

# ROCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

Neil DeLuca Principal

Pasquale Cusumano Assistant Principal • Casey Wescott Assistant Principal

180 S. Livernois • Rochester Hills, Michigan 48307 • 248.726.5400 • Fax 248.726.5405 • [www.rochester.k12.mi.us](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us)

January 24, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Your children might come home from school today excitedly talking about an attendance incentive discussed with them during 6<sup>th</sup> hour. Over the past two school years, the district Grading and Attendance Committees have reached consensus that lowering a student's grade based on attendance is *not* best practice. The attendance committee is focused on replacing this punitive practice with incentives for students who attend school regularly and who perform to the best of their abilities in classes. We believe that student grades should reflect what has been learned in class. To this end, we are suspending the practice of lowering grades based on attendance beginning with the current semester ending in January, 2017.

The district Attendance Committee has developed a temporary incentive program to convey the importance of consistent, daily attendance and academic achievement. We will begin with a second semester exam incentive where students who meet the following criteria may *choose to opt out* of their second semester final exams:

- No more than 3 absences in any class second semester
- No second semester suspensions

And meet one of the following academic criteria:

- Minimum grade of 77% in the class, **or**
- Minimum grade of 65% AND no missing assignments or assessments in the class.

#### Points of Clarification:

- The incentive applies to grades 9-12.
- Students who qualify for the final exam incentive will still have the *option* of taking the final exam; the grade will be calculated into the semester grade if it improves the final grade. Students who choose to take the exam but qualified for the incentive will not have their grades lowered due to the exam if they choose to take the exam.
- The deadline for fulfilling criterion of minimum grades (77% or 65% and no missing assignments) is 5 school days prior to the end of the semester or teacher discretion
- Minimum grades required are based on the calculation of the two card marking period grades (%) combined 50% each
- Late work policies for each class, *for the purpose of meeting the exemption requirement*, will be established by teachers and clearly communicated to students at the beginning of each semester
- Disqualification due to suspension can take place up to and including exam days
- Parents/guardians should still call the attendance line in order to excuse absences.

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- Absences for school business such as field trips or athletic absences will not count toward the three absences. All other absences are counted the same, regardless of reason. There will not be a review or appeal process to qualify for the incentive.
- Every three tardies equal one absence. Students have six minutes passing time between classes. There is a one minute warning bell and a bell signifying the beginning of class. A student is tardy if they report to the classroom after the bell signifying the beginning of class has completed ringing.
- Students are tardy if they miss nine minutes of class. Students are absent if they miss ten minutes or more of class regardless if the ten minutes at the end or beginning of the class period.
- Students should keep track of their absences on MyRCS. If students earn four absences or more in any one class they do not qualify for the incentive in any class.

## Example Situations:

- Student has an 80% in all classes, 2 absences and a 5 day suspension=student does not qualify for the exam incentive.  
  
Student has 80% in all classes, 2 absences in hours 1-5 and 4 absences in 6th hour=student does not qualify for exam incentive.
- Student has 80% in all classes hours 1-5, and 65% with three missing assignments in 6th hour, and 3 absences in all classes=student qualifies for exam incentive in hours 1-5 but not in 6th.
- Student has 80% in all classes, and 4 absences due to family vacation=students does not qualify for the exam incentive.

Please contact your son or daughter's assistant principal if you have any questions about the attendance incentive. Additional details regarding grade level incentives will be forthcoming through SchoolMessenger.

Sincerely,

Neil DeLuca

Principal, Rochester High School

Assistant Principals:

Casey Wescott serving students with last names A - K at 248-726-5416.

Pasquale Cusumano serving students with last names L - Z at 248-726-5415.