

## SCHOOL LETTERHEAD

Date

Dear High School Parents and Students,

It is the vision of the Richmond County School System to prepare students to be globally competitive and college and career ready upon graduation from high school. With this mission in mind, in 2015, we took steps to ensure that students are afforded opportunities to take more advanced coursework through AP, IB and Dual Enrollment. Part of this initiative also changed our GPA or class rank to a weighted GPA scale. This means all courses are weighted on a 4.0 scale except AP, IB and Dual Enrollment courses, which are weighted on a 5.0 scale. We believe students should take advantage of the opportunities to take these more advanced courses which allow them to earn college credit while in high school. However, being able to take this course work begins early by students being able to read well, think critically and problem solve. It is our desire that every student be challenged in the courses they take and in the pathways they participate. More information regarding the Richmond County Board Policy outlining GPA credits and class ranking is available at [www.rcboe.org](http://www.rcboe.org) and at the school.

It is the role of the school counselor to be a strong advocate for each student. It is our responsibility to help students increase their knowledge about post-high school opportunities, and to help them make the important connection between their high school record and the specific options that will be available to them upon graduation from high school. School Counselors have high expectations for all students, and challenge them accordingly by guiding them to take courses that are appropriate for their goals and interests. We also strongly encourage all students to become involved in extracurricular activities through which they can make important social and community connections and through which they can grow in ways that go beyond the classroom.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that your child graduates college and career ready. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Your counselor,

