

# Parent/Guardian Information Session



PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF NEXT YEAR'S  
GRADE 10 TO 12 STUDENTS

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

# Parent Information Meeting



- Graduation Requirements
- Course Request Handbook and Course Request Sheets
- Options and Opportunities O2
- Skilled Trades
- Other Frequently Asked Questions

# Graduation Requirements



**2020-2021**

# Semestered/Unsemestered Courses



- High school students take 4 semestered courses starting in September, write final exams in January, then begin 4 new courses in February which finish in June
- In certain circumstances, some courses may run year long (e.g., every second day all year)
- RA students will take 8 courses each year, for a potential total of 24 credits in 3 years
- Students are not permitted to take FREE periods

# Credits



- Students require a total of 18 credits to graduate
- They must include the 13 compulsory credits
- No more than 7 grade 10 credits can count toward this 18
- At least 5 credits of the 18 must be at the grade 12 level

(All this information is on Page 2 of the Course Selection Handbook available at [reca.srce.ca](http://reca.srce.ca))

# Compulsory Credits



- 3 English (One at each grade level – 10, 11, 12)
- 6 in Math/Science/Technology
  - Of these, 2 must be science credits
  - 3 must be math credits
  - Remaining credit can be a math, science, or technology credit.
- 1 Global Studies
- 1 Canadian Studies
- 1 Physical Education
- 1 Fine Arts (Music, Art, or Drama)

# English



- English 10 is one credit for students in French Immersion or those repeating grade 10 English
  - Most outcomes in French Language Arts apply in both languages
- English 10 Plus is a two credit course for most other students
- ***All students in Grade 10 will write a Provincial English Exam***
- English 11: Academic or Communications
- English 12: Academic or Communications

# Math Program for Grades 10 to 12



## Grade 10 – One of...

- **Math 10**
  - Two credits. You get two or fail two...final mark only in June following a provincial exam
  - Must take for Science in University
- **Math at Work 10**
  - Arts Programs University
- **Math Essentials 10**

## Moving to Grade 11

- **Math 11**
- **...and Pre-Calculus 11**
  - For students taking sciences/engineering in university
- **...or Math at Work 11**
- **...or Math Essentials 11**





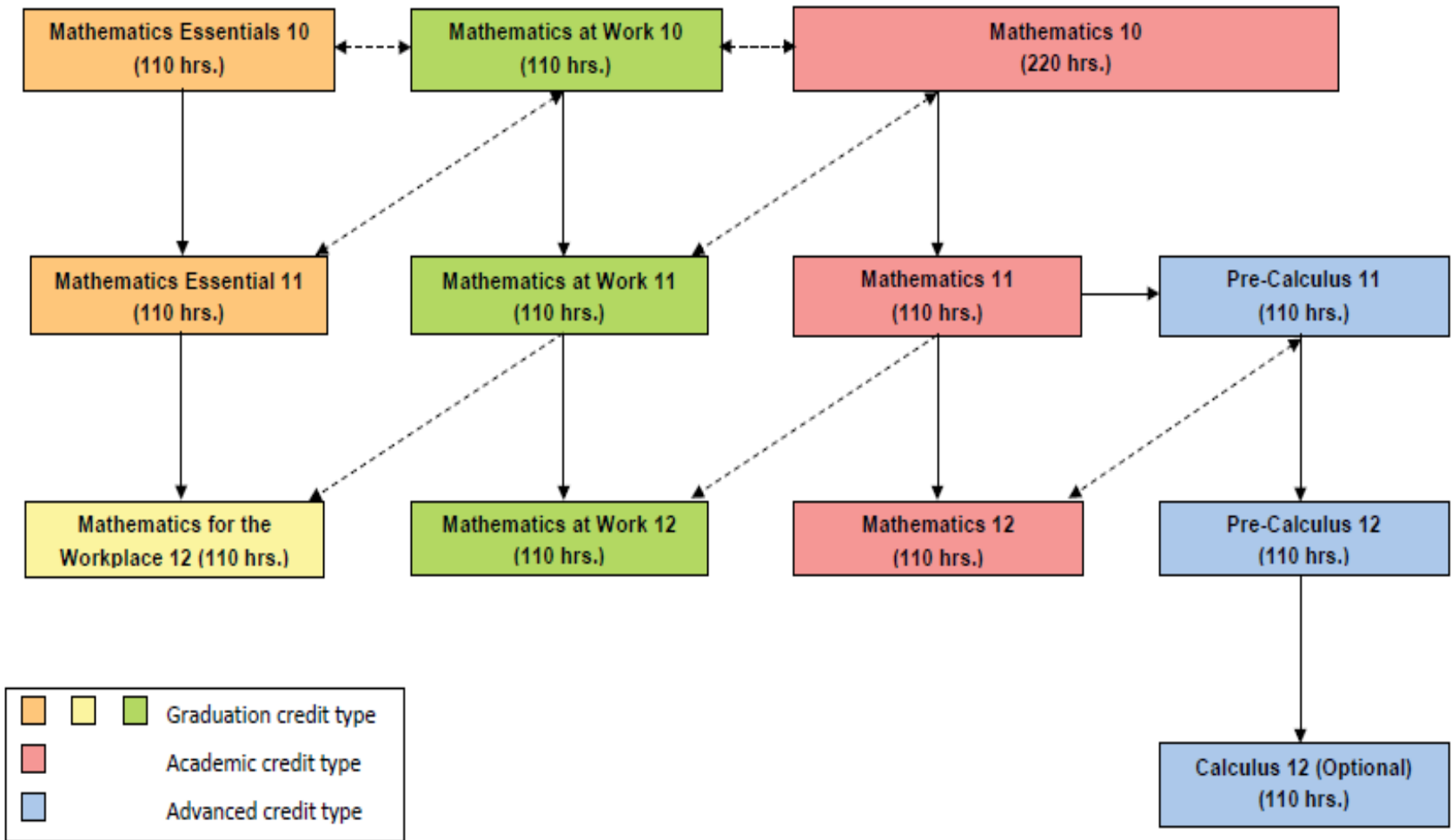
## From Grade 11...

- Math 11
- ...and Pre-Calculus 11
  - For students taking sciences in university
- ...or Math at Work 11
- ...or Math Essentials 11

## To grade 12

- Math 12
- ...and Pre-Cal/Cal 12
  - For students taking sciences/engineering in university
- ...or Math at Work 12
- ...or Math Essentials 12

# The Mathematics Path



\*NOTE: Math for the Workplace 12 is now Math Essentials 12

# A note about Math



- Students should consider their goals AND ability when they make decisions about what math course to select.
- You must pass Math 9 to be able take academic math.
- We allow students to take Math 10 in grade 11 to keep options.
- **STUDENTS MUST BE PREPARED TO DO MATH EVERY DAY IN CLASS OR THE PROVINCIAL EXAM WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO PASS.**

# A Note about ADAPTATIONS



- Courses like Math 9 and English 10 are considered mandatory and “one size fits all”. In these instances, teachers will put adaptations to help students move on from these courses.
- As courses become differentiated, though (e.g., Math 10 vs. Math at Work 10 or English 11 vs. English 11 Communications), adaptations all but disappear as students are required to take courses that are suited to their ability.

# We Recommend...



- If students request Math 10, for instance, but their grade nine teacher(s) believe they are better suited for Math at Work, we will PLACE students in the less difficult class. A letter indicating this is attached to report cards in June or mailed home.
- So long as they have the pre-requisites, though, parents may opt to have their child take the more challenging course so long as they sign the “Permission to Change Math (or English) form.
- This applies to English 11 vs. English Communication 11 as well.

# Science



- 2 Sciences required for graduation
- All grade 10 students take Science 10 or Sciences 10 (immersion)
- Other English science courses include
  - Biology 11 and 12
  - Chemistry 11 and 12
  - Physics 11 and 12 (Physics 12 is offered online only)
  - Oceans 11
  - Food Science 12

# 1 Others



- Students may require another: Math/Science/Technology
- Technologies may include:
  - Food Technology/Food Preparation Service 10
  - Construction/Production Technology 10-12
  - Communications Technology 11 and 12
  - Design 11
  - Multi Media 12
  - Skilled Trades 10
  - Construction Trades 11
  - Manufacturing Trades 11

# Global Studies/Canadian Studies



- Canadian History or Mi'kmaw Studies is taken in grade 11 in the English stream
  - French Immersion Students take Histoire du Canada 11 in grade 10 to allow them more options in grade 11 and 12
- Global Geography 12 or Géographie Planétaire 12 is taken in grade 12

*Students can only take their Global Credit in Grade 12*



# Physical Education



- Physical Education 11
  - May have a Yoga class, depending on interest, which meets PE criteria for graduation.
- Students can take one or two PE credits in high school, plus Yoga over and above that
- Online Fitness Leadership is also available if students want additional PE experiences

**Students must participate and dress for PE!**

# Fine Arts



- Students must take one of the following courses in grade 10 (or later if they didn't take in in grade 10)
  - Visual Art 10
  - Music 10 (if we get sufficient requests)
  - Arts Visuels 10 for Immersion Students

# French Immersion



- Students must take 9 courses in French
- Year 1
  - Français 10; Sciences 10; Arts Visuels 10; Histoire du Canada 11
- Years 2 and 3
  - Français 11 and 12; Géographie Planétaire 12
  - Two more of the following:
    - ✦ Biologie 11
    - ✦ Chimie 11
    - ✦ Océans 11 (online)
    - ✦ Introduction à la Littérature 12 (online)

# Transcripts



- All courses taken from grade 10 on appear on transcripts
- All grades appear on transcripts
- Students cannot drop courses

# Early Graduation and Course Offerings/Credits



- No guarantee that the timetable will fit the student's wishes
- Students not taking courses because they say they don't need it
- Leaving early to work leaves seven months gap before post-secondary education
- Can have an impact on Student Loans

# Course Request Process



**HOW AND WHY SCHOOLS ASK FOR STUDENT  
INPUT**

# Course Request Process



- **Tue., February 11** – Parent/Guardian Information Session
- **Thu., February 13** – Students get Course Request sheets
- **Wed., February 19** – Deadline for Course Request Sheets to be passed in. Individual student meetings to take place in the following days with Administration and/or Guidance
- **The information above determines number of courses/sections to be offered next year**
- **Timetable is generated and student requests are thrown into the timetable by the computer**
- **It is KEY to remember that students will not necessarily get the courses they request!**

# Options and Opportunities



**02**



# Options and Opportunities



- **Options and Opportunities (O<sub>2</sub>)** is an exciting high school program which offers students more hands-on learning experiences with a career focus. It's designed to prepare students for successful transitions from high school to work, a career path, or a post-secondary program.
- A critical element in the success of O<sub>2</sub> is the participation of the Nova Scotia employers and communities who open their doors to students. Whether it's helping to shape curriculum, attending a career fair or hosting a student for a co-operative education work placement, O<sub>2</sub> gives employers and communities an opportunity to play an active role in the education of our youth and to help create the workforce of the future.
- **Includes guaranteed admission to NSCC BUT ONLY IF DEADLINES (WHICH ARE EARLIER THAN THEY ARE FOR OTHER STUDENTS) ARE MET!**

# What about O<sub>2</sub>



- This program open to all students in grade 10, but they **MUST APPLY**. Students who do not apply in the spring are not permitted to enroll in the program once September comes.
  - We can make exceptions for students who move to the area after the application process has closed
- Contact Jason MacLean if you think your son/daughter might be a good fit for this program.
- Students who want to apply for O<sub>2</sub> will still complete a course request form.

# Skilled Trades



- **This is NOT a program; rather it is a suite of courses**
- Any student can take Skilled Trades 10
- Once they have taken that course they can take either or both of:
  - **Manufacturing Trades 11**
  - **Construction Trades 11**
- Students can also take coop courses with our Skilled Trades' teacher and use those hours toward apprenticeships.

# Other Frequently Asked Questions



# What about Co-Op 11/12



- Co-op 11 and Co-op 12 are courses that can be taken as electives
- These provide an excellent opportunity for students to explore careers and do community based worked terms
- Students work 80 hours (not for pay) to get one co-op credit and 160 hours gets them two credits
- First Aid, WHMIS are also usually included in the course

# What are Distance Education/Online Courses?



- These are offered online by the Nova Scotia Virtual School System
- Students log on during the day to take a course that otherwise wouldn't be available in smaller schools
- Two rules of the road:
  - Only one per semester
  - You cannot take a course online if it is available in the school and fits your schedule
- Mimics the university experience and so it has its advantages over and above increased course offerings

# Now what...



**YOUR SON/DAUGHTER WILL GET COURSE  
REQUEST SHEETS FRIDAY TO BRING HOME  
AND COMPLETE WITH YOU**

# Course Request Sheets



- Course Requests Sheets are specific to each grade by Immersion and English Stream

## RICHMOND ACADEMY COURSE REQUEST SHEET GRADE 9 STUDENTS GOING INTO GRADE 10 IN SEPTEMBER OF 2017

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

This form helps school staff determine how many students are interested in specific courses for the upcoming year. Final timetables are based on the number of students who request various courses, and how they fit together in the final school schedule. Requesting courses, therefore, does not guarantee students that these courses will be available to them in the upcoming school year.

The following courses are taken by students in Grade 10:

Subject	Courses	Request
ENGLISH	English 10 Plus: 6 credits in two credits (Required course with provincial exam)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCIENCE	Science 10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Phys. Ed. 11 (if available, this course can be taken in gr. 11 or 12)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FINE ARTS	Visual Art 10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Students in Grade 10 must take Math, but there are a number of options to choose from. Students should select the level of math that suits their ability and future career plans. It is important to note that students will be PLACED in the math class that their current teacher feels best suits their ability and past performance in mathematics. Students should select the math course they would *WANT* to take. You will be contacted if your request does not match that of the course your teacher recommended. With parental permission, students can usually take the course they wish once a REQUEST TO CHANGE MATH CLASSES FORM is completed. Please pick one of the following: (NOTE: You must pass Math 9 to enroll in Math 10)

Subject	Courses	Request
MATH	Math 10 (required for university and career (NCC) programs) 2 CREDITS	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Pick One)	Math at Work 10 (career studies program) (Non-Math 10 Essentials)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Math 10 Essentials (required for career (NCC) programs)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Students in grade 10 will take between 1 and 3 electives, depending on the math course they select. Please select THREE electives from this list, and order them in terms of preference (e.g., 1=like this most; 3=like less of the three): **NOT ALL OF THESE WILL BE OFFERED NEXT YEAR**

Subject	Courses	Request
ELECTIVES (Pick ONE or TWO and indicate which is your TOP preference)	Food Technology 10/Food Preparation Service 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Core French 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Exploring Technology 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Construction Technology 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Child Studies 11	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHECK HERE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR THE O2 PROGRAM:

## Richmond Academy Course Request Sheet Grade 9 students going into Grade 10 in September of 2017 FRENCH IMMERSION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

This form helps school staff determine how many students are interested in specific courses for the upcoming year. Final timetables are based on the number of students who request various courses, and how they fit together in the final school schedule. Requesting courses, therefore, does not guarantee students that these courses will be available to them in the upcoming school year.

Students in French immersion have few options to choose from, as they take most of their required French courses in grade 10. Math is offered in English, however, and students select math courses as other grade 10 students do.

The following courses are mandatory for all Grade 10 immersion students:

Subject	Courses	Request
ENGLISH	English 10 (required course with a provincial exam)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCIENCE	Sciences 10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HISTORY	Histoire du Canada 11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FRENCH	Français 10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FINE ARTS	Art Visuel/visuel 10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Phys. Ed. 11 (if available, this course can be taken in gr. 11 or 12)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Students in Grade 10 must take Math, but there are a number of options to choose from. Students should select the level of math that suits their ability and future career plans. It is important to note that students will be PLACED in the math class that their current teacher feels best suits their ability and past performance in mathematics. Students should select the math course they would *WANT* to take. You will be contacted if your request does not match that of the course your teacher recommended. With parental permission, students can usually take the course they wish once a REQUEST TO CHANGE MATH CLASSES FORM is completed. Please pick one of the following: (NOTE: You must pass Math 9 to enroll in Math 10)

Subject	Courses	Request
MATH	Math 10 (required for university and career (NCC) programs) 2 CREDITS	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Pick One)	Math at Work 10 (career studies program) (Non-Math 10 Essentials)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Math 10 Essentials (required for career (NCC) programs)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Students in grade 10 immersion may take 1 or 2 electives, depending on the math course they select. Please select THREE electives from this list, and order them in terms of preference (e.g., 1=like this most; 3=like less of the three): **NOT ALL OF THESE WILL BE OFFERED NEXT YEAR**

Subject	Courses	Request
ELECTIVES (Pick One if you need to get to 8 credits)	Food Technology 10/Food Preparation Service 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Exploring Technology 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Construction Technology 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Child Studies 11	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHECK HERE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR THE O2 PROGRAM:



# What about Unique Situations?



- **All rules have exceptions:**
  - Passed Oceans 11 but not Science 10
  - Conflict in schedule so that Canadian History and Physics were in the same block in grade 11
  - Student was sick and missed a credit during a semester they were out
  - Students who move between high schools in the middle of the year (e.g., Dalbrae offers English 11 in semester 2, we offer it in semester 1...students who transfer from Dalbrae to RA miss out on English 11)
- **Write those issues on the Course Request Sheet, and we'll figure something out!!!**

# Course Description



- Descriptions of all courses are available on our *Course Request Handbook* on our school website: [reca.srce.ca](http://reca.srce.ca)

## Course Description Handbook Richmond Academy 2020-2021

*The information below is intended to give students and parents a better idea of course content as they make course selection decisions for the 2020-2021 school year.*



*Included in each description is a "Credit Type" designation. These designations indicate the following:*

**Advanced:** *Courses designed to meet the needs of students who have demonstrated an exceptional degree of academic ability or achievement.*

**Academic:** *Courses designed for students who expect to enter college, university, or other post-secondary institutions.*

**Graduation:** *Courses are designed for students who wish to earn a graduation diploma with a view to proceeding to employment or some selected area of post-secondary study.*

**Open:** *Although none of the open courses is designed to meet the specific entrance requirements of any post-secondary institution, individual courses may meet entrance requirements of some institutions.*

# A Note about Online Courses



- Our Course Request Sheets do not include all online courses. Students going into grade 11 and 12 (and their Parents/Guardians) are welcome to review all possible course options in our COURSE REQUEST BOOKLET available online to see if more unique courses interest them:
  - Political Science 12
  - Global Politics 12
  - Geology 12

**Reminder: students cannot take an online course if the teacher-led course is available and fits in their schedule.**

# MOST Frequently Asked Question



- What if we request the wrong classes? Is there a chance my son/daughter won't graduate and/or won't get into the program they want after high school?
  - NO! Each student meets with a representative from administration or guidance,
  - Two things are monitored: (a) Is the student on track to graduate? (b) Is the student taking what they need for courses they have expressed an interest in?
  - We always recommend students take the most challenging courses they are able to manage so they can keep as many doors opened as possible.

# Questions



- After your son/daughter brings home the Course Request Sheet, you can look through it along with the *Course Request Handbook* online
- You can contact guidance or administration at any time
  - Denise Chiasson, Guidance
  - Lois Landry, Principal
  - Jason MacLean, Vice Principal
    - ✦ (related to Cooperative Education and O<sub>2</sub> in particular)