numerical average.

In a full year class:

(MP1 Grade X .225) + (MP2 Grade X .225) + (MP3 Grade X .225) + (MP4 Grade X .225) + (Final Exam Grade X .10)

In a semester class:

(MP1 Grade X .45) + (MP2 Grade X .45) + (Final Exam Grade X .10)

For conversion back to the final letter grade, use the following:

	Regular	Honors/AP		Regular	Honors/AP
A+	4.3	5.3	C+	2.3	3.3
A	4.0	5.0	C	2.0	3.0
A-	3.7	4.7	C-	1.7	2.7
B+	3.3	4.3	D+	1.3	2.3
B	3.0	4.0	D	1.0	2.0
B-	2.7	3.7	F	0	0

Students dropping a year course after the conclusion of the seventh week, but before the end of the twelfth week and/or students dropping a semester course after the fourth week, but before the end of the seventh week will have that course recorded on the permanent record with the following entry: “W” (Withdrew Passing) or “U” (Withdrew Failing). The withdrawal will not be included in class rank but will remain on a student’s report card. Students withdrawing after the seventh week in a semester course, and after the twelfth week in a year course will have an “F” recorded as a final grade. Grade point average will be affected.

Exemptions for unusual circumstances may be made by the high school administration. Students denied credit as a result of excessive absences will have a grade of "U" recorded on their permanent records.

Students who receive a final grade average of “F” in a course needed to meet graduation requirements will be directed to repeat the course through either of the following options:

1. Retake the course during the following school year, schedule permitting.
2. Remediate the course over the summer. Students will be limited to two summer remedial courses per school year.

Upon confirmation of a final failure, students will meet with their school counselor to review all remedial options and select a pathway to complete the required coursework.

GRADE EXCEPTION FORM

There can be deviations from the above formula **with cause.** Any time the teacher gives a final average that is higher or lower than the marking period grades warrant, he/she must have the department supervisor's approval. The teacher must fill out a Grade Exception Form specifically stating the reasons for the change. In effect, then, the report card final grade may not be an average of the marking period grades, but a grade based on a student's total performance in the course.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students must make up work missed because of absences as soon as possible. If the absence is for only one day, work should be made up within two days of the student's return. For longer absences, the teacher should provide a reasonably proportionate amount of time. If at the end of the marking period a student has not had time to make up missing work, the teacher will mark the student incomplete. If the student has had sufficient time and has not made up the work within the marking period, the teacher should lower the student's grade accordingly. All Incompletes (I) granted at the conclusion of a marking period must be resolved within two weeks of grades being posted for the marking period (exceptions must be approved by the Director of HS Education).

CLARIFICATION OF SELECTED GRADING PROCEDURES

1. The school will weigh the previous marking period grades of students transferring from Honors to Advanced or College Prep sections. A grade of "F", however, in an Honors class, will remain an "F".
2. The school will average the previous marking period grade of students transferring levels, i.e., H to C.P., C.P. to A/B, etc.
3. Students transferring from/to two separate and independent courses, e.g., art to photo, must adhere to the present grading practices for course drops as outlined in the Handbook.
4. Teachers will transfer accrued absences to the new course and section, prorating allowable absences on a marking-period basis (six per marking period). Only the principal or his designee may make exceptions to the strict application of this guideline.
5. Students desiring to change an academic level must make the request within the first marking period of the school year, deadline of Friday November 13, 2026. Requests for a level change after this deadline may result in a grade of WP or WF on the student’s transcript for the course they are exiting.

INDEPENDENT STUDY GRADING

1. Letter grades for each of the four marking periods appear on a student's report card. Teachers will determine the year-end average using these grades.
2. Students choosing PASS/FAIL will receive marking period letter grades. If they have maintained a "D" average or above, they have passed and will receive a "P" as the final average, along with the appropriate credit.
3. Each department will establish courses/sections for independent study within the department; e.g., Independent Study in Social Studies.
4. The Department Supervisors will receive grade sheets for those offerings.
5. Students transferring to Ramsey High School with high school or college courses on their academic record will have their previous work considered as follows:
   a. If we have a similar course, we will include the grades and credits on the transcript.
   b. If the course was an "Honors" level course and we have a similar course, we will "weight" the grade for grade point average.
   c. If we do not offer a similar course, we will award the grade listed and credit. The course will not be weighted.
   d. We will evaluate numerical grades from a sending school using that school's policies, i.e., A=100-93, etc. A failure from another school will remain a failure.
6. Use the current Independent Study Form to obtain necessary approvals. Make as detailed a description as possible of the work to be undertaken when the course is not traditional. Provide additional detail on appended pages. Include attendance requirements (meeting times).

HONORS OPTION

At Ramsey High School, we value students investing their energy in areas of interest/curiosity. Part of our Profile of a Graduate initiative is focused on helping students find purpose in their education and encourage scholarship, leadership, and commitment. The Honors Option was initiated to give students completing advanced coursework in certain elective areas the chance to earn honors credit for their efforts. This additional advanced coursework/scholarship is meant to be student-directed and completed mostly outside of class.

<u>Honors Option Basic Parameters</u>

- Students can elect to take defined upper level elective courses for “honors” credit.
  - For the *2026-2027 School Year*, those courses will be**:**
    - Visual Arts 2
    - Advanced Ceramics 2
    - Advanced Ceramics 3
    - Advanced Automotive Technology
    - Advanced Woodworking
    - Advanced Photography
    - Architectural Drawing
    - Engineering Drawing
    - Computer Programming I and II
- Students must declare their intention to pursue the Honors Option in a given course within the first few weeks of the course. *For the 2026-27 school year, the deadline for full year and first semester electives will be September 25, 2026**.** For second semester electives, the deadline will be February 26, 2027.*
- When a student successfully fulfills the “honors option” expectations in a given course, the student will earn a “weighted average” grade in the course. To earn the “weighted average” grade in a course, a student must a) successfully meet regular course expectations and b) *in addition* complete the required honors option work outlined by the course and teacher.
-

- Some components of the honors option will vary by discipline. These components could include:
    - In-depth research / writing on topic related to course
    - Journal
    - Portfolio
    - Work Documentation
- *Students who fail to meet Honors Option expectations will lose the "weighted average" grade in the "honors option" course.*

OPTION II

Students who are interested in pursuing varied coursework through the Option II pathway, must complete the required Option II application in full (including all required signatures) and submit it by the designated deadlines:

- June 1st: any summer, 1st semester, or full year coursework
- December 1st: 2nd semester coursework

The application for Option II may be found on the RHS School Counseling website.

COMPUTING GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

The method used to compute the grade point average (GPA) is described below:

1. Each course is given a point designation: (course point)
   full year course = 1
   semester course = .5
2. Grades are converted to quality points:

	Regular	Honors/AP		Regular	Honors/AP
A+	4.3	5.3	C+	2.3	3.3
A	4.0	5.0	C	2.0	3.0
A-	3.7	4.7	C-	1.7	2.7
B+	3.3	4.3	D+	1.3	2.3
B	3.0	4.0	D	1.0	2.0
B-	2.7	3.7	F	0	0

Courses qualifying for additional weighting:

ART	Visual II Arts Honors Visual III Arts Honors Adv. Ceramics: Function and Form Honors Adv. Ceramics: Studio Honors 2D Art and Design (AP)
ENGLISH	English I Honors English II Honors English Language and Composition (AP) English Literature and Composition (AP)
COMPUTER SCIENCE	Computer Science Principles (AP) Computer Science (AP) Computer Programming I Honors Computer Programming II Honors

MATHEMATICS	Algebra II Honors Geometry Honors Precalculus Mathematics Honors Calculus AB, BC (AP) Macroeconomics (AP) Microeconomics (AP) Statistics (AP)
WORLD LANGUAGE	Spanish III H, French III Honors, Spanish IV H, French IV Honors, Spanish V (AP), French V (AP), Latin IV (AP)
MUSIC	Music Theory (AP)
SCIENCE	Biology Honors Biology (AP) Chemistry Honors Chemistry (AP) Environmental Science (AP) Physics Honors Physics C (AP)
SOCIAL STUDIES	Human Geography (AP) Psychology (AP) SUPA Sociology World History Honors U.S. History I Honors U.S. History II (AP) American Government and Politics (AP)
TECH ED	Advanced Auto Tech Honors Advanced Woodworking Honors Advanced Photography Honors Architectural Drawing Honors Engineering Drawing Honors Design Drawing Honors
INTERDISCIPLINARY	AP Seminar AP Research Design Thinking Honors

4. The formula for grade point average is:
   a. Subject grade converted to quality point:

A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C+ = 2.3	D+ = 1.3
A+ = 4.3	B+ = 3.3	C = 2.0	D = 1.0
A- = 3.7	B- = 2.7	C- + 1.7	F = 0

   b. Courses change to course points:
      English I = 1 year = 1 Creative Writing= 1 semester = .5
   c. Total Quality Points ÷ Total Course Points = Grade Point Average d. Grade Point Average ranked high to low
   e. Rank reported as 1/225, 2/225, etc.

Course	Course Point	Grade	Quality Point
English (1 year)	1	B+	3.3
Math Honors (1 year)	1	B	4
French II (1 year)	1	C	2
Visual Arts (1 year)	1	B	3
Wood I (1 semester)	0.5	A	2
World History (1 year)	1	C-	1.7
Health (1/4)	0.25	B	0.75

Total Course Points 5.75 Total Quality 16.75

GPA = 2.913

Class rank will only be released when it is **required** for consideration of a scholarship or admission to a specific program, and will be released directly to that program/organization (i.e. military service academies).

Credit Hour Requirements

All 9-12 grade students must schedule a minimum of 35 credits. Once enrolled for coursework above the minimum, a student will not be permitted to drop back to the minimum without approval from a building administrator. A schedule that is "too demanding" will not be considered a valid reason. Such a determination should have been made prior to the scheduling of coursework.

Pass/Fail Option

Ramsey High School offers a wide range of courses in a variety of disciplines. To allow students an opportunity to experience these offerings and not jeopardize their class rank, a pass/fail option has been adopted. The guidelines are:

a. To be eligible a student must have a “B” (3.0) or better grade point average in all prior coursework. Incoming freshmen must have achieved a 3.0 average in all coursework taken in the 8th grade.

b. Only specified courses stipulated by the department would be eligible to be taken on a pass/fail basis. Courses that satisfy the Profile Project requirement do **not** qualify for pass/fail grading.

c. Students must sign up for 35 credits. Any other subjects beyond those credit limits, as noted in “b” above may be taken on a pass/fail basis.

d. **Submission of the Pass/Fail Request Form must take place by the following deadline dates:**

Full year class: Friday September 25, 2026
1st Semester Class: Friday September 25, 2026
2nd Semester Class: Friday February 26, 2027

e. Regular marking period grades would be assigned and all required work, i.e., participation, homework, classwork, tests, papers, exams, etc.must be submitted. Courses taken with a pass/fail option will be included in the calculation for the Honor Roll.

f. A “P” (pass) and credit would be awarded to students with a minimum “D” average in the courses.

g. Pass/Fail courses would not be calculated in the class rank or GPA computation.

Courses Offered for Pass/Fail

Business:	All Offerings
English:	Creative Writing
Fine Arts:	All offerings in Art, Music, Culinary Arts, Introduction to Speech and Drama, Acting
Mathematics:	Computer Programming I & II
Social Studies:	Eleventh and twelfth grade electives, i.e., Sociology, Psychology, Liberty & Justice
Technology Education:	All offerings

VALEDICTORIAN and SALUTATORIAN

In order to be eligible for consideration of these honors, a student must have been a student of Ramsey High school for his/her entire junior year and a full time student when selection is made at the end of the third marking period of senior year. The Valedictorian shall be the senior with the highest grade point average (G.P.A.) at this time. The Salutatorian shall be the senior with the second highest G.P.A. The administration may declare co- or tri- Valedictorians or Salutatorians whenever there is a tie(s) or if the difference in G.P.A. is considered to be statistically insignificant by the high school administration.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A DIPLOMA

120 credits consisting of:

- 20 credits of Language Arts Literacy
- 15 credits of Mathematics
- 15 credits of Social Studies
- 15 credits of Science
- 5 credits of Physical Education, Health, and Safety for each year of enrollment
- 5 credits of Visual and Performing Arts
- 10 credits of World Language
- 2.5 credits of Financial Literacy
- 5 credits of 21st Century Life and Careers

Remaining credits may be earned by choosing courses in the following areas:

Art	Music
Business Education	Reading
English	Science
Home Economics	Social Studies
Industrial Arts/Technology	Special Education Mathematics
World Language	Other approved academic/vocational courses

Additional requirements for graduation include:

- Students must complete an approved Profile Project and Defense of Learning as outlined in the Profile Project Handbook. The Profile Project is a culminating project, embedded in a specific course or pre-approved as an Independent Study, aligned to the Profile of a Ramsey Graduate, and developed by students with support from staff. This project will be completed in Senior year and will reflect cumulative learning.
- Cross-content workplace readiness as described in the State Standards (integrated into content areas in grades 9-12)
- Meet NJDOE approved testing requirements for each class (see below).
- NJDOE has established the NJGPA as the “First Pathway" to meet the graduation assessment requirement for the Class of 2027. See the NJDOE Assessment page for the latest information on this required and the alternate pathways students may use to meet the state graduation assessment requirement.

The following procedure should be followed when exempting a student with disabilities from one or more aspect of the district’s graduation requirements:

1. The CST recommends at least one exemption with appropriate rationale.
2. The Director of Special Services meets with the Superintendent of Schools to verbalize this recommendation and seek his/her approval.
3. The CST meets with the parent(s) to develop the IEP. Consideration is given to the recommended exemption(s) and parental agreement is sought.
4. The CST finalizes the IEP.

5. The CST seeks the formal approval of the exemption(s) by acquiring the signature of the Superintendent of Schools.

EARLY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Pupils who have clearly demonstrated scholastic aptitude, an unusual readiness for the world of work, a financial need, or a serious health or family situation may be considered for early graduation. All graduation requirements, as outlined above, must be completed early. Approval must be obtained from parents/guardians (except in the case of 18 year old pupils) and the administration. Any student considering early graduation must notify his/her School counselor in writing by June 1st of his/her sophomore year.

MARKING PERIOD CLOSING AND REPORT CARDS

Marking Period Closings		Report Card on Portal
1st	November 4, 2026	November 16, 2026
2nd	January 22, 2027	February 1, 2027
3rd	April 2, 2027	April 9, 2027
4th	June 18, 2027	June 23, 2027

Tentative Final Exam Periods

June 14 & 15* (Math and Science)

8:00 - 10:00 am

*These are full days of school and a special schedule will run after exams until 3 pm.

Make up exams (for illness) will be scheduled on June 16 & 17 at 8:00 am. Students with extenuating circumstances who would like to make alternate arrangements for final exams must make the request in writing to the Director of HS Education.

Grades in progress are available on the Student and Parent Portals. Official marking period grades are also posted on the Portals.

ASSEMBLIES

School wide or grade level assemblies are scheduled periodically throughout the school year. They are as much a part of school as educational field trips and the learning that takes place in the classroom because they are not only enjoyable and entertaining, but they are also a learning experience. Courtesy demands that the student body be respectful. Generally speaking, talking, booing, clapping at inappropriate times, causing a disruption and/or whistling during a performance or speech are discourteous. Refrain from them. Students, if scheduled for an assembly, should proceed to the Auditorium and their assigned seating as quickly as possible and should leave the program and return to classes in a similar manner. Students who are unable to conform to these few behavioral standards will lose their assembly privilege.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Philosophy

Ramsey High School is committed to providing an education to all students where academic honesty is valued. Moral development is an important aspect of the educational learning process. Further, school should be a place where the measure of each student's work is an accurate assessment of that student's performance. Inappropriate use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools is governed under this policy. Prohibited use of AI tools and/or the failure to properly source AI-generated content is considered a violation of our district's Plagiarism policy (5701 - Plagiarism).

Prevention

The first step in eliminating cheating is preventing it from occurring. We believe that teachers play a key role. It is the responsibility of the teacher to manage the classroom in a manner that minimizes the opportunity for cheating. The

following guidelines are to be used and reviewed during testing:

- No talking during the course of the test. If you need a question answered, raise your hand.
- Come prepared for the test with the necessary items.
- Take care of your needs prior to beginning the test (use the bathroom, get a drink, etc.)
- Sit in your assigned seat or where directed by the teacher.
- Desks must be cleared of all items unless approved by the teacher.
- Books, backpacks, purses, wallets, and other items are to be off the desk and out of the aisle.
- Drinks of any kind are not to be at your desk or accessible.
- Hats may not be worn during testing.
- Stay focused on the test and do not distract others.
- Exercise caution during the test with regard to gestures or actions that can be considered inappropriate.
- When the test is over, put down all writing instruments.

Types of Offenses

1. Cheating – giving or receiving unauthorized materials or information.
   This includes copying from another student on an assignment, quiz, or test, receiving unauthorized assistance with a quiz, test, or other assignment, sharing information about a quiz or test in advance, using notes, books, or other devices without authorization, sharing copies of tests or exams, sharing homework and other assignments, storing data in calculators or other devices to assist during a test or exam, and/or changing the answers or grade after a quiz, test, or other assignment has been returned.
2. Plagiarism – the act of appropriating the work or ideas of another and passing it off as one's own work (Black's Law Dictionary, 5th Edition) or failing to properly cite any material from a published or unpublished source, including material available on the Internet. This includes buying, trading, stealing, and/or copying another's work, translating the work of another and claiming to be the author, paying for or accepting the writing services of another person who revises the work but does not acknowledge the author, or combining and blending the work of several sources without acknowledgement.
3. Collaboration – working with another without prior authorization of the classroom teacher on an assignment or turning in homework assignments, laboratory reports, and projects that more than one student has worked on without the prior authorization of the teacher.

Consequences for the offenses cited above:

First Offense

- The student will receive a zero for the assignment, quiz, or test without the opportunity to make up the work.
- An incident report will be completed by the observing staff member, shared with the administration, and filed with the Director of HS Education.
- The parent/guardian will be notified by the teacher.

Second Offense

- The student will receive a zero for the assignment, quiz, or test without the opportunity to make up the work.
- An incident report will be completed by the observing staff member and filed with the Director of HS Education
- The student will be removed from consideration for admittance to the National Honor Society for one year.
- A conference will be held by the Principal. The student, parent(s), School counselor, and the teacher will meet.
- The advisor of any activity in which the student is involved will be advised of the infraction by the Director of HS Education.

Third Offense

- Same sanctions as stated in the first two offenses plus:
- Automatic failure in the course.
- The student will be removed from the National Honor Society if he/she has been a member.

- The Principal will recommend that the student be removed from leadership positions in activities or sports.
- A Conference will be held by the Superintendent with any of the following allowed to attend: the student, the parent(s), School counselor, the teacher, the supervisor, or the Principal.

The student may appeal the findings of the Director of HS Education to a committee composed of a supervisor and two classroom teachers from departments other than that in which the infraction occurred.

Additional Offenses

Tampering – the altering of school records, grades, or documents. This includes using a computer to change, add, or erase information and/or unauthorized access into an office or file or grade book for the purpose of altering a record or document.

Consequences for the offenses cited above:

First Offense

- The student will receive a zero for the assignment, quiz, or test without the opportunity to make up the work.
- An incident report will be completed by the observing staff member, shared with the administration and filed with the Director of HS Education.
- The parent/guardian will be notified by the teacher.
- Three day out-of-school-suspension.

Second Offense

- The student will receive a zero for the assignment, quiz, or test without the opportunity to make up the work.
- An incident report will be completed by the observing staff member and filed with the Director of HS Education.
- The student will be removed from consideration for admittance to the National Honor Society for one year.
- A conference will be held by the Principal. The student, parent(s), School counselor, and the teacher will meet.
- The advisor of any activity in which the student is involved will be advised of the infraction.
- Five day out-of-school-suspension

Third Offense

- Same sanctions as stated in the first two offenses plus:
- Automatic failure in any course.
- The student will be removed from the National Honor Society if he/she has been a member.
- The Principal will recommend that the student be removed from leadership positions in activities or sports.
- A conference will be held by the Superintendent with any of the following allowed to attend: the student, the parent(s), School counselor, the teacher, the supervisor, or the Principal.
- Ten day out-of-school-suspension and referral to the Board of Education.

The student may appeal the findings of the Director of HS Education to a committee composed of a supervisor and two classroom teachers from departments other than that in which the alleged infraction occurred.

CAFETERIA

Students' behavior in the cafeteria should be based on courtesy and cleanliness. This means leaving the area in the condition you would like to find it. Students will go through the cafeteria line and pay for their choice of food which is supplied by Chartwell, Inc. Students who choose to leave campus may return to the building using their Student ID swipe card through the Prospect St. Lobby, Main Street Parking Lot Entrance, the first door next to the auditorium, or the last door before the Mitchell gym.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, supplies, and furniture supplied by the school. Students who disfigure property, break windows, or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or to replace or repair the item. The students may be subject to suspension or Lunch Detention. A formal

complaint may be filed with the Ramsey Police Department and a Violence and Vandalism Report must be filed with the Board of Education.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It is imperative that the Principal's Office and the School Counseling Department be informed of any change of address or telephone number. Delays in communications from school officials may occur without the most recent listings. We also need written notification to accommodate duplicate mailings for parents residing in different locations.

DANCES

School dances are occasionally held throughout the school year. All students are encouraged to join with their friends at the "formal" and informal gatherings. Please note that any students wishing to attend must be present no later than one hour after the dance begins. Students who choose to leave the dance will not be permitted to return. As with any school sponsored activity, all the policies and procedures of the high school are applicable. Failure to abide by school policies may jeopardize a student's right to participate in future events.

DATING VIOLENCE AT SCHOOL
(Policy #5519)

The Board of Education believes a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for children to learn. A pupil who is a victim of dating violence suffers academically and the pupil's safety at school is jeopardized. Acts or incidents of dating violence at school whether they are verbal, sexual, physical, or emotional will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with the school's pupil code of conduct.

All school staff members (administrative staff, instructional staff, support staff and volunteers) shall take all reasonable measures to prevent acts or incidents of dating violence at school involving a pupil. All acts or incidents of dating violence at school shall be reported to the Principal or designee in accordance with the provisions outlined in Regulation 5519.

The Principal shall implement discipline and remedial procedures to address acts or incidents of dating violence at school consistent with the school's pupil code of conduct. The policies and procedures specific to acts or incidents of dating violence at school shall be used to address the act or incident as well as serve as remediation, intervention, education and prevention of all individuals involved.

DETENTION

An assigned detention must be served during the lunch block unless otherwise informed. A student may be assigned classroom detention for violating a classroom rule. Saturday detentions will be assigned in the event of continuous violation of classroom rules and/or violating the attendance policy as it pertains to tardiness.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Student Directory information may be released to military recruiters. Parents may request in writing to the Principal that their child's name be omitted from the Student Information Directory; adult students may make this request on their own behalf.

DRESS CODE

Please click the links below to view the policy and regulation:
District Policy 5511- Dress and Grooming
District Regulation 5511 - Dress Code

EARLY DISMISSAL

A student is permitted to be dismissed from school with a parent email with the following constraints:

- Emails can be sent days in advance, but must be sent to RHSattendance@ramsey.k12.nj.us by 8:15 am at the latest on the day of the early dismissal
- Parents of students in Gr. 9, 10, and 11 are required to come into the building to sign out their child; 12th graders may scan themselves out (provided their parent has emailed attendance).
- Phone calls are not considered sufficient, an email must be sent
- Students should be dismissed from school in between classes or during lunch to minimize the disruption to instructional time.
- The latest a student can be dismissed from school is 2:04 pm
- The 18 year old sign out Google Form must be completed in the Main Office prior to 8:00 am

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds at any time during the school day without permission from the school office. If a student must leave the building because of any emergency, please report to the office for permission which may only be granted by an administrator upon confirmation from a parent or guardian. Failure to follow the proper procedure will be considered an unexcused absence and/or class cut.

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Field trips for classes, clubs and other organizations are recognized as educationally valuable experiences to enrich regularly planned classroom or group activities. The same regulations that apply to students when they are on the school premises apply to students when they are on trips and representing our school. **Parental permission slips are required from all students planning to participate.** Classwork missed as a result of the educational trip or participation in a school activity must be completed and submitted in accordance with the provisions of the make-up policy. In the event of excessive absences and/or tardiness, student participation in educational trips may be restricted.

FIELD TRIP GUIDANCE REGARDING ATTENDANCE
A student's absence will be excused for the student's attendance and participation in field trips and/or co-curricular activities for up to five absences per school year. For purposes of this policy, "co-curricular activities"; shall be those activities that are sponsored or approved by the Board but are not offered for credit toward graduation. Such activities shall generally be conducted outside the regular school day, available to pupils who voluntarily elect to participate, marked by pupil participation in the processes of initiation, planning, organizing and execution shall be related to the district's curricula, and shall ordinarily include, but not be limited to band, clubs, dramatic or musical presentations, and intramural and interscholastic sports.
The Principal and/or designee may excuse additional absences for a student's attendance and participation in school-sponsored events on a case by case basis provided the student submits a written request to the Principal in advance of any such anticipated absence beyond ten school days.If a student violates this Field Trip Attendance policy, they may schedule an appointment with the Principal or his designee to appeal the violation and request more days available for future field trips.

EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD STATUS

Requests by 18 year old students to sign out of school must be submitted to Attendance no later than 8:00am on the day they are requesting to leave early. 18 year old students are permitted one (1) self-sign out per school week. Subsequent requests within the week must be approved by a parent or guardian.

Every person 18 years of age is an adult (Chapter 81, N.J. State Laws, effective January 1, 1973), but regardless of age students in the public school shall comply with all established rules of the school (Title 18A, N.J. Statutes).

1. As far as school goes, therefore, special privileges are not given to 18 year olds, but all school regulations apply equally to them. **All 18 year old sign outs must be submitted before 8:00 am.** Significantly, once a student reports to school, he or she is expected to be present in all classes for the remainder of the school day. If a student is planning on signing themselves out, they must visit the Attendance Desk in the Main Office to submit a 18 year old sign out form. Any subsequent period(s) missed without proper submission of an 18 year old sign out form will be considered a class cut subject to discipline unless due to illness and has been excused by the School Nurse. **No 18 year old sign outs will be honored after 8:00 am.**
2. They may represent themselves upon certain occasions such as reinstatement to school following suspension or withdrawal from school; be responsible for their actions while in school; sign their own permission slips or absentee cards; inspect their permanent records. NOTE: (Eighteen year olds may be requested to have their parents or guardians sign or cosign absentee cards and excuse notes to verify equivocal information. The law still allows a school to contact parents, regardless of age.)
3. Parents will continue to be sent all school communications as are sent to other parents (such as attendance reports, senior failures, scholarship information, etc.)
4. Parents or those designated by the parent on the emergency card will be notified by the nurse in the event of injury or illness even if the student is eighteen.

EXAMINATIONS AND TESTS

Teachers are permitted to give tests and examinations in their classes subject to the policies of their department. Students are encouraged to ask about their policies and grading practices of the teacher and department at the beginning of classes in September. All students will receive a listing of student proficiencies as mandated by the State's graduation requirements during the first days of classes.

At the end of the year, final examinations are administered in Mathematics and Science courses, unless otherwise approved by the Principal. These examinations cover the work of the entire year and count 10% of the final average. Final exams of the first semester course are to be given during the last week of the first semester. Examinations will be two hours long. A specific schedule will be implemented. Students failing to take a final exam when one is scheduled will be deemed not to have completed the course and will fail. This applies to all students without exempt status.

EXTRA HELP

Teachers from each discipline will be available for 20 minutes after the dismissal between Monday and Friday to give extra help to students who request additional instruction. Students are urged to take advantage of this opportunity. Many times a few minutes spent in this manner can prevent major problems from developing. Often a teacher will make a suggestion or request the student to come for extra help. Ultimately, however, it is the student's responsibility to make the arrangements. The National Honor Society provides a student tutoring service during the school year. Consult your School Counselor for assistance in finding an Honor Society tutor.

FINE PROCEDURE

At the end of each semester, staff members (teachers, coaches, media specialist, trainer, clerical staff) submit fines for various items.

Example:

1. Lost textbook – replacement cost determined by Supervisor (book number indicated on fine card)
2. Damaged textbook – cost determined by Supervisor
3. Missing locks - $6.50
4. Lunch money – Main Office may loan students $5.00
5. Elevator key - $4.00
6. Library fee for lost book – determined by Media Specialist
7. Uniforms/Equipment – determined by the Department Supervisor
8. Chromebooks – Grades 9 – 12
   - Chromebook Replacement - $292.40
   - Dell Power Adapter 65-Watt Type C w/ 1M Power Cord - $44.00
   - Chromebook Platinum Insurance- $25.00
   - Stickers on Chromebook - $25.00
9. Student ID card $20.00 (Photo - $10.00/Swipe Card $10.00)
10. YONDR Pouch - $30.00

Fine Procedure:

- The information is entered into RealTime.
- Parents may view outstanding fine(s) by clicking “Fines” located on the left side of the Parent Portal. Lunch accounts and Chromebook insurance can be paid through https://www.payschoolscentral.com/
- General fines can be paid by cash or checks, payable to Ramsey High School and brought to the main office.
- Tech fines are made payable to Ramsey BOE Student Fund and should be brought to the main office.
- Cafeteria balances should be made payable to Ramsey Cafe and brought to the main office.
- Once the fine is resolved, receipts are given.
- At the end of each Marking Period, access will be denied to the Parent Portal if there are outstanding fines. Students will be notified of outstanding fines via their RHS email account.
- Fines are carried over from year to year.
- Caps and gowns and diplomas are held for all seniors until fines are resolved.

In the beginning of the year, After 30 Days Notices will be given to students and parent letters will be mailed home for existing fines.
Parents may purchase replacement textbooks before the last day of school by following the guidelines listed below:

1. The book that is purchased by the student must be in comparable or better condition than the book that was issued to the student. The replacement text must be the EXACT same book (edition, cover type, ISBN, etc.)
2. The student must include a copy of the receipt in the front cover of the replacement book so we can identify the replacement and follow the procedure to correctly add it to our inventory.
3. No report card or other pertinent information will be issued until the textbook replacement is submitted and reviewed by the teacher who taught the course.

This procedure can only be implemented prior to the end of the school year. No replacement texts can be submitted in the summer.

FIRE/SECURITY DRILLS

Security (non-fire evacuation, bomb threat, lockdown, etc.) and Fire drills are required by law to be conducted at regular intervals throughout the school year. These are important safety precautions. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone obeys orders promptly and follows the instructions given by their classroom teacher. Students will be given training throughout the school year. Also, a K9 unit may be invited to inspect the building to maintain safety and welfare of all students

FUNDRAISING

Requests for approval of fundraising activities must be submitted in writing to the club advisor, coach, Athletic Director, and/or Principal no later than 30 working days prior to the scheduled beginning of the activity.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING

The Ramsey Board of Education expects pupils to treat each other with civility and respect and will not tolerate acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. "Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by an actual or perceived characteristic, such as:

- Race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability or by any other distinguishing characteristic; **and that**
- Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds, that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students; **and that**
- A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or damage to his property; **or**
- Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students; **or**
- Creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student. (N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14)

"Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to: a telephone, cellular phone, computer, or pager.

School Climate/Safety Team

The Ramsey School District has established Climate/Safety Teams in every school whose mission is to address reports of harassment, intimidation, and bullying, as well as to educate the community so as to create a safe learning environment for all. The Climate/Safety Team is composed of various school personnel who will be responsible for reviewing and strengthening school policies regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying along with identifying and addressing any patterns of bullying that are present.

At Ramsey High School, our Building Climate Specialist is Mr. Dan DeMartino, Dean of Students, who can be contacted via email at ddemartino@ramsey.k12.nj.us regarding any concerns.

Reporting and Procedures

Teachers/staff members **must** report any knowledge of the following behaviors to the Anti-Bullying Specialist, Director of HS Education, Principal, or School Counselor on the same day when an individual witnessed or received reliable information regarding any such event:

- Physical aggression or contact to a pupil
- Teasing or name-calling
- Insulting or demeaning comments
- Threatening comments, gestures, or physical acts
- Intimidating conduct toward another pupil

- Spreading harmful rumors or gossip about a pupil
- Harassment, intimidation, or bullying through electronic communications
- Getting another person to harm a pupil
- Destruction of property
- Stalking another pupil
- Publicly humiliating a pupil
- Stealing or theft
- Defacing/destroying property
- Excluding or rejecting a pupil
- Extorting or exploiting a pupil

Once an incident has been reported, an investigation into the situation will be initiated within one school day of the report. A report of the incident will be completed within two days of the notification, and at the conclusion of the investigation, results will be provided to the district superintendent. Parents of the alleged bully and target will be notified about the investigation and findings within five (5) school days after investigation results. For further information on any harassment, intimidation, or bullying please visit the school website.

Anti-Bullying Programs and Character Education

A comprehensive anti-bullying and character education programs are an integral part of the high school curriculum. Throughout the school year, various programs and assemblies are conducted to inform students of behavioral expectations to establish a culture of respect and tolerance.

HAZING

Hazing of any student on or off school property is prohibited whether conducted by school or non-school organizations. No initiations may be held outside of school organizations' regular meetings. Any initiations which involve the slightest element of physical danger or poor taste are not permitted. Students guilty of hazing will be assigned Saturday detentions, suspended from school, or denied privileges including participation in graduation.

HEALTH SERVICES

If a student becomes ill in school, the student should ask his/her teacher for a pass to report to the Health Office. If the nurse is not available, students should report to the Main Office. Teachers should also report all injuries or accidents at once to the Health Office. Students sustaining injuries should also report to the Health Office for treatment. A parent is always contacted before releasing an ill or injured student from the Health Office. Any student leaving the building because of illness without the nurse's certification or official permission from the administration will have the absence recorded as unexcused.

If medications are prescribed during school hours, the student must report to the Health Office. The medication ruling must be followed.

Parents of students who visit the Health Clinic frequently may be asked to provide medical verification of the need for such frequent visits. If a student visits the health office 3 times or more in a week, a call will be made home to explore a student's health status.

Accidents and Insurance:

The school is responsible only for immediate first aid. The Board of Education does not pay any medical or hospital bill incurred as a result of an accident to the pupil at school. The parent or guardian is responsible for the payment of such bills.We urge you to avail yourself of the protection afforded through school insurance. You will be given information regarding various insurance plans during the first week of school.

In the case of an accident, no matter how minor, the student should report the accident to the nurse immediately. In the case of a severe accident or acute illness, emergency care will be given by the school nurse or local emergency personnel and the parents will be notified.

Defibrillators:

Seven (7) Medtronic Lifepak Defibrillators have been installed in the high school. One is located outside the Main Office, one is in the lobby hallway of the Murray Gym, one is on the 2nd floor near the Math Office, one is on the 3rd floor in the center of the hallway outside Room 304, one is mounted on the press box on the rear athletic field, one is mounted by the front door of the front field, and the nurse has a portable unit. Each storage box contains a Warning Alarm System and instructions for use.

Emergency Information:

Parents are responsible to update their contact information (phone, email, emergency contacts) directly through the Parent Education Portal. This information is essential in maintaining the health and safety of our students and must be kept up-to-date.

1. From the Portal homepage, click the link “View/Update Contacts.
2. Each contact needs to be updated individually if changes are necessary.
3. Review information and update information as necessary by choosing “Update a Phone/Email” for each contact that needs to be revised.
4. Click “Submit” after updating each contact.
5. Please list three (3) emergency contacts.

It will take a few days for the District to review and process your changes so the new information will not be immediately viewable.

Insurance:

If a student is injured while on school property, accident claims must first be submitted to your personal health insurance company. If there are unreimbursed costs, you may download an insurance claim form from the District website www.ramsey.k12.nj.us. Click SERVICES in the yellow banner, then click Health Services. Scroll down the pay to Student Insurance and click “Insurance Info and Claim Forms” for the link to download the Insurance form.

Additional student insurance is available at a nominal cost and is optional. When a student insured under the Bollinger plan is injured, you must download the form as stated above, complete it, and present it to the doctor or hospital. The school merely acts as a medium in supplying the insurance and assumes no liability either for the injury or the subsequent negotiations with the company.

Medical Transportation:

It is the responsibility of the parents to provide transportation and further care of the student if the student becomes ill or injured on school property. No student under the age of 18 may be sent home without parental approval.

Permission to Take Prescription Drugs:

A student who is taking medication under a physician's direction during school hours is to present a note from the physician, show the prescription label affixed to the container, and written permission from the parent. No medication (this includes all “over the counter” medications) may be taken by a student within a school or on school grounds except in the presence of a school nurse. It is the responsibility of a teacher or staff member who sees a student taking medication to report it to the nurse. Parents will be notified of failure by the student to abide by the above rules.

Tuberculin Testing:

All students entering or transferring into a New Jersey school from another country with a high T.B. incidence and no evidence of previous testing needs to have a mantoux test. This can be done by the school nurse with written permission by the parent. All students transferring between school districts within N.J. and from school districts within the U.S. will be exempt from testing regardless of country of birth. New employees in which TB testing is required may also be tested by the school nurse in the Health Office.

HIGH SCHOOL PROMOTION

The Board of Education has adopted the following regulations for a high school promotion. To officially become a sophomore, a student must successfully complete and pass twenty-five (25) credits during the freshman year. To be a junior, a student must successfully complete and pass fifty (50) credits of freshman and sophomore work. To be a senior, a student must complete and pass eighty (80) credits during the freshman, sophomore, and junior years.

In sequential courses, for instance English, I, II, II, IV, a student must successfully complete the prerequisite level before he or she may enter the next level. Exceptions for just cause may only be made by the building principal and/or Superintendent of Schools.

To be a graduate a student must complete and pass a minimum total of one hundred twenty (120) credits during the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior years. In addition, the student must pass the stNJGPA , unless specifically exempted.

Students excused from Physical Education must take other credits to make up the total of one hundred twenty (120) credits. All one year subjects carry five (5) credits or more. Semester courses carry two and one-half (2 1/2) credits.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Any student who is ill and expects to be absent for two weeks or more is entitled to receive homebound instruction. A student's parent or guardian should call the School Counseling Office, to request such instruction. A physician's note stating the reason for absence and anticipated return date to school is required prior to homebound instruction. A certified teacher will visit your home as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made with the parents and teachers.

HOMEWORK

Effective classroom participation and learning by students are results of motivation and interest in the subject. One method of assisting in these is the assignment of homework. Considered an integral part of our educational program, it contributes to learning when activities and assignments are well-planned and given with a valid educational objective in mind. The purpose of homework is to help students assume greater responsibility, offer opportunities for self-direction, improve student understanding of the subject matter, and reinforce basic skills. It may take many forms, including individual or group exercises, readings, observations, projects, studying and creative endeavors.

All learning cannot be accomplished within the limited amount of time allotted for classroom instruction. Therefore, homework is routinely assigned. As the word implies, homework should be completed outside the regular class period. The extent to which homework assignments are made should reflect the teacher's knowledge of his/her class and the teacher's judgment as to the appropriateness of content and frequency of assignments. Some assignments are long range in nature and require planned study time for their completion. Other assignments are of a shorter duration. Each staff member is expected to assign home study assignments regularly.If there are questions regarding the nature, amount, or grading of homework, please contact the teacher.

Please note: we have designated several weekends throughout the year as Homework Free Weekends. We encourage students to use this time to spend time with family members, recharge, and revitalize their commitment to learning. This year the weekends are:

September 19-21, 2026 November 5-8, 2026 March 26-28, 2027 May 15-16, 2027

Study Habits:
Good study habits are essential for success - today and in the future. Start planning for your future success now.

1. Choose a location where you will not be distracted.
2. Set a specific time period - EACH DAY - for daily preparation
3. Periodically take short breaks and then return to full concentration
4. List your daily assignments in a small notebook. As you complete each assignment, check it off your list.

HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll at Ramsey High School recognizes students who have performed well academically in a given marking period. Criteria for listing are:

High Honor Roll:	All A's (A+, A, A-) and not more than one B (B+, B, B-).
Honor Roll:	All A's (A+, A, A-) and B's (B+, B, B-) and not more than one C (C+, C, C-).

Additionally, all students must be scheduled for and receive a passing letter grade in coursework that would lead to a minimum of 35 credits for the year.

Courses for the Honor Roll are not weighted but rather will be based upon achievement. Health grades are included and physical education grades excluded from the calculation. Incomplete ("I") and Passing ("P") marking period grades will not be counted toward the minimum of 35 credits required to qualify for the Honor Roll. **Students taking a course using the pass/fail option will receive regular marking period grades and these grades will be included in the calculation for the Honor Roll.**

LEARNING COMMONS

When a teacher is absent, the classroom teacher will notify their students via Toddle that they must report to the Learning Commons in the Cafeteria (or other designated location) to complete assignments and learning exercises that will be posted in Toddle. Students in Gr. 9, 10 and 11 must report to the Learning Commons when assigned; students in Gr. 12 may have open campus privileges during Learning Commons assignments with parental consent. As students enter the Learning Commons, they must check in electronically on a device that records each student's period attendance. After checking in electronically to the Learning Commons, students must complete the assigned work as provided by the absent teacher on Toddle. Students are expected to be on their best behavior and work collaboratively with one another in a positive learning environment.

*Teachers have been assigned to supervise the attendance procedures and behavior of students in the Learning Commons every single period of the day.

*Students who do not report to the Learning Commons or do not check in electronically will be assigned a class cut and disciplinary action will be taken.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TODDLE)

Toddle is the only Learning Management System to be used with students district-wide

The following are the expectations of Teachers for Toddle use for the 2026-2027 school year.

****Given this is a transition year to Toddle, we will gradually adapt our expectations as staff become more familiar and comfortable with the tools.* ***At a minimum, course gradebooks will be maintained in Toddle.*** *This means the Gradebook tool in the Parent Portal is disabled. Only Marking Period grades will be displayed in the Parent Portal.****

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The mission of the Ramsey High School Library Media Center is to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information and to encourage leisure use of worthwhile materials. The Library Media program is fully integrated into the school's curriculum and supports the educational goals and objectives of Ramsey High School. The facility serves as a learning center where students and faculty may come to work independently or as a class.

Students and faculty have access to books, periodicals, newspapers, video materials, audiobooks, and ebooks, as well as many computers for research and class work. Reference books, reserve books, and audio-visual materials may be borrowed. Fines are charged for overdue materials. General circulating books are loaned for a period of three weeks.

The library media specialist provides reference, instructional and consultative services in all areas of library media services. Students are encouraged to use the facility for reference and research work. Learning to use the library and observing its rules helps to develop good citizenship. Only those students who have library work (research, periodical use, class work or recreational reading, etc.) can report to the library during study periods. They are to sign the appropriate study hall list; those lists in turn will be forwarded to the study hall teacher for attendance verification.

The Library Media Center is accessible to students, parents and faculty members 24 hours each day via the Media Center's website.

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned a locker for the storage of books, outerwear, and sports equipment and is given a combination lock to secure all. **The school administration urges you not to bring large amounts of money, jewelry or expensive equipment to school and leave them in your lockers.** Arrangements can be made in the General Office on special occasions to store such items in the school safe during the day.

Each student is also assigned a locker in the gymnasium locker room for the storage of clothing and sports equipment. Again, STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY URGED NOT TO STORE LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY OR VALUABLES IN THE LOCKERS. Additionally, all are urged to use their own personal lock during the class period. **Locked lockers will reduce thefts.**

Lockers and locks are school property and are loaned to the student. They should not be marked or defaced in any way. Periodic locker inspections will be made by the high school administration.. Missing locks will incur a $6.50 fine. All books, notebooks and valuables must be removed on the last day of school.

The school cannot accept responsibility for any items left in student or gym lockers, or in the hallways, classrooms or cafeteria.

The Ramsey Board of Education does not insure against the loss of or damage to personal property, including musical instruments, athletic equipment, etc. If you desire to obtain insurance coverage, one option is to add a rider to your homeowner's insurance policy.

LOITERING

Students should leave the building as soon after classes or participation in co- or extracurricular activities are finished. Students who are in the building on weekends, during evenings, or during the days of vacations or holidays should also leave the building immediately after concluding participation.

Students are never to be in an area of the building that is unsupervised.

LOST AND FOUND

If you believe that you have lost something, you should first check all the classrooms you were in that day. Often the missing item will be found. Lost and Found cubbies are located in the foyer of the General Office. Items in the lost and found are kept for one month.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Ramsey High School chapter of the National Honor Society is in agreement with the Society's National Constitution regarding the selection and dismissal of its members. National Honor Society Membership is an honor which shall be based upon pillars of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to uphold these pillars.

Selection of members of this chapter of the National Honor Society shall be by majority vote of the Faculty Council, consisting of five Principal-appointed faculty members.

The following is an overview of the Chapter By-laws and Constitution in those areas.

The selection process follows the procedure as described in the NHS Constitution that can be found online at www.nhs.us.

I. Eligibility of Members

1. Candidates must be a member of the junior or senior class. All candidates must have been in attendance at the school for the equivalent of one year.

2. To be academically eligible, candidates must meet a minimum cumulative scholastic weighted grade point average (G.P.A.) of 4.0 after the fourth semester of academic preparation.
   *This standard is subject to change to an unweighted grade point average and/or a different scaled average beginning with the Class of 2027. Changes will be reflected in the handbook at that time.

   a. Students academically eligible at the end of their fourth semester will be invited to apply beginning in July with applications due in September of their junior year.

   b. Students who become academically eligible at the conclusion of their sixth semester will be invited to complete the application process beginning in July, with applications due September 1st of their senior year. If deemed eligible, a notation of membership in the National Honor Society will be placed on their transcript for their senior year.

3. Any student who has been suspended from school for any reason may forfeit his/her first chance for induction into NHS. A request may be made for a review of the reasons for suspension with the faculty council. The council will then determine the candidate's eligibility.

4. Any student who is not admitted during their junior year is invited to reapply their senior year assuming all academic and behavioral requirements continue to be met.

5. An induction ceremony for accepted members will be held in the fall of each year. Formal acceptance letters and invitations will be sent prior to the induction.

6. Applications, in conjunction with attendance and behavioral records, will be considered.

7. In addition to academic requirements, candidates will be evaluated on the basis of SERVICE, LEADERSHIP and CHARACTER. An essay and application related to the above categories will be considered. The application requirements are as follows:

SERVICE:

Service includes contributions made to both the school and the outside community which are done with, or on behalf of others, without any direct financial or material compensation to the individual performing the service.

Service criteria:

- Beginning with the Class of 2026, a minimum of 10 community service hours will be required to apply for membership
- Beginning with the Class of 2027, a minimum of 10 community service hours yearly will be required to apply
- Service requirements are to be completed through an organization and are to be unpaid (examples include Scouts, church groups, services for the aged)
- Volunteers are dependable and well organized, and enthusiastically take on responsibilities
- Hours accrued as part of job training will not count toward community service hours
- All service hours accrued will begin with admission into the freshman class

LEADERSHIP:

Candidates must demonstrate leadership ability in school or the community. One may demonstrate leadership as team captain, team manager, Student Council or class officer, yearbook editor, drum major, or by displaying qualities that show such potential. A faculty/advisor/coach signature is required to validate the application.

Leadership criteria:

- Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility; conducts business effectively and efficiently; demonstrates reliability and dependability.
- Is a leader in the classroom, at work, or in other school or community activities
- Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
- Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
- Exercises positive influence on peers in upholding school ideals and spirit
- Resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestions
- Dependable in any responsibility accepted

CHARACTER:

Candidates must demonstrate character. This includes an outstanding record of conduct and behavior with regard to school and community policies. Two faculty signatures are required as a validation of good character. Students will be evaluated by faculty members on a 4 point scale during the selection process.

Character criteria:

- Demonstrates the highest standards of honesty, academic integrity, and reliability
- Consistently exemplifies positive and desirable qualities of behavior
- Complies with all school policies, regulations and codes of student conduct
- Regularly exhibits courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- Displays personal responsibility in regard to rules and instructions
- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously

Additional character resources are found at www.nhs.us.

II. Selection of Members

Any candidate who meets the membership requirements of the constitution may engage in a selection process. Candidates must have attended the school for the equivalent of one semester. Candidates selected for membership become active members upon official notification by letter. Formal induction will take place in an appropriate ceremony each fall.

The selection process involves the following steps:

1. The Director of School Counseling provides a list of eligible students who have achieved a cumulative, weighted GPA of 4.0 or better. The National Honor Society advisor(s) sends these candidates a letter in early July inviting them to participate in the membership selection process.
    a. *This standard is subject to change to an unweighted grade point average and/or a different scaled average beginning with the class of 2027. Changes will be reflected in the handbook at that time.

2. Candidates are asked to submit a completed application with valid signatures, and an essay by a date specified in the application. Attention to personal responsibility is a reflection of a student's character, a quality important to membership selection. *Late forms and essays are not accepted.*

3. Upon collecting activity information sheets and essays, the advisor(s) sends a list of candidates to the Principal, Assistant Principal, and/or Dean of Students as a final check for good citizenship and academic integrity.

4. Each faculty member will receive a list of eligible candidates and will evaluate the candidates he/she has taught, coached, or advised in the areas of leadership and character. The following rating scale will be used to evaluate candidates:
    4 = Excellent (Top 10%)
    3 = Above Average
    2 = Below Average
    1 = Not recommended
    Blank = Not qualified to rank. No comment.

5. The applications will be reviewed by the Faculty Council and decisions will be rendered in early October.

III. Dismissal

1. Members who fall below the standards which were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter advisor(s) and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, <u>except</u> that in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or civic laws a member does not necessarily have to be warned.
2. Members sign a participation and behavior contract to commit to the ideals and standards of the RHS National Honor Society. Violation of the contract is grounds for dismissal.
3. The faculty council shall determine when an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings.
4. In all cases of impending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the faculty council.
5. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the faculty council under the same rules for disciplinary appeals in the school district.

IV. Faculty Council:

The National Honor Society Advisor(s) is responsible for reviewing the evaluations for each candidate evaluated by the faculty. The Faculty Council will review all candidates to determine National Honor Society selections. The Faculty Council will consist of five voting faculty members appointed by the Principal. The Faculty Council selects students who demonstrate outstanding performance in all four criteria of scholarship, leadership,service and character by a majority vote. Once the Faculty Council has selected the new members, inductees are sent letters of welcome which include a contract in which the inductee promises to abide by the rules of the National Honor Society Constitution. These contracts are due on the date specified; lateness can result in withdrawal of membership.

The Faculty Council reserves the right to withhold membership from those who do not fulfill all areas of the membership selection process, including but not limited to timeliness of application.

PARENT/STUDENT CONCERN PROCEDURES

Ramsey School District values collaborative partnerships and open communication between schools and families. We have developed communication pathways to promote direct, open, and respectful interactions to work out concerns quickly and efficiently.

Each communication pathway starts with the staff member closest to the situation, as that person usually has the most information. At times, additional personnel are required to resolve specific situations.The teachers and administrators are always ready to assist students and parents with any problems or questions. Students should be actively seeking to resolve any questions they have, and parents are encouraged to contact the school with their concerns.

As a general rule, if the concern relates to academic progress, students should first talk to their teacher and school counselor about the concern. If the problem is not resolved, they should contact the department supervisor of instruction. Once this has taken place, parents are encouraged to use the same procedure. Unresolved matters should then be referred to a building administrator. If the issue is still unresolved after meeting with the principal or Director of HS Education, it should be brought to the Superintendent of Schools.

If your concern relates to school procedures and policies or discipline related matters, please telephone a building administrator (Dr. Thumm or Mr. Biggan).

PARKING

Students are not permitted to bring cars on campus. Those students who drive are to park in the Borough parking lot off Island Avenue. No student is to enter or move a parked car on the street or in the Borough parking lot during school hours, except for lunch, without official permission from the administration. Violation of this rule will result in an assignment to a lunch detention on the first offense.

Students enrolled in Auto Shop classes must receive permission from the Principal or their designee to park in the designated area near the Auto Shop when their car is to be serviced.

PEER MEDIATION

The Peer Mediation program is an alternative way to resolve disputes between two students. It is open to all students upon request, is strictly confidential (except for life and death situations) and is very effective. Several selected high school students are trained as Peer Mediators in conflict resolution and mediation skills. Two Peer Mediators work with the disputants, listen to both sides, help both students to see the issues, and encourage both to come up with solutions.

REST ROOMS

You may use the restrooms before and after school, between class periods, and at the beginning or end of the lunch period. Students must ask permission to leave a classroom to use the restroom. Students must use their individual Identification Cards to swipe into the bathrooms. Students are not permitted to use someone else's Identification Card. Students are expected to keep the bathrooms clean. Do not loiter, smoke, or vape there, write on the walls or damage

the facilities in any way. If you are feeling ill, report to the nurse's office; do not remain in the restroom for an extended period of time.

JUNIOR and SENIOR PRIVILEGE

Juniors and Seniors who have a study hall in their class schedule will be granted Junior or Senior Privilege. As a result, Juniors and Seniors who have a study hall are allowed to leave the school ONLY during their designated study hall period (no matter what time slot study hall falls). Junior and Seniors who have Junior or Senior Privilege must make a choice - either to be in Study Hall or leave the building (Junior or Senior Privilege does not give the student the ability to wander the halls).

- Juniors and Seniors are allowed to come in late during the first time slot, have a wraparound lunch, leave early at the end of the day, AND leave during the middle time slots of the morning and afternoon. Juniors and Seniors DO NOT need to check in with the study hall teachers.
- Juniors and Seniors only need to check in with attendance if they arrive at school late in the morning.
- *Study hall teachers will not see seniors who currently have “Senior Privilege” or “Junior Privilege” on their attendance rosters in Real Time.
- Only Juniors or Seniors who have lost Junior or Senior Privilege will appear in Real Time for attendance purposes.
- *A Junior or Senior may lose senior privilege if they fail one of their courses for the marking period.
- Juniors or Seniors who have an AM Junior or Senior Privilege and arrive to school late **MUST** report to the Attendance Office to sign in to school in order to be recorded as present for the school day.
- When a teacher is absent, students are required to report to the Cafeteria to check in for attendance and complete the assignments asynchronously.
- Senior privilege **MAY** apply to a student assignment to the Learning Commons.
    - Senior Privilege **during Learning Commons** requires parental permission.
    - If a student leaves during a Learning Commons period without parental permission, this will be a violation of our Code of Conduct’s definition of Cutting Class and disciplinary action will be taken.

IF A JUNIOR OR A SENIOR VIOLATES HIS/HER STUDY HALL PRIVILEGE, FOR REASONS WITHIN THE BUILDING, HE/SHE MAY BE SUBJECT TO REVOCATION OF HIS/HER JUNIOR OR SENIOR PRIVILEGE.

a. 1st offense - warning by study hall teacher and temporary loss of privilege.

b. 2nd offense - warning by Director of HS Education, suspension of privilege for the remainder of the marking period, detention.

c. 3rd offense – suspension of privilege for the remainder of the school year and detention.

Please note: If a class is moved to where a Study Hall is located, Senior Privilege does not apply for that class meeting time and the students must remain in that location for the duration of the time slot.

SMOKING / E-CIGARETTES

Please click the links below to view the policy on cigarette and e-cigarette usage on school grounds.
District Policy 5533 - Pupil Smoking (M)
District Regulation 5533 - Pupil Smoking

SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES

Sororities and fraternities, in which present members control the selection of new members to the group, are illegal. Under New Jersey law, membership in a secret society is punishable by expulsion from school.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The Ramsey School District is committed to providing a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment (LRE), in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 6A:14). Special education services are designed to meet the unique needs of students who qualify under one or more of the 14 classifications recognized by the state. These services may

include specialized instruction, related services (e.g., speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy), accommodations, and modifications as outlined in each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).
Special education supports are available for eligible students ages 3 through 21 and are determined through a collaborative process involving the child study team, educators, and families. The district emphasizes inclusive practices that allow students with disabilities to participate alongside their peers to the maximum extent possible.
If you suspect your child may have a disability that impacts their educational performance, we encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher, school principal, or the Office of Special Services for further discussion and guidance.

Child Find and Requesting an Evaluation
In accordance with federal and state regulations, the Ramsey School District actively engages in Child Find activities to identify, locate, and evaluate students who may have educational disabilities and be in need of special education and related services.
If you are a parent or guardian and would like to request an initial evaluation to determine your child's eligibility for special education services, your written request must include:

- Your child's full name and date of birth
- A brief explanation of the reason you are requesting an evaluation
- Copies of any prior evaluations or reports (if applicable)
- Your contact information (address, phone number, and email)
- ***Your original signature***

Please note: **Email requests will not be accepted** as formal referrals. A meeting of the child study team will be scheduled within **20 calendar days** of receipt of your written request.
Submit your written request to:
Dr. Donna Volpe, Director of Special Services
Dater School
35 School Street
Ramsey, NJ 07446
For any questions, you may contact the Office of Special Services at **201-785-2321**.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Student Assistance Program is an intervention program set up within our school. Its purpose is to intervene as early as possible in situations where student problems have been recognized. If the difficulty is drug and/or alcohol related, specially trained members of the staff will take appropriate action to assist the student and his/her family. It is a "helping" mechanism to work in conjunction with the school's disciplinary code. The Student Assistance Coordinator and members of the Core Team also provide faculty in-service, student
support groups, and an opportunity for parent involvement.

For additional information about our Student Assistance Program, or alcohol or chemical abuse issues contact:

Mrs. Sunni Roberts, Student Assistance Coordinator
201-785-2300 Ext. 21628

STUDENT DISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

The Ramsey Board of Education has adopted a procedure for the resolution of student and parent complaints. It appears in its entirety later in the Handbook. The procedure is designed to deal with any student/parent grievance pertaining to issues of race, creed, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, or social or economic status on the part of the faculty, administration, or any policies of Ramsey High School.

STUDENT ENTRANCE

Students may enter the building through the Prospect St Entrance, the Main Street Lot Entrance, or the Main Entrance facing Island Road. Students must bring their Student ID and be scanned in for attendance purposes. Late students (after 8 am) must enter through the Main Entrance facing Island Road.

STUDENT RECORDS

A cumulative record is maintained for each pupil from his entrance into school through the twelfth grade. Such records pertaining to the individual pupil are used for the benefit, promotion, and welfare of the student. The complete Board of Education Policy (#5125) can be found on the District webpage under Policies and Regulations.

STUDY HALL RULES

Students not assigned to a class will be assigned to a supervised study hall. Freshman, sophomore, and juniors* and seniors* without Junior or Senior Privilege are expected to remain in either a class or study hall until 3:00 pm. The number of students assigned to a study hall during any one period will determine its location, i.e., classroom, lecture hall, or cafeteria. Expectations for student behavior will be explained at the beginning of the year.

Generally, every student is expected to maintain an attitude favorable for study while in the study hall. Students wishing to report to the library should report there directly before the tardy bell. Students taking make- up tests should report directly to the teacher. A return pass to the study hall teacher will be issued.

***Junior and Senior Privilege**

Students with Junior or Senior Privilege DO NOT need to check in with the study hall teachers. **JUNIOR/SENIOR PRIVILEGE IS SUBJECT TO REVOCATION AS A CONSEQUENCE FOR ANY CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATION.**

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

District Policy 5530 (M) Substance Abuse

District Regulation 5530 (M) Substance Abuse

Cell Phones (Policy 5516.02) / Electronic Communications and Recording Devices (Policy 5516)

The Ramsey Board of Education adopted an “away for the day” policy in January 2025. RHS students are now required to keep their cellphones in their individually issued YONDR pouches **for the entirety of the school day while in the building**, in accordance with P.L.2025, c.195. Accordingly, cell phones must not be used at all during class time. If a student is disrupting the educational environment with a cell phone or electronic device, it will be confiscated and taken to the office. Please note, administration may review the content of a cell phone if pertinent information is suspected to be on the devices related in some capacity to a discipline or a safety issue, or some other concern. Cellular phones may be carried by students while on field trips or other school sponsored events out of the school building either on or off of school grounds. These devices shall be utilized with discretion so as to not create a disturbance.

The following discipline structure has been created to discourage the use of cell phones during class time:

1st Infraction	Loss of cell phone for the day	Lunch detention
2nd Infraction	Loss of cell phone for the day	Two lunch detentions and a Parent call
3rd Infraction	Loss of cell phone for the day	Saturday Detention, parent meeting with Principal, school counselor, and Student Assistance Counselor
4th Infraction	Loss of cell phone privileges for 4 weeks	Students must hand in their cell phone to Mr. Biggan every day for 4 weeks at the beginning of the school day. The phone will be turned off, placed in a locked cabinet, and

		returned at the end of the day.

Anti-Big Brother Act Disclosure

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-39 (P.L. 2013, c. 44)

Any laptop computer, cellular telephone, or other electronic device furnished to a student by Ramsey School District may record or collect information on the student's activity or the student's use of the device if the electronic device is equipped with a camera, a global positioning system, or other feature capable of recording or collecting information on the student's activity or use of the device.

Ramsey School District shall not use any of the capabilities in a manner that would violate the privacy rights of the student or any individual residing with the student.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks and/or supplementary materials are furnished to all students. Use them with care as others will use them after you. Please cover your books with paper or other protective materials. In the event a book is lost, damaged beyond reasonable wear, or stolen from you, you will be required to pay full or partial cost of replacing the book.

THEFT

It is unfortunate, but not everyone is as honest as you. Stealing does occur. Forewarned is forearmed. Never leave purses, books, or valuables unattended. Do not tell anyone your locker combination. Bring only the amount of money needed for that particular day and do not "advertise" the fact that you have money. The school cannot be responsible for the replacement of personal property. (See Lockers) Hallway and gym locker combinations are changed every year.

TRANSCRIPTS

The School Counseling Office will send six transcripts for any student without charge. For additional transcripts, a charge of $2.00 will be levied.

VISITORS

Prospective students are welcome at Ramsey High School. If you wish to host a person who is not a regularly enrolled member of Ramsey High School, you must receive prior approval from the Director of HS Education. A letter from a parent or guardian must accompany the request that indicates the prospective student's name, permanent place of residence, and the date of visitation. A visitor must be a high school student. Visitors are limited to a one day stay.

It is understood that a visitor is a guest of a student and must remain with the host student at all times while visiting. Guests of students are subject to all rules and regulations of the school. Alumni of Ramsey High School are always welcome if Public Health Conditions allow for visitors. Every effort, however, should be made to visit the school after school hours when the faculty and staff have fulfilled their obligations to the present students.

WORKING PAPERS

Students up to the age of 18 who are working for pay are required by New Jersey State Law to have working papers. Applications for working papers have gone digital and can be accessed at MyWorkingPapers.nj.gov.

RAMSEY HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

The NJ Department of Education has strict guidelines as to what counts at the State level for attendance records. Those guidelines can be found **here**. Ramsey High School is compelled by the state guidelines to ensure students have attendance records that do not reflect chronic absenteeism. Inherently, a student who is absent for a full day with an

excused absence pursuant to Ramsey High School's definition of "excused" must be recorded as having a day in membership and day absent for that day. An "excused" absence that is not one of the five allowable reasons:

1. Religious observance (N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(h));
2. A college visit (up to 3 days per school year, only for students in grades 11 and 12);
3. "Take Our Children to Work Day" (pursuant to the memo issued by the Commissioner to all districts on April 25, 2017) or other rule issued by the Commissioner;
4. Participation in observance of Veterans Day (N.J.S.A. 18A: 36-13.2) or District Board of Election membership activities (N.J.S.A. 18A: 36-33);
5. or the closure of a busing district that prevents a student from having transportation to the receiving school does not count as an absence in the determination of whether the student was chronically absent for the year.

The school-level chronic absenteeism rate is calculated by dividing the number of chronically absent students during the school year by the total number of students enrolled in the school, and at Ramsey High School we are dedicated to working diligently with students' families to ensure that our school-level chronic absenteeism rate remains as low as possible.

District Policy 5200 - Attendance (M)

District Regulation 5200 - Attendance (M)

Tardiness to School

A student who arrives at school after 8:00am is considered officially tardy and MUST REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE. Any student who does not report to the Attendance Office will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students who are tardy to school more than three (3) times in a calendar month will be issued a same-day lunch detention with the Dean of Students. This applies to tardy number four (4), five (5), and six (6) within a calendar month. On the seventh (7) tardy in one month, a student will be assigned a Saturday detention. The Attendance Secretary, Dean of Students, or Director of HS Education will schedule Saturday detentions with each chronically tardy student.

Three (3) tardies will result in an unexcused absence for that period's attendance.

Students must be present in school by 10:45 am to participate in extracurricular or interscholastic activities for the day.

School entrances will be locked at 8:01am. All tardy students must enter through the front doors.

Tardiness to Class

Tardiness shall be defined as the arrival to class after the bell to begin class has rung.

Each tardy to class will count as one-third of an absence from that class. Therefore, three (3) tardies to class will result in an unexcused absence. Tardiness to class, when coupled with absenteeism, may lead to denial of credit should a student exceed the absent threshold (14 for a full year course; 7 for a semester course; 4 for a quarter course).

If a student is late without a pass, the student will be considered as having an unexcused tardy. Should that unexcused tardy be three (3) minutes or more, it shall be considered a "Cut" and treated as such. The student will have until the next class meeting to produce a written excuse from another teacher. Students will not be sent from class for an excuse.

CLASSROOM CUTTING

Cutting class occurs when:

1. a student does not report to their class period when marked present in the Student/Parent Education Portal, or
2. a student leaves class without permission, or
3. a student leaves class for more than 10 minutes without permission, or
4. a student is more than three (3) minutes late to a class period. When a student cuts any class period, the

student will be assigned a Saturday detention. The parent or guardian will be notified of all class cuts by telephone and letter. A student may not be permitted the ability to schedule an attendance appeal should the need arise. Parent conferences may be mandated if cutting becomes chronic.

PUPIL DISCIPLINE/CODE OF CONDUCT

While the Ramsey Board of Education believes that positive approaches to acceptable behavior are usually more effective, it is sometimes necessary to detain, suspend, or expel students for violations of school regulations to ensure the good order of the school and to teach the consequences of disruptive behavior. The Principal, Director of HS Education Grades, Dean of Students, or designee shall determine the level of such consequences. The Board of Education recognizes that pupils possess both the right to a free public education and the rights of citizenship. In granting pupils the educational opportunities to which they are entitled, the Board shall provide them with the nurture, counsel, and custodial care appropriate to pupils' ages and maturity. At the same time, the Board will respect the right of each pupil to equal treatment and equal access to the educational program, the due process of law, freedom of expression and association, and the privacy of his/her own thoughts. Attendant on the rights guaranteed to each pupil are certain responsibilities, which include respect for the rights of others, obedience to properly constituted school authority, and compliance with the policies and regulations of this district. As pupils differ in age and maturity, they differ in the ability to assume both the rights and the concomitant responsibilities of citizenship. Accordingly, the exercise of each right will be granted with due regard for the degree of responsibility possessed by the pupil and the pupil's need for continuing guidance and control.

- Link to BOE Policy here

This policy shall apply to student behavior while at school; at co- curricular and extracurricular programs; on school grounds; during school hours when off school grounds; at school-related functions on or off campus; in transit to or from any school-related function; and when that behavior is any way connected to the individual's role as a student. Unacceptable behavior shall include, but not be limited to:

- Continued and willful disobedience.
- Open defiance of the authority of any teacher or person having authority over a student.
- Lying, cheating.
- Trespassing or unauthorized presence in areas restricted from student use.
- Actions that constitute a continuing danger to the physical well- being of other pupils
- Fighting or physical assault upon another pupil, a teacher or any school employee, or inciting others to engage in a physical assault upon another pupil, teacher, or school employee.
- Hazing or harassment of a student in a sexual, verbal, or physical manner.
- Use of profanity, abusive language or threatening and provocative language.
- Unsolicited or unwanted touching.
- Intimate contact.
- Indecent exposure.
- Throwing of food, paper, pens or other objects.
- Taking or attempting to take school or personal property from lockers, classrooms, school offices, or any other area of school facilities and vehicles; or personal property from another pupil, whether by force or fear.
- Willfully causing, or attempting to cause, substantial damage to school property.
- Tampering with, damaging, defacing, or destroying school or personal property.
- Turning in a false fire alarm or emergency call.
- Bringing food or drinks into unauthorized areas.
- Taking part in any unauthorized occupancy of a District facility and refusing to leave promptly when directed to do so by a person in authority.
- Inciting others to take part in an unauthorized occupancy.
- Absence and lateness.
- Truancy and class cutting; leaving school property without permission.

• Inciting other students to truancy.
• Possession of unauthorized electronic devices.
• Participating in activities relating to the sale, purchase, or distribution of gambling paraphernalia or lottery related materials.
• Use of unsafe or illegal articles or drug paraphernalia.
• Use of any tobacco products in school buildings or on school grounds.
• Use, possession or sale of a controlled dangerous substance.
• Use, possession or sale of alcohol.
• Sale, use, possession, or distribution of explosives, firecrackers, smoke bombs or similar materials.
• Use, possession of water toys and balloons.
• Arson
• Forgery of signature and/or tampering with documents of parents, guardians, teachers or persons in loco parentis.
• Inappropriate usage of software, hardware or computer networks. Any pupil who commits an assault as defined by N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1*
upon a Board member, teacher, administrator, or other employee of the
The Board of Education shall be suspended from school immediately according to procedural due process, and expulsion proceedings shall begin no later than 21 calendar days from the date of pupil's suspension.

*Simple Assault - A person is guilty of assault if he/she:

(1) Attempts to cause or purposely, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to another; or
(2) Negligently causes bodily injury to another with a deadly weapon; or
(3) Attempts by physical menace to put another in fear of imminent serious bodily injury.

Simple assault is a disorderly persons offense unless committed in a fight or scuffle entered into by mutual consent, in which case it is a petty disorderly persons offense.

Any student who aids, urges, or abets any other student to commit any of the offenses prohibited by school regulations shall be subject to the same penalties as the offending student.

Any student who commits any act or offense which is not specifically set forth above, but which shall, nevertheless, result in any damage or injury to the person or property of the school or of the creation or disorder, will be subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Any act which adversely affects the health and/or safety of student(s), is considered a serious offense. The administration reserves the right to determine what offenses are serious enough to warrant a penalty of suspension.

If a teacher finds it necessary to refer a student to the Director of HS Education or Dean of Students for disciplinary reasons, the teacher is to fill out a discipline referral form.

After the Director of HS Education or Dean of Students meets with the student, he will complete the discipline referral form. Copies will go to the teacher, School counselor, and supervisor. The Director of HS Education and/or Dean of Students will also keep one for his files.

A typical line of student discipline would be:

a. Teacher handles most of the classroom discipline.
b. If a persistent problem develops, the student will be sent to the Director of HS Education or Dean of Students for disciplinary action.
c. If the problem continues the teacher may contact the parents and refer the student to the Director of HS Education or Dean of Students.
d. The Director of HS Education, Dean of Students, and/or School counselor should schedule a conference with the student.
e. Under extreme circumstances, a-d may be omitted.

Ramsey High School uses counseling, detentions, and suspension within its disciplinary procedures. A student may be excluded from participating in activities, trips, and/or graduation exercise if an offense warrants it.

Offenses do occur and must be met as the situation presents itself. Discipline offenses are as simple or as complicated as the people that are involved. It should be remembered that we cannot deal in black and white, but in the many shades of gray. We endeavor to treat disciplinary problems with as much flexibility as possible and always consider the depth and breadth of the individual. There is a continual attempt to involve the student, teacher, and parent or guardian in decisions surrounding discipline problems. Teachers receive a copy of the discipline reports they initiate with the dispensation spelled out. Supervisors of the reporting teacher and the School counselor also receive a copy. Students are allowed to read the discipline report statement regarding their misconduct. Prior to a determination the student is permitted to give his side of the story.

Sequence of Discipline Actions:

1. Initial referral for non-suspendable infraction - counseling and detention.
2. Second referral - counseling and detention; letter home seeking parental assistance and advising of increased disciplinary consequences.
3. Third referral - counseling and three detentions.
4. Fourth referral - counseling and detentions; telephone call to parent and letter.
5. Fifth referral - (See second referral)
6. Sixth referral – (See third referral) in-school suspension; parent conference.
7. Seventh referral - (See fourth referral); out-of-school suspension; parent conference.

BOARD OF EDUCATION'S POLICIES

The Ramsey Board of Education's policies can be located on our district website at www.ramsey.k12.nj.us. Some important policies to review are:

- 2361 – Acceptable Use of Computer Networks/Computers and Resources
- 5200 – Attendance
- 5330 – Administration of Medication
- 5512 – Harassment Intimidation and Bullying
- 5519 – Dating Violence at School
- 5530 – Students, Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Controlled Dangerous Substances
- 5600 – Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct
- 5721 – Independent Publications
- 5751 – Sexual Harassment
- 5755 – Equity in Educational Programs and Services
- 5756- Transgender Students
- 5770 – Pupil Right of Privacy
- 8330 – Pupil Records

ALMA MATER RAMSEY HIGH SCHOOL

Sing the praise of dear old R.H.S., Dear old Ramsey High. Blend your voices in the glad refrain 'til the echoes die.
Other halls may claim their boast, and other lips may speak their toast. But our hearts to one name shall e're be true - Dear old Ramsey High. Keeping time we swing a-long the line. Hearts are filled with praise - Days of gladness mem-o-ries so dear, Hap-py Hap-py days.
Loy-al lads and las-sies loy-al to - as years roll by.
We will sing our song of praise to you. - Dear old Ramsey High.