



Nancy Scott
Principal

Rouse High School
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Bret A. Champion, Ed.D.
Superintendent

January 16, 2009

Dear Parents,

I would like to update you on an important change for the 2009-10 school year.

Current UIL guidelines allow new campuses to specify participation in academic activities, individual and team varsity-level sports. For the 2008-09 school year, we elected to participate in academic activities (one-act play), with the option to petition the district in which we were placed to compete in individual sports where we could be competitive. We have done this for cross country and swimming. This is in keeping with what CPHS and VRHS did when they opened. UIL requires that band and choir participate at a sub-varsity level the first year.

We have not been in a district for team sports this year, which has made putting together a full and appropriately challenging schedule of games difficult. This task becomes even more difficult when we add a junior varsity schedule for the 09-10 year. This year we've experienced numerous changes in most team sport schedules, i.e. changes in times, game cancellations, etc.

After careful consideration, for the 2009-2010 year, we have elected to participate in UIL varsity and appropriate sub-varsity competition in all sports except varsity football. Of course, we will still have freshmen and JV football competing in sub-varsity competition. RHS will compete in varsity competition in basketball, softball/baseball, wrestling, golf, tennis, soccer, swimming, volleyball, track and cross country. The following year, we will add varsity football and compete in all varsity athletics.

While this is a year earlier than we had previously planned, this decision will ensure that RHS athletic programs are assigned a full slate of official district games within a reasonable travel area. This arrangement also supports student and parent expectations that we offer the highest-level of quality competition to all of our student athletes. It will definitely be exciting for our Raider athletes to be competing at the varsity level!

Since we are already in a 4A district for academic activities, this represents little change for band, choir and theater.

Will RHS be 3A or 4A? For 2009-2010, UIL will place RHS in a UIL District for one year until the next realignment. It is possible that RHS will be placed in a 3A or 4A district. Since we are competing in all varsity sports without juniors/seniors, it would be ideal if we were placed in a 3A arrangement for our initial year to create for a more balanced competition experience for our athletes, since we would be competing against campuses closer to our actual enrollment.

Although RHS will only have 9th-11th during the 2010-2011 UIL re-alignment, the UIL bases the enrollment on the highest enrollment project to occur during the 2 year alignment. As a result, UIL will average RHS enrollment projections over the full four years to determine our official classification. Based on historical projections, we will most likely result in a 4A designation for RHS.

We would like to invite you to a short informational meeting, followed by Q & A, Thursday, January 22, 7:30pm, in the cafeteria. Our athletic coordinator Joshua Mann and Lee Crochet, our head band director, will be there to address any questions that you might have specific to their programs. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please feel free to call me or your child's coach/director.

We appreciate your support as we step up to the plate of varsity team sports next year. We will continue to start traditions that others will live up to.

Kindest Regards,

Nancy Scott
Principal