



November 6, 2017

Dear Parents:

First quarter is now complete. Please check your student's progress through *JumpRope*, our new grading software. Remember that *JumpRope* is the portal that we use for grades only, as it is designed specifically to support proficiency-based grading practices. Students and families can monitor progress anytime through the log-in at: <http://app.jumpro.pe/parent/RCPS-RutlandHS>.

Another reminder: in a proficiency-based system, the expectation is that students will continue to move toward mastery by the end of the course. The completion of the first quarter means that within a continuing course this is just a checkpoint. We do not expect that students will master course goals midway through the term. Current grades tell students where they are on the progression toward meeting course expectations. We ask your help in discussing the results of this checkpoint with your son or daughter. If you have concerns, please contact teachers or guidance counselors.

NECAP Science and SBAC Results - For Rutland City 9th grade students and all 12th grade students, we include here the results from three standardized assessments administered last spring. Soon the *Infinite Campus* assessment tab will also carry your student's scores.

We want to give an overview and some amount of context for whole-school results on the two major assessments, the SBAC and NECAP Science.

The NECAP Science assessment is in its tenth year, currently given at the high school level only in Vermont and Rhode Island. The SBAC is now three years old. It measures student mastery in math and English skills tied to the Common Core, the national set of standards. The SBAC is a more rigorous test than the NECAP that came before it. Unlike the NECAP, students take the SBAC online, a different challenge from the traditional paper and pencil format.

Next, some context on reporting high-stakes tests. Rutland High School is measured only on the results of the 11th grade, the one group tested in secondary schools in Vermont. The more accurate measure to view results, especially over time, is the *scaled score*. However, states often simplify how they report by speaking in terms of *percent proficient*. One could say that percent proficient simply means how many students reached the level that the test makers thought should be the ideal target for all. However, the percent proficient score is not nearly as precise and informative as the scaled score for the individual student or for the school. Another challenge schools face

is encouraging students to commit their best efforts over the testing window at the end of the academic year. Our experience is that our school culture sets students up to take the test seriously. That students do so is also a credit to them and their families. Finally, comparing graduation classes year-to-year is a challenge. A comparison gives some degree of progress being made by the school, yet small changes may not be significant due to a variety of factors.

These tests assess a variety of skills on a specific day, hopefully providing a snapshot as to how a student might perform if tested on the same skills repeatedly. Yet parents and students must look at individual results in the context of other assessments and grades. Just as important, we should remember that these tests only measure a part of what every student accomplishes in high school. They do not measure some of the other goals for which we aim, such as developing creativity, intra- and interpersonal skills, or goals tied to personal wellness. Standardized tests assess only a piece of what we strive for in the RCPS Vision Statement: *RCPS cultivates a passionate, diverse, and resilient community of critical thinkers who learn with purpose, create innovative and responsible solutions, and lead lives of integrity.*

Now, the RHS SBAC results. We continue to get a positive impression of how our students do in comparison to the state. Two years ago, we were also able to compare ourselves to many other states who administered the SBAC at the 11th grade. The SBAC was conceived as a common test between states that would allow for comparison and transparency. However, various states have moved away from this assessment after only one year. California continues to administer the test at all grade levels, and thus we have another point of data to see how we align. Comparing to California is like comparing to a whole country. That state had nearly a half-million 11th grade students take the SBAC while Vermont had close to 6,000 juniors tested.

SBAC English 11 th grade: Average Scaled Score (5/2017)	
Rutland High School	2619
California	2603
Vermont	2599
SBAC Math 11 th grade: Average Scaled Score (5/2017)	
Rutland High School	2584
Vermont	2576
California	2565

NECAP Science results for last spring showed a similar favorable relationship to the average scaled score of Vermont. Rhode Island is included for context.

NECAP Science 11 th gr: Average Scaled Score, 5-Year Comparison		
Rutland High School	5/2017	36
	5/2016	36
	5/2015	37
	5/2014	35
	5/2013	35
Vermont	5/2017	35
	5/2016	35
	5/2015	35
	5/2014	35
	5/2013	35
Rhode Island	5/2017	33
	5/2016	33
	5/2015	34
	5/2014	35
	5/2013	35

In previous years, we have referenced the *2011 NAEP-TIMSS Linking Study* as a point of further context for scores in science internationally. If interested, that report is here: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/publications/studies/pdf/2013460.pdf>

For even more context, you might be interested in more recent results on a national assessment in science, the 2015 NAEP test. While only 8th grade results are available, they still provide an understanding of where science instruction in Vermont stands as compared to the rest of the country. That comparison is here:

<https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles/stateprofile?chort=2&sub=SCI&sj=AL&sfj=NP&st=MN&year=2015R3>

Below is a copy of those results, showing only the highest-achieving states/ groups:

JURISDICTION	AVERAGE SCORE (0 - 300)		ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL PERCENTAGES	
	Score	Difference from National public (NP)	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient
Utah	166	13 ↑	82	50
DoDEA	166	13 ↑	84	46
New Hampshire	165	12 ↑	81	46
Vermont	163	10 ↑	79	44
Minnesota	162	9 ↑	76	45
Massachusetts	162	9 ↑	75	44

We thank you for your continued support. Please call your student’s guidance counselor if you have any questions about any of these standardized tests.

EPIC Afterschool Program

RHS offers after-school homework help and enrichment opportunities through the EPIC program. Enrollment provides access to extended library hours and computer labs. The homework center and academic tutoring are Monday through Friday from 3:15 - 5:30. Student enrollment forms are available in Room 111. For additional information and a weekly tutoring schedule please contact Jami Sherwood at 770-1110 or jami.sherwood@rcpsvt.org.

Upcoming Breaks:

There will be no school for students on

- November 10: Veterans Day
- November 22 – 24, 2017: Thanksgiving
- December 21 – January 1: December Break

Other Enclosed Documents:

In this mailing, you will find a number of important documents, including:

- A copy of your child’s emergency contact information. Please review and make any necessary changes, sign the form, and return it to the Rutland High School Main Office.
- For Juniors/Seniors, No Child Left Behind form.
- A parent permission form for publication and online resources.

Student Ski Pass Information

Pass information is on the Pico Mountain website and may be purchased online as well.

http://www.picomountain.com/site/plan_buy/tickets/season-passes/student_passes

Killington/Pico requires official documentation, including proof of eligibility:

- Student's parent or guardians will need to bring a report card or another official document issued by the school that indicates the student's home address and current enrollment.
- For homeschooled youth, parent or guardians must provide proof of enrollment in a home study program with the Agency of Education.
- Vermont resident students who attend a New York or New Hampshire border school also qualify for pass.
- Proof of eligibility is not required at the time of purchase, but must be provided before the pass is activated.
- Pico Mountain reserves the right to cancel without refund any pass which it believes was obtained fraudulently under this program.

Sincerely,



Bill Olsen, Principal