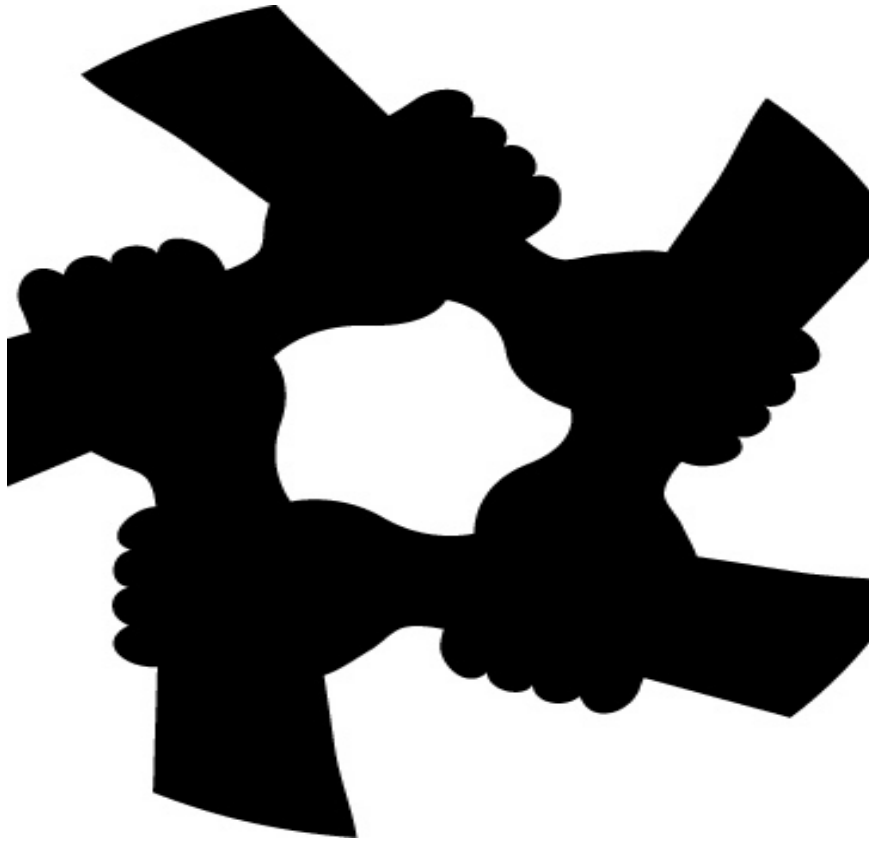


AL RABY HIGH SCHOOL



One Team, One Family!

INCOMING FRESHMAN HANDBOOK

CLASS OF 2017

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to Al Raby High School! Please take time to read through this handbook. It contains all the questions most frequently asked by freshmen and their parents. The answers will help you get off to a good start by ensuring that you take the correct steps in starting off the school year right.

Your high school experience should be a positive one and the administration and teachers are dedicated to making Al Raby your home away from home. We encourage you to get involved with the various extracurricular and academic activities that we have to offer. We recommend that you set specific goals each year that you want to accomplish and that you manage your time wisely. Remember, each and every day, you can make an impact on your future.

The entire 9th grade team is dedicated to your successful transition from elementary school to high school. Working together with you, the team will monitor your academic success and review your progress throughout the year. In closing, on behalf of the entire Al Raby High School family, we wish you the best for a successful 2013-2014 school year.

One team! One family!

Sincerely,
Administration and the 9th Grade Team

Ms. Skanes
Principal

Ms. Johnson
Assistant Principal

Dangelo Dereef
Dean of Students

Ms. Wang
Algebra Teacher

Mr. Peterson
Algebra SPED Teacher

Ms. Yenior
Art Teacher

Mr. Carver
Reading Teacher

Mr. Marshand
World Studies Teacher

Mr. Zuazo
Health/PE Teacher

Mrs. Erquhart
Topics in Science Teacher

Ms. Muller
English Teacher

Ms. Nageeb
English SPED Teacher

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Who was Al Raby?

The late Albert Raby was a civil rights leader, educator, environmentalist, and Co-Chairman of the Chicago Freedom Movement. Al was born in Chicago in 1933 and grew up in the Woodlawn community. An ambitious self-starter, he taught himself to read in the fifth grade and joined the army upon graduation from high school. Four years later, he enrolled at Chicago Teachers College (now Chicago State University) in education.



Al's teaching career began at the Hess Upper Grade Center on the West Side where he taught seventh and eighth grade. He soon founded Teachers for Quality Education, a group formed to fight the segregation in the public schools, epitomized by "Willis Wagons," the practice of Superintendent Benjamin Willis (and his Board) of placing mobile classrooms in the playgrounds of overcrowded African American schools, while classrooms in nearby white schools were only partially used.

The Coordinating Council of Community Organizations was born out of these efforts and Raby became its leader. CCCO then invited Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Chicago to lead the Chicago Freedom Movement, which Al Raby and Dr. King co-chaired. Later, Raby was elected to the 1970 Illinois Constitutional Convention where he was a leader in drafting its Bill of Rights.

In 1983, Raby became the campaign manager for Harold Washington's historic mayoral campaign. In 1986, he went on to head the Chicago Human Relations Commission, the local watchdog group that fights discrimination.

Although Al Raby became a famous civil rights leader, he never lost his commitment to local communities and to grassroots organizing—or to educational opportunities for all children. He was a citywide leader of the tenant union movement, played a major role in community-oriented voter registration efforts and invented a new method for teaching inner city children to read.

He was also a long-time environmentalist: he could see the impact of environmental factors on the lives of his students. For several years, he served on the Board of Directors of Citizens for a Better Environment.

Al also was a community development innovator. He was on the founding Board of Directors of South Shore Bank, the nation's first community economic development bank, which now has a branch in the Austin neighborhood.

Al Raby had a broad, inclusive and progressive vision for Chicago and its neighborhoods. He is a source of inspiration for our times—and for our youth.

- What is Al Raby High School's Mission?

MISSION: The Al Raby School for Community and Environment inspires **students** to **intellectual excellence** and **personal responsibility** through **community** and **environmental activism**.

- What is Al Raby High School's Vision?

VISION: The Raby School envisions **students** who *think critically, argue effectively, and use technology* appropriately in **secondary and post secondary education** while developing a **commitment** to **social and environmental causes**.

- What is the Raby school song?

Written by: Ms. Shanka Falls

**Al Raby High is the best on the west
We hold the keys to our future success
With our eyes on the prize we're going through,
College is where we're headed to.
Achieving, we do
Unity, that too
Leadership, is cool
Al Raby is my school**

- **What is a Quarter?**

The high school year consists of four 10-week quarters. Each quarter ends on the following days

Quarter 1	October 31, 2013
Quarter 2	January 23, 2014
Quarter 3	March 27, 2014
Quarter 4	June 10, 2014

- **What is a Semester?**

A semester is composed of two quarters. There will be a total of two semesters in the school year.

Semester 1	Quarter 1 & 2
Semester 2	Quarter 3 & 4

- **When will I receive my Report Cards?**

Report cards will be distributed at the end of each quarter. Parents only need to come to pick up report cards at the school at the end of Q1 and Q3. Report cards for Q2 and Q4 will be mailed home.

Quarter 1 – *RCPU	November 12, 2013
Quarter 2 – mailed home	January 30, 2014
Quarter 3 – *RCPU	April 7, 2014
Quarter 4 – mailed home	June 10, 2014

*RCPU – Report Card Pick Up will be at Raby High School

- **When will I receive my Progress Reports?**

Progress reports are will be distributed every 4-5 weeks. These reports are important to making sure you are on track. Progress reports will be distributed on the following days

Quarter 1	September 25, 2013
Quarter 2	December 11, 2014
Quarter 3	February 26, 2014
Quarter 4	May 7, 2014

- **How can I check my grades on a DAILY basis?**

Teachers will post grades for students and parents to view regularly. Students can access student portal with their CPS login and password. Parents can access parent portal with their CPS login and password.

Student Portal	https://student.cps.k12.il.us/
Parent Portal	https://parent.cps.k12.il.us/

- **How many classes will I be taking this year?**

Every freshmen student will take **7 classes** from the following teachers.

Algebra	Ms. Wang or Mr. Peterson
English	Ms. Muller or Ms. Nageeb
World Studies	Mr. Marshand
Topics in Science	Ms. Erquhart or Mr. McNicholas
Reading	Mr. Carver
Art	Ms. Yenior
Health – 1 st semester P.E. – 2 nd semester	Mr. Zuazo

- **What does a class schedule look like?**

SAMPLE Student Schedule	
1 st period	Art
2 nd period	Health
Advisory	
3 rd period	English
4 th period	Topics in Science
5 th period	Lunch
6 th period	Algebra
7 th period	World Studies
8 th period	Reading

- **What will I be learning in my classes this year?**

- Algebra – This course will allow students to explore the foundation of mathematics working with variables, linear equations, graphing and quadratics. Students will use graphing technology and connect algebraic problems to real world situations.
- English – The Survey of Literature course provides an overview of literature through short stories, novels, poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction from diverse cultures. Students will learn strategies to analyze texts and develop critical reading skills throughout the course. A major component of the class will focus on using textual evidence to support an idea, claim, or argument. The class will focus on translating these ideas, claims, and arguments into well-written paragraphs and essays. Additionally, students will enhance their grammar and vocabulary skills.
- World Studies - This is a history course that examines and analyzes major historical events from 3500 BCE- 2013 CE. Using geography and history, students will be able to understand how cultures have developed and changed overtime. World Studies mainly looks at cultures in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East over the past 5,000 years!

- Topics in Science - This is a course that provides students an opportunity to develop scientific process skills, laboratory techniques, critical thinking skills, and an understanding of the fundamental principles of science. Students will explore techniques scientist use from laboratory safety, observation and inference, measurement, data collection, graphing, variables, questioning, hypothesis, understanding results, and documenting experimental outcomes through conclusion writing.
- Reading – This course will enhance students’ reading ability by learning specific strategies and practicing reading in a variety of genres. It will also foster the growth of grammar and writing skills that students will already be practicing in their English course. Students will also be develop skills that will help them be successful throughout high school and help them prepare for college and future careers (for example: organization, research, taking initiative, and study habits).
- Art - This course will introduce students to the basics of visual arts and art history. Students will explore a wide variety of fine art, as well as imagery from popular culture both past and present. Throughout the course, students will complete individual and group projects in order to express who you are, and what is important to you. They will also become familiar with various artists and styles and techniques from all over the world. Discussion and research also play a large role in this class as students explore the way other artists have addressed the same issues in the past.
- Health – Students in this course will examine intricate relationships between the structural and physiological functions required for the mental, physical, social, and emotional wellness. Topics include decision-making, wellness, nutrition and physical activity, body systems, substance use and abuse, communicable and non-communicable diseases, violence prevention, safety, and consumer health. Students will also explore sex education and sexually transmitted infectious disease education.

- **What are credits?**

At the end of each semester (January and June), **0.5 credits** are awarded for each course you take and earn a passing grade. **A, B, C and D grades are passing grades for high school graduation.** Credits are not awarded for progress and quarter grades.

- **How many credits should I earn this year?**

To meet the graduation requirement, a student must earn **3.5 credits each semester**. You must earn **7 credits to successfully complete your freshmen year**. All courses failed must be made up in Summer School to stay on track for graduation.

You must earn a minimum of 24 credits in order to graduate from AI Raby.

- **What is the grading scale?**

A	100 – 90
B	89 – 80
C	79 – 70
D	69 – 60
F	59 – 0

- **What is a GPA and how do I calculate it?**

G.P.A. stands for GRADE POINT AVERAGE. You may calculate your G.P.A. by using the following point value:

A = 4 points B = 3 points C = 2 points D = 1 points F = 0 points

Add up all the points earned by your grades and divide the result by the number of grades you used.

Sample Student:

Course	Grade	Points
English	A	4
Algebra	A	4
World Studies	B	3
Topics in Science	A	4
Reading	D	1
Art	C	2
Health	B	3

Total points = 21

Total # of classes = 7

Divide total # of points (21) by total classes (7) $21 \div 7 = 3$

This student would have a GPA of 3.0 which is considered a B

- **Why is G.P.A. important?**

Colleges and universities use your G.P.A. in determining whether to accept you. The higher your G.P.A., the better chance you have to attend the college of your choice.

- **What is Freshmen On Track?**

Students are considered on track at the end of their freshman year if they:

- *Pass* at least five course credits (D or above)
- *Fail no more than one semester course in a core subject* (English, Math, World Studies, or Science) during the school year.

- **What are service learning hours?**

Students must earn 10 service learning hours every year while at Raby. You must have a total of 40 hours in order to graduate.

- **What are ALL the graduation requirements?**

- 24 credits
- 40 service learning hours
- Pass Driver's Education (10th)
- Pass PL195 - Constitution test (10th)
- Complete PSAE (11th)
- Pass Consumer Education test (12th)

- **How can I be a successful Raby Raider?**

Many factors determine success in high school. One important factor is **regularly doing your homework and studying**. You should plan to spend time doing homework and studying each night at home. **Regular attendance** is also important to success.

Students with high rates of absence usually earn low grades. Below are some more tips to be successful this year:

Be Organized

- Use your agenda book to record assignments
- Be prepared for class with the appropriate supplies that each teacher requires
- Keep your locker and binder neat
- Review notes and materials daily

Time Management

- Stay on task in class
- Create a schedule for completing work at home
- Plan ahead to avoid conflicts with after school activities

Classroom Success

- Participate in class and ask questions
- Attend class, be on time and get make-up work if necessary
- Always do your homework
- Study for tests and quizzes
- Schedule a separate tutoring time with a teacher if you are confused during class
- Be respectful to teachers and peers

- **Where can I find more information about the school?**

The school website link is <http://www.alraby.org>

SCHOOL POLICIES 2013-2014

We are committed to providing a welcoming and safe learning environment for all students. The following policies have been established to ensure that all students are educated in a safe atmosphere.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Students are expected to attend school everyday.
- When students are absent from school, they must submit a note to the attendance office the day that they return to school. If a note is not submitted, the absence will be counted as “not-excused”.
- Students are expected to maintain at least a 90% attendance rate. If a student’s attendance rate drops below 88%, they may NOT be eligible for extra-curricular activities, sports teams, or school sponsored events.
- If a student is absent from school, they are not allowed to enter the building for any reason including participating in extra-curricular events, picking up work, or attending credit recovery courses.
- Students will not allowed to get early dismissals unless a parents/guardian comes to pick up the student.
- Parents are asked to refrain from frequently getting early dismissals for their child.
- Students who miss ANY class period will be counted as a ½ day absent.

UNIFORM POLICY

- Students are expected to be in a full Al Raby approved uniform everyday.
- Students may only wear Al Raby polo shirts.
- Boys must wear belts. “Sagging” pants are not allowed.
- Jackets and hoodies are not allowed in the classroom. When the weather is cool, students may wear black sweaters. All other items must be stored in lockers. Certain classrooms may get cool in the fall and winter months. Students will NOT permitted to wear other items.
- Girls may wear appropriate length shorts.
- Hat or headwear (including scarfs and bandanas) are not allowed to be worn in the building for male or females.
- When students break the uniform policy, parents will be notified and expected to bring the appropriate items to school.

CELL PHONE POLICY

- Students are not allowed to have cell phones during the school day.
- If cell phones are brought into the building, they must be stored in lockers.

ID POLICY

- Students are expected to wear their ID into the building everyday.
- Students are expected to wear their IDs in the hallway and in every class.
- Students will NOT be allowed to purchase temporary IDs every day.
- If a student loses their ID, they will be charged \$5 for a replacement ID.
- Temporary IDs cost \$1 for each and they can only be used on the day that they are issued. The \$1 fee will be placed on the student’s account. Parents/guardians will be responsible for the fee.
- Student who frequently request temporary IDs will be issued a new ID and will be charged \$5 for the replacement ID.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

- Students who use social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram can be disciplined for inappropriate or threatening comments posted on their pages.
- If a student lists Al Raby as their school on their page, they are expected to refrain from any profanity or inappropriate language.
- Students who represent any gang affiliation on their social page may be subject to being disciplined according to the SCC.

BEHAVIOR POLICY

- Students are expected to adhere to all of the behavior expectations as outlined by the Chicago Public School Student Code of Conduct.
- Students are expected to treat ALL Raby staff and students with respect and dignity.
- Students will not be allowed to be verbally, emotionally, or physically abusive to any adult or student at Al Raby.

FEE WAIVER POLICY

- Parents who qualify for fee waivers must submit fee waiver papers by Monday, September 30.
- Fees can only be waived for the 2013-14 school year. Previous school fees will not be waived.
- Students are expected to pay their fees each year.

VISITATION POLICY

- Parents who wish to meet with a teacher must schedule a meeting with the teacher during the teacher's preparation period.
- Parents will NOT be allowed to visit classes while a teacher is in class.

Students who are in violation of any of the above policies or any of the Student Code of Conduct Violations may be required to have a parent conference with the principal or assistant principal.



- **Who is City Year?**

City Year's mission is to build democracy through citizen service, civic leadership and social entrepreneurship. City Year is wholly focused on fighting the national dropout crisis. We have committed to leverage the talent, energy and idealism of corps members to serve as tutors, mentors and role models in schools to help students stay on track – and get back on track – to graduate.

City Year's Goal: Students who progress to 10th grade with their peers are four times more likely to graduate than students who fall behind. Our Long-Term Impact goal is to ensure 80% of the students in the schools City Year serves reach 10th grade on track and on time, and to serve the majority of at-risk students in the locations where City Year serves. City Year will focus that service in the communities where the dropout challenge is most concentrated, ultimately serving in the cities that account for two-thirds of the nation's urban dropouts.

- **How will City Year help me this year?**

City Year will be working with the freshmen class by focusing on three early warning indicators that have been defined through research: attendance, behavior and course performance in Math and English. They will provide support in the classrooms, during lunch, and through after school tutoring.

City Year also hosts a variety of family engagement nights that allow the community to come into Raby and experience learning with their student. In the past at Raby, City Year has sponsored after school activities and clubs such as: step club, spoken word, poetry club, and dance club. Corps members are open and willing to develop new clubs based on student interest.