



# Reynolds High School

## Strategies for Success 9/10

*Building Relationships for Academic Success*

**Instructor: Ms. Finkas**

**Phone: (503) 668-3186 x7827 Room: 600**

**Email Address: [hfinkas@rsd7.net](mailto:hfinkas@rsd7.net)** ← best/quickest way to communicate

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide supports for students with Individual Educational Programs (IEPs) who need specially-designed instruction in goal areas. Students will receive whole-group, small-group, and individual instructional support, as needed, to learn tools and strategies to improve academic performance and achieve goals.

Topics covered include:

- Study Skills
- Organization
- Time Management
- Self-Advocacy/Self-Determination
- Goal Setting
- IEP Basics
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Community Building

Passing this course earns 1.0 elective credit per academic year.

### **Course Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply strategies and study skills to improve scholastic achievement
- Practice time-management and organizational strategies
- Utilize binder/folders and planner for each academic class
- Communicate effectively with school staff
- Understand individual strengths and areas of improvements
- Set achievable personal and educational goals
- Monitor grades and progress toward individual goals
- Practice self-reflection to improve school-life balance
- Understand impact of good sleep, nutrition, and physical activity
- Locate and utilize campus support services and resources

**Course Materials:**

Students should come to class prepared to fully participate in all assignments and activities, and, when provided time, to work on classwork for other courses.

Students are expected to bring the following materials to class everyday:

- **Computer/Chromebook** charged or with charger
- **Binder** with pocket dividers or folders for each class
- **Planner** or scheduling system
- **Writing Implement(s)**
- **Book** for independent reading time

**Electronics Policy:**

Students must bring to class a device capable of accessing online instructional programs (StudentVue, Schoology, etc), but are not permitted to use phone or computer during class instruction or group activities, unless teacher specifies otherwise. This means putting computer and phone in backpack, and removing ear buds or headphones. Students who fail to follow the electronics policy will lose daily points. Repeated offenses will result in confiscation of electronic devices, either by teacher or student management team.

**Attendance and Participation:**

Students are expected to attend class regularly. An absence due to illness or emergency may be excused by having a student's parent/guardian contact Reynolds High School attendance office. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class, and students entering the classroom afterwards will be counted as tardy. If you are more than 30 minutes late to class or leave class early without notifying the instructor, this will count as an unexcused absence. Repeated absences will result in the parent contact, building principal support, and/or an attendance contract.

Active participation and quality work is required for a passing grade in this class. Simply sitting in the classroom will not earn students a passing grade. All students are expected to engage actively in class activities, and to contribute positively to the overall class environment. Students who persist in displaying lethargic, disrespectful, or disruptive behavior will forfeit points for the day.

**Grading Policy:**

Students will have the opportunity to earn either a letter grade (A-F) or pass/fail (P/F) for this course. Letter grades will count toward students' high school grade point average (GPA), while pass/fail will only count as an elective credit toward graduation. Your final grade will be determined by the quality of your work, full participation in the class, and scores in the following categories:

<b>POWER</b> Attendance & Participation	<b>Classwork</b> Assignments & Activities	<b>Mastery</b> Finals & Projects
40%	45%	15%

**\*\*Student must have 60% or higher to earn a PASSING grade in this course.\*\***

**Letter Grade Description:**

*(The following is our current language in the course catalog)*

<b>Grade Percentage</b>	<b>Scale Grading</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>
90-100%	<b>4</b>	<b>A</b>	The student fully understands the content and the course objectives have been mastered.
80-89%	<b>3</b>	<b>B</b>	The student understands the content and course objectives at an above average level.
70-79%	<b>2</b>	<b>C</b>	The student understands the course content and course objectives at an average level.
60-69%	<b>1</b>	<b>D</b>	The student understands the course content at a below average level and a minimum of course objectives are met.
0-59%	<b>0</b>	<b>F</b>	The student has not met a sufficient number of course objectives to pass a minimum level and receives no credit.

**Late/Make-Up Work Policy:**

It is the student's responsibility to communicate with instructor regarding making up any missed work following excused absences due to illness. Late work will be accepted to the end of the grading period, and make-up activities will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

**Weekly Schedule:**

MONDAY (70 minutes)	TUESDAY (90 minutes)	WEDNESDAY (90 minutes)	THURSDAY (90 minutes)	FRIDAY (90 minutes)
Current Events Group Activity Grade Check		Current Events Group Activity Binder Check		Mini Lesson Friday Letter
Supported Individual Work Time				

**POWER Expectations:**

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Stands for</u>	<u>What does this look like in our classroom?</u>
<b>P</b>	Prepared & Punctual	In class on time, with all required materials (binder, planner, computer, pen/pencil)
<b>O</b>	Organized	Binder checks and planner checks.
<b>W</b>	Writers	Friday letters. Writing activities for other classes.
<b>E</b>	Engaged	Conscious. Participating in activities and assignments.
<b>R</b>	Respectful	Demeanor. Following agreements and rules. Adhering to phone-use guidelines.



# Reynolds High School

## Strategies for Success 9/10

*Building Relationships for Academic Success*

Students and Parents:

Please sign and return this page to Ms. Finkas.

Returning signed syllabus counts as one class assignment.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Okay to Text? YES / NO

Parent E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below you affirm that you have received, read, and understand the requirements, policies, and expectations of the Strategies for Success course. Please contact Ms. Finkas with any questions or concerns.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please keep the rest of the syllabus to refer back throughout the semester.