

Dear Highland Families, Employees and Community,

I am writing to remind you about the closing of the first marking period and to explain our Response To Intervention (RTI) program.

The marking period ended on November 8th. Now is the time to check in with your student's progress. Click the link to the [parent portal](#). Throughout your student's time at Highland, please access this [link](#) for the criteria needed to meet New Jersey requirements for graduation.

Over the past two years, the Black Horse Pike Regional School District has been working towards creating a Response To Intervention (RTI) initiative for all students. This practice intends to examine student progress and needs closely throughout their high school years.

### **What is a response to intervention (RTI)?**

Response to Intervention (RTI) is an educational strategy used in schools to:

- Provide effective and high-quality instruction
- Monitor students' progress
- Provide additional student support

RTI can be considered as an early intervention tool designed to quickly identify students who need extra help and to create a plan for success within your student's high school career. The monitoring of students allows your students' RTI team to identify the exact skill areas where pupils need additional instruction that is targeted to a student's individual needs.

### **What are key areas and terms of RTI?**

- *Screening, school-wide screening or universal screening:* A quick assessment or test that measures a student's skill set or behavior to determine if they are achieving at the expected grade level. These identify learners considered 'at-risk' of not learning the foundational skills they need to meet state and national academic standards. Teachers choose specific materials or methods to use with learners who need extra help and then track the students' progress.
- *Progress Monitoring:* For students that require extra assistance, teachers frequently monitor the progress of pupils to observe and reflect if the instructional support is working and to adjust the instruction to meet the students' needs. This monitoring sometimes happens outside the classroom with additional support such as the student success coach, mentor, and/or content specialist.
- *Tiered Instruction:* Within common RTI structures, there are three different levels of support or tiers of instruction. The general education that all students receive in their traditional classrooms is considered Tier 1. Tier 2 instruction can be assigned to students who are having challenges within Tier 1 due to academic and behavior struggles, and/or attendance issues. The IRS/RTI team will organize targeted support in addition to Tier 1 strategies to implement. Tier 3 interventions are for students who have yet to progress under Tier 2 instructional strategies and supports; learners in this tier will receive in-depth interventions along with additional support.

- *Differentiated Instruction*: Highland recognizes that students have different learning styles; some may learn best by reading silently, while others may prefer having teachers support a more vocal point through examples and analogies. Our teachers continue to work on various educational instructional teaching methods to customize lessons to meet students' individual needs.
- *Intervention Plans (IP)*: The purpose of a student Intervention Plan is to identify challenges and barriers that are contributing to an academically and/or behaviorally struggling student. In collaboration with the vice principal, school counselors and/or case managers, teachers, parents/guardians, and the student, a plan is developed that provides resources, accommodations, and/or modifications that the student can utilize to reach their academic potential. Through the use of data and a continuum of programs and interventions provided via this plan, students could reach academic success to prepare for postsecondary education, career, and life in the community.

One of the most commonly cited benefits of the RTI approach is that it eliminates scenarios where the student struggles with earning credits needed for graduation. Learners get the specific help they need quickly, and decisions regarding the student's instruction are based on the student's data. With this common practice, staff are provided with more relevant information about student needs, allowing for more effective interventions.

Click [here](#) for Highland's Parent Resource page, which has an RTI overview link specific to Highland High School.

Click on the links below for additional systems of support.

-[counseling referral service](#)

-[Student Success Coach](#)

-[Things to do After 2](#)

-[Lit Cafe](#)

-[Math Power Hour](#)

-[Tartan Time availability with teachers](#)

- Additional math supports (LMC Conference area periods: 1, 2, 7, 8)

The educators and staff at Highland High School are dedicated to all students achieving and meeting with success. Please continue to keep us involved with any of your student's needs. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me via email ([rvarga@bhprsd.org](mailto:rvarga@bhprsd.org) or (856) 227 - 4100 ext. 4014).

Thank you and Go Tartans!  
Mr. Varga