



Rockville Centre Union Free School District  
**SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL**



**Patrick Walsh, Ed.D.**  
*Principal*

**Kelly Ramsey**  
**Director of School Counseling**  
*K-12*

January 22, 2024

Dear South Side Families,

We are very excited to begin working with students on selecting their courses for the 2024-2025 school year! Counselors will be pushing into high school English classes on the following dates to assist students and guide them through their options:

**Current 9<sup>th</sup> graders – February 2nd**

**Current 10<sup>th</sup> graders – February 8th**

**Current 11<sup>th</sup> graders – February 12th**

**For the current 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the counselors will be going to the middle school on February 1st and February 5th to meet their students, talk about course selection, go over a typical high school schedule, and inform students about new courses at the high school.** We will have our Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation on February 6th at 7 PM in the high school auditorium, where current 8th graders will learn more about the high school and continue to hear more about course options. Current 8th graders will be receiving additional instructions on how to make their course requests.

After course requests are done, parents will also have a chance to discuss their child's pending schedule with their teachers at our spring Parent Teacher Conferences, which will be held in March and April. In addition, at any time you can contact your child's counselor for any questions.

This year, current 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students will be selecting their courses directly through PowerSchool, so it is important that they know how to log into their PowerSchool account. If your child needs help in logging into PowerSchool, high school students can get their credentials in the high school main office.

Please [click here](#) to access the 2024-2025 course guide. We encourage you to go through the guide with your child and have a conversation about courses that might interest them. **We are also excited to share with you new courses that will be offered at the high school beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, which you can find on the next page.** Please reach out to your child's school counselor if you have any questions about course selection. You can also always reach out to us directly if there is anything we can help you with.

Warm Regards,

*Patrick Walsh*

*Kelly Ramsey*

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**New Courses at the High School for 2024-2025**

**Art Explorations/Portfolio**

**Prerequisite: 2 credits in Art**

**Student must be in 11th or 12th grade**

**1 credit**

**Every day, full year**

This course is designed for students interested in creating a portfolio for admission to college art programs or as supplemental materials for their college application regardless of intended major. Students will delve into the foundational aspects of drawing, painting, sculpture, multimedia, and design, building essential skills with the end goal to create a captivating artistic portfolio. The class will integrate mindfulness practices, collaborative projects, and open dialogues. Students will refine their portfolio through personalized feedback and engage in interdisciplinary projects.

**AP Computer Science A**

**Prerequisite: none**

**1 credit (weighted)**

**Every day, full year**

In AP Computer Science A, students will learn how to use Java to creatively address real-world issues. Through hands-on experiences in analyzing, writing, and testing code, you'll learn how to transform an idea into a functioning program. At the end of the course, students will sit for the AP Computer Science Exam.

**IB Digital Society (Standard Level)**

**Student must be in 11th or 12th grade**

**1 credit (weighted)**

**Every day, full year**

The Digital Society course invites students and teachers to work together to explore the real world challenges and changes faced today in technology, media, ethics and policy through conceptual and contextual lenses. This course invites young people to better understand the contemporary transformations in thought, communication, collaboration and creation and to imagine where we might go next as participants and leaders in this rapidly changing world. All students are required to take the SL level IB exam in May.



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**English 12 (non-coseated)**

**Prerequisite: English 11 R**

**1 credit**

**Every day, full year**

This course is aligned with the NYS standards for English Language Arts. Critical thinking skills, close reading, and analysis of author's craft for both literary and informational texts will be emphasized. Additionally, students will strengthen their ability to craft well-structured and evidence-based arguments, and communicate effectively in both written and oral forms. Through these efforts, students will prepare for post-secondary pursuits as they further develop an understanding of how language functions to create meaning.

**Prompt Engineering**

**Prerequisite: none**

**½ credit**

**Every day, half year**

This course is geared towards helping students learn to develop skills and dispositions to create effective and authentic prompts for artificial intelligence tools. Students will learn the format, structure, and criteria that make up a great prompt with applications toward academic research and real world contexts.

**Python**

**Prerequisite: none**

**½ credit**

**Every day, half year**

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of coding using Python. Through hands-on projects and interactive lessons, students will learn essential programming concepts, including variables, loops, functions, and data structures, empowering them to create their own programs and problem-solving solutions. This course aims to cultivate critical thinking and computational skills while providing a strong foundation in one of the most versatile and prolific languages in the world today.

**Spanish 1/2**

**1 credit**

**Every day, full year**

This first year high school level Spanish course will be available to students who do not earn credit HS credit for Spanish in 8th grade. This will ensure students have a better chance at successfully completing multiple years of world language study.



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**Unified Art**

**Prerequisite: 1 art credit**

**½ credit**

**Every day, half year**

**\*Does not fulfill the NYS credit requirement in Art/Music**

This semester course is designed for special education and general education students interested in working collaboratively on integrated art projects and side-by-side on individual projects. The class is taught by an art teacher to give students instruction in the art elements and principles of design through a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects, building skills with many different materials and techniques.

**Personal Finance**

**Prerequisite: none**

**½ credit**

**Every day, half year**

This course offers the chance for students to study investing money, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and retirement planning. Students will have the opportunity to participate in investment challenges throughout the course. Current events and basic economic principles will be discussed, highlighting the impact the events have on investments.

**Changes to Existing Courses**

**Deaf Culture** will be offered as a semester option (Every day, half year) instead of every other day, full year

**Creative Writing** will be offered as a semester course (Every day, half year) instead of every other day, full year

**Theory of Knowledge** will be an option for all 12th grade students regardless of IB Diploma status

**Anatomy and Physiology** will be offered as a semester course (Every day, half year) instead of every other day, full year