

Four-year High School Transition
A Town Hall Discussion
with Redmond High School Principal Jane Todd
January 25, 2012

Similarities among Lake Washington School District high schools

- Common graduation requirements that include completing 22 credits
- Students complete a high school and beyond plan and do a culminating project
- Students have “performance” requirements: three essays, a formal lab report, a problem-solving prompt.

Redmond High School policies that may be different from other district high schools or from the junior highs

- Absences are excused by a phone call from the parent.
- More than nine absences per semester results in a loss of credit.
- Students arriving late or leaving early must report to the attendance office.
- Pre-arranged absences require a form, and five days advance notice
- Teachers aren’t required to allow students to make up work missed due to unexcused absences.
- RHS has stricter consequences for drug and alcohol use than other high schools.
- Only juniors and seniors may leave campus for lunch.

Graduation requirements

- Complete two years of a world language
 - RHS currently offers French, Spanish and Japanese
 - Considering offering American Sign Language and Chinese
- Complete math through Algebra II

Technology

- Next fall, every student will have a netbook computer for their use.
- Most textbooks will also be available online.

Hallway passing time

Solutions under discussion to alleviate crowded hallways between classes

- Netbooks would allow students to leave most textbooks at home, reducing the need for lockers. Many lockers could be removed, creating more hallway space.
- Increase passing time
- Stagger bells

Variations

- All interested students should apply for a variance during open enrollment. LWSD will determine how many variance students RHS can accommodate and if it can’t accommodate all, it will choose students through a lottery. No decisions will be made on any variance requests until the open enrollment window has closed.
- All students should register for the school to which they wish to variance for the 2012-2013 school year through their junior high.

Staffing

- RHS will add staff members to serve the added enrollment.
- Interested teachers are signing up to move from the junior high to the high schools
- Three RHS teachers are on the planning team for the STEM school, and, if the STEM enrollment projections are accurate, it is anticipated they will become staff at the STEM school. These teachers will be replaced at RHS.
- The student teacher ratio will remain 24.5:1.

New construction

- The new wing will have fourteen classrooms.
- An auxiliary gym will be added.
- The cafeteria will be enlarged.
- The grade levels will be spread around the school. There are benefits to mixing the grades.

Academic changes

- Freshmen and sophomores could be grouped in teacher teams, similar to junior high school. This creates a smaller group of teachers and students who get to know each other better.
- Freshmen and sophomores will have more structure, less choice and more contained groupings than the upper grade levels.
- RHS is in the planning stages for a health sciences and computer sciences academic pathway.
- Block-scheduling is being considered for non-honors and science classes.
 - This is an opportunity to integrate curriculums and to give individual teachers and students more class time together.
- Ninth graders might be offered an honors chemistry/physics class, and tenth graders offered an honors biology class.

Registration for 2012-2013

- All students should register for the 2012-2013 school year through their junior high.
- Private school students should make an appointment with a counselor to register for next year.
- Parents will receive registration forms so they can assist their student.
- The [2012-2013 course catalog](#) is now available online.

Solutions to overcrowding

- A flex-schedule is being considered.
 - Students could have one of three different schedules: early (6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.), current (7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) and late (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.).
- This would alleviate the morning traffic congestion.
- Up to six portables will be added if there is not enough space.

Lunch

- The administration is considering using the auxiliary gym for a quiet lunch space.
- The current cafeteria will be enlarged slightly.
- A fourth lunch is possible if a flex-schedule is adopted.

New student orientation

- Only freshman and sophomores will attend the first day of school.
- A panel of high school students and Principal Todd are meeting with students at the junior highs.
- Junior high students will take a mini-tour in the spring.
- A summer leadership camp is being considered.
- Peer-mentoring will be available for students who need more support.

Athletics

- Cross-country is the only non-cut sport available at the high school

Standard Score (Webgrader)

- Teachers post grades within two weeks of receiving assignments.