

Reno High School

2020-2021 Freshman Seminar Overview

This class is designed to help freshman successfully transition from middle school to high school. The focus is to help students set goals, become organized and effectively manage their time while they develop successful study skills and work habits. Student mentors will work along with teachers to assist 9th graders during their freshman year and this pivotal time in their young high school careers.

The Freshman Seminar Program has been established on five “Guiding Principles”:

1. **Build Relationships** - Between students, mentors, teachers and school counselors.
2. **Effectively Communicate** – Students, mentors, teachers, parents/guardians, school counselors, intervention teacher and dean of students all need to communicate on behalf of students.
3. **Get Organized** – Students must learn to organize their days by managing their time, establishing priorities and accessing available opportunities and programs.
4. **Academic Accountability** – Students, mentors, teachers, school counselors, intervention teacher and the dean of students must work together to be accountable for each student’s academic success. This includes bi-weekly grade checks.
5. **Develop Successful Study Skills** – Our primary focus is to help new freshman transition from middle school to high school and develop the skills necessary to be successful and graduate.

Monthly themes have been established to foster communication and develop team building skills. Accordingly, each month serves a specific purpose and resources have been made available to help students be more successful:

August: The Science of Character

September: Respect

October: Courage

November: Gratitude

December: Compassion

January: Honesty

February: Trust

March: Perseverance

April: Citizenship

May: Self-Discipline

Because this class has freshman, mentors and teachers, each person’s role is slightly different:

The teacher is there to guide and direct the class as a whole. They are there to help freshmen and mentors identify areas for needed improvement and promote a safe learning environment for all students.

The mentors are expected to be good examples and role models to the younger students. They will guide and help the freshmen develop skills to be more successful in high school.

The freshmen are expected to engage in the activities by using the given resources that will help them in their classes and overall high school experience.

Essentially, the Freshman Seminar Program has been established to help students be successful at Reno High School and prepare them for their life beyond high school.

Respect Honor Strength