# Head of Schools/RA Principal’s Report for January 8, 2019 Board Meeting

**Keri Gelenian**

## To attract to Rivendell students, parents and faculty who value a strong academic focus

1. We are hosting an Information Night on January 16th. Nancy coordinated with Lyme in setting this up, but we also invited all sending schools.

## To cultivate the most supportive school culture possible

1. The first trimester grades were fairly strong. 50.75% of the kids made the honor roll. This is the highest percentage since 2011. We also had the second lowest percentage of failed classes since 2011. (See attached document.)

2. The Academic Leadership Council has been thinking about how to better support students who tend to fail classes. I have been sharing their ideas with staff. I would like to work with them to develop questions that could lead to more formal investigations.

3. The Academic support (the new high school “block 4”) is providing better supervision and support, especially for struggling students. The analysis of 4th block this trimester shows that students placed with a math or English teacher tended to pass math or English, *but* these students still accounted for the majority of failed classes. As a whole these students produced the vast majority of failed high school classes. We have further questions and issues to explore and ideas to test. The middle school reduced the number of failed classes this tri. The additional literacy support and counseling support seems to have supported the improvement.

4. Our $9,000 VSAC grant application was accepted. A small part of the grant is earmarked to begin conceptualizing a more formal internship program.
5. The director of the Rowland Foundation indicated that our proposal from last year would be considered if we were to resubmit. Paige Radney, Kerry Browne, and I made some slight changes and resubmitted the proposal. Kerry and Paige would receive $100,000 to support the integration of Critical Exploration and project work should they receive the Fellowship.

6. The 7th and 8th Silk Road Exhibition was very well attended. This was our third major exhibition of the year. The projects were excellent. The humanities team gave students a study guide and a traditional test on the Silk Road. Jen and Ally observed that the kids could complete the study guide by memory. All students did very well on the exam.

7. Our community agreement is operational. We held a fun Advisory Challenge focusing on the five values: Tolerance, Courtesy/Respect, Community, Trustworthiness, and Responsibility.

8. We are expanding our 10th grade roundtable requirement to 8th grade and 12th grade. Students’ electronic portfolios linked to our learning expectations (Effective Communicator, Effective Problem solver and Responsible Citizen) will support the roundtable presentations.

9. We have been invited to interview for participation in Dartmouth’s SEAD program. The provides mentoring and a summer program for low income, first generation students for 4 years—10th through the first two years of college.

10. Ann Duckless will present a suicide prevention workshop on the 17th.

To identify and effectively communicate a clear cohesive narrative of who we are as a school community
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