

## 2010-2011 Russell County High School **Freshmen Success Guide**

*"You take a deep breath and walk through the doors, It's the morning of your very first day,  
And you say hi to your friends you haven't seen in awhile, Try and stay out of everybody's way.  
It's your freshmen year and you're gonna to be here for the next four years of your life."* –from "Fifteen" by Taylor Swift

**You are embarking on a journey that will last for the next four years. The RCHS Dock teachers would like offer you some suggestions to make this a successful year and to help you create a great start for your high school career.**

This year, for the first time in your school career, you must pass your classes and accumulate credits to graduate in four years. Therefore, passing all of your classes this year is very important. If you fail a required class, you have to make it up, either by forfeiting elective time, staying after school to earn credits, or attending high school an additional year. We want you to be successful at RCHS. The following suggestions can help you have a successful freshmen year, earn all your credits, and stay on track to becoming a sophomore next year:

- ✓ **Come prepared** for every class with all necessary materials such as pencil, paper, pens, binder, and books everyday!
- ✓ **Be on time** for every class; excessive tardiness results in ASP (Alternative to Suspension Program—our detention) placement. Tardies accumulate and three result in your placement in ASP, the fourth tardy is another day of ASP, the fifth is yet another ASP and so on. If you are in ASP, you are missing out on valuable classroom information.
- ✓ **Organization** is the key for success. Keeping your binders and locker organized will help you find completed assignments to turn in and prevent stress and anxiety.
- ✓ **Time management** is essential. When your teachers give you time in class to work, use it wisely to complete assignments.
- ✓ **Good attendance** is necessary for you to be successful. If you are absent from school, you miss out on important instructional time. Please make every effort to be in class every day. If you have to miss, please get a doctor's note. Try to get your appointments after school hours or on days we are not in school, if possible. Parent notes are also accepted, but you are allowed only **four** of them each year. You must turn in your doctor and parent notes to the front office within **three** days of an absence. Also, remember that you are responsible to make up any work missed in class due to any absence or school activity.



We do have lots of fun in the Freshmen Dock. We have a reward system in place where we reward students who are always on task, turn in all assignments and do not have any discipline issues. **Freshmen of the Month** is chosen by the freshmen teachers using the criteria above. One male and one female student will be selected each month and each one can choose a friend to go with them to eat a free lunch. We also have **Student on a Roll**, an award that recognizes improvement in a student's study habits, behavior, and attitude in the classroom. We also have two **Freshmen Class Reward Days** each year that all students can attend who are passing all of their classes and have not had any prior discipline issues.

This year, you will take the PLAN test three times in preparation for the actual PLAN test around the fifth week of your sophomore year. We incorporate many aspects of the PLAN test into freshmen classroom instruction to help you improve. Your PLAN test results can be used to determine classes you will be able to take in future years or if you can take classes for college credit, so it is important to do your best. The PLAN test is a pre-ACT and is a very important predictor for college success.

RCCHS has a student dress code that you must follow. Violations of the dress code result in a loss of learning time and in students being sent to ASP or sent home. To prevent dress code violations, here are some dress code clarifications:

- **No holes** in pants, shirts or shorts. It does not matter where the holes are...no holes allowed! Taping over holes or wearing leggings underneath do not make the garment with holes acceptable. Only permanent patches on holes are acceptable.
- No tongue, eyebrow, lip or nose rings. No excessive ear piercings. No ear gauges bigger than 1/8 of an inch.
- Shorts, dresses, and skirts must come to your knee.
- Shirts must have sleeves; no sleeveless shirts or spaghetti straps are allowed.
- The neckline on shirts may not be more than a hand's width from the neck.
- Pants must fit at the waist; they may not bag or sag to show undergarments.
- Shirts depicting alcohol, tobacco products, or that are sexually suggestive will not be allowed.



*We hope your freshmen year at RCCHS is a great one,  
and we, the RCCHS DOCK teachers and staff,  
will make every effort to help you make it successful.*

