



November 30, 2018 | Issue 8

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### All Aglow Festivities

Tonight at 6:00 p.m. at the Rocky River Civic Center, the All Aglow Festivities kick off with food and live music. Please consider attending if you're able.

### PTA Poinsettia Sale

If you purchased a poinsettia from the RRHS PTA, they will be available for pick-up on December 3rd from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Wagar entrance.



## MAIN STORIES

### Midterms at RRHS

If you're a freshman parent, new to the district, or just need a refresher, you may not be familiar with how midterms work here at the high school.

#### When are midterms?

They will take place on December 14th, December 17th and December 18th.

#### What is the midterm Schedule?

The midterm schedule is linked here.

*Continue reading on next page.*

## EDUCATION NEWS

### News Story 1:

The case of Stockholm Syndrome in Academia.



### News Story 2:

This article looks at late-night college hangouts at some of America's most popular universities.



## KEY DATES

### Midterms

December 14, 17, 18

### Winter Break

December 19 - January 1

### End of First Semester

January 17

### Teacher Records Day (no school for students)

January 18

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Winter Season Events

**11/30-12/1:** The wrestling team will open up a weekend competition tonight at Avon Lake High School starting at 5:30 p.m.

**11/30:** - Boys basketball opens their season at Westlake beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**11/30-12/1:** The hockey team travels to Jamestown, NY to play in a tournament

**12/1:** The swim team competes in the Rocket Relays at Lakewood HS.

**12/5:** Girls basketball plays at Valley Forge HS at 7:30 p.m.

**12/10:** The Holiday Choir Concert takes place in the RRHS auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

**12/11:** The Holiday Band Concert takes place at 7:00 p.m.



Fall Play

## MAIN STORIES

### How do midterms work at RRHS?

All three midterm days are completely open campus for all students. This means that students only need to attend the periods for which they have a midterm scheduled. Once they are finished, students are free to leave. However, not all students leave once their midterms are complete. For those students who wish to stay at school, the Commons and Media Center, along with the Makerspace are open all day long. Students are more than welcome to stay in one of those locations if they are unable to go home.

The length of each midterm period is 90 minutes, and teachers have designed their assessments with the intent that students can finish within that time limit.

### Do all classes give a midterm?

Yes. All teachers give midterms. Most classes give traditional midterms but some are project-based.

### How much are midterms worth?

In the past, midterms have been worth 20% of the semester grade. However, this year midterms will be worth 10% of the semester grades, making each quarter worth 45%. The rationale behind this change was to place a greater emphasis on student performance in the classroom rather than on one single test.

### Are midterms and finals still valid?

There have been many changes in education over the past 10 years, many of which have been to move away from large summative assessments to test student mastery of the content. For example, many colleges and universities have adapted their learning environment to contain more group-based and project-based problem solving to show that students can apply the concepts in real-world scenarios. RRHS contacted four colleges in Ohio (Cincinnati, Miami, Kent State and Akron) to get their viewpoint on midterms and finals. Three of the four colleges responded stating that freshman-level college students need to have the ability to take large assessments because many of the first year classes at college use a midterm or final to determine a large portion of a student's grade. With this information in hand, RRHS decided to keep midterms and finals in place.

### Who should I contact with question?

If you have any questions about midterms or know that your child will be absent on one of the midterm days, please contact Mr. Horton (last names A-K) or Mr. Gergely (last names L-Z).