

AL RABY HIGH SCHOOL



One Team, One Family!

INCOMING JUNIOR
HANDBOOK

CLASS OF 2015

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year! This handbook, and the information it contains, will be the first step in having a successful academic year. There is information on when report cards will be distributed, when the ACT is taken, and what classes juniors will be taking. The information will help you get a solid start to a new school year.

Your junior year will be a busy year- with many assignments, tests, and projects filling your days. Each class you will take will be preparing you for the ACT and what is to come post-high school. This will be an important year that many colleges and universities will be looking at your transcript, seeing what extra curricular activities you're involved in, and what your ACT scores are.

The entire 11th grade team is committed to your academic success this year and we're all looking forward to the learning and growing that will occur this year. We look forward to a strong start to the school year.

One team! One family!

Sincerely,
Administration and the 11th Grade Team

Ms. Skanes
Principal

Ms. Johnson
Assistant Principal

Dangelo Dereef
Dean of Students

Ms. McCaffrey
Algebra II Teacher

Mr. Johnson
Tech/Computer Teacher

Ms. Calderon
Spanish Teacher

Mr. Geesaman
CAH/ Civics Teacher

Ms. O'Neal
American Literature Teacher

Ms. Le
Chemistry Teacher

Ms. Gunn
SPED Teacher

Ms. VanHorssen
Written and Oral Communications 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.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 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

- **What is the new bell schedule?**

Start	End	Min.	Period
8:00	8:58	58*	Pd 1
9:02	9:53	51	Pd 2
9:57	10:48	51	Pd 3
10:52	11:43	51	Pd 4
11:47	12:38	51	Pd 5
12:42	1:33	51	Pd 6
1:37	2:28	51	Pd 7
2:32	3:23	51	Pd 8

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Wednesday

Start	End	Min.	Period
8:00	8:41	41	Pd 1
8:45	9:09	24	Advisory
9:13	9:54	41	Pd 2
9:58	10:49	41	Pd 3
10:53	11:34	41	Pd 4
11:38	12:19	41	Pd 5
12:23	1:04	41	Pd 6
1:08	1:49	41	Pd 7
1:53	2:34	41	Pd 8

- **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/

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

- Algebra II with Trigonometry– Advanced Algebra is the mathematics course that branches mathematics from concrete to abstract. Students will broaden their knowledge on concepts from Algebra, such as linear and quadratic functions. New topics will also be explored such as polynomial, exponential, logarithmic and rational functions, trigonometry and conic sections. The Advanced Algebra course work will consist of real world applications and group work that consist of problem solving and critical thinking. Technology will be a daily part of Advanced Algebra.
- English III (American Literature)– English III is a survey course in American Literature from its beginnings to the present. Students will examine the literary traditions of American writers, while building upon writing and research skills. Students will read a variety of texts and genres from American Literature. They will also refine their listening and speaking skills as well as their grammar, vocabulary, and media literacy skills. The goals of this course are two-fold. First, students will become more proficient in all strands of the language arts. Second, students will learn how to connect the literature to their own lives and discover

universal themes.

- Civics/Contemporary American History- 1st semester is a continuation of United States History beginning with the Great Depression and moving towards current day. Major topics include the Great Depression/ New Deal, World War II, Cold War, Vietnam and Civil Rights and the Chicago Freedom Movement. The 2nd semester is a civics course that focuses on student activism in their community. The focus is on studying their own community, identifying root causes of an issue and lobbying for change within their community.
- Chemistry - Chemistry focuses on the principles of general and nuclear chemistry including atomic structure, bonding, stoichiometry, gas laws, solutions, equilibrium, acids, bases, buffers and oxidation- reduction reactions. Much of the course will be taught through experiments and hands on activities. Lab report writing, scientific inquiry, and literacy will be major focuses of this class.
- Written and Oral Communications– Written and Oral Communication teaches and strengthens formal writing and speech skills. Throughout the course we will explore the writing process and four types of writing: narrative, argumentative, informative, and explanatory. In addition, we will study, write, and perform formal speeches. In tandem with writing and speaking, students will read supplemental texts that will be both a model of good writing and hopefully spark interest in new texts. We will examine the development of our own writing through the drafting and redrafting process; creating a portfolio consisting of a final product from each of our eight units. Finally, this class is taught in collaboration with English III and thus the core novels and themes will be in tandem so that students can not only develop an understanding of literature, but also how to communicate their understanding effectively and powerfully.
- Spanish I - This is an introductory course intended to give students a solid foundation in Spanish. It will cover the basic vocabulary, grammatical structures, and cultural knowledge needed to communicate in daily common situations. The students will understand authentic language in real-life situations, speak enough Spanish to communicate in various social situations, write effectively in Spanish for practical needs, and read authentic material in Spanish with understanding.
- Computers- In the classroom, you will work closely with peers in developing Web sites, PowerPoint Presentations, Brochures and Flyers. The student will also learn software applications from Microsoft Office Suites, which includes Microsoft word, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Access. The student will complete the course knowing and understanding how to de-convert a base 10 number into a binary value and a binary number into a base 10 value. The student will learning the concept of a computer networking environment and creating IP and Subnet mask MAC addresses, In that field, you'll work closely with individuals who have a hands-on knowledge of these subjects. As part of their team, you'll help make the decisions needed to bring a product from design through manufacturing to market.

- **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
American Literature	A	4
Algebra II	A	4
CAH/Civics	B	3
Chemistry	A	4
Written and Oral Communications	D	1
Computer/Technology	C	2
Spanish I	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 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.
- If a cell phone is taken, it will be given to the main office and will only be returned to a parent or guardian.

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.

Frequently Asked Questions: PSAE (ACT and Work Keys)

A major focus on of ALL your junior teachers will be to prepare you and be successful on the PSAE. Below are some frequently asked questions, in regards to the PSAE and will give you an introduction on what to expect for this upcoming academic year.

- What is the PSAE?

The PSAE is a two-day mandatory state test for juniors, as discussed above, will comprise of three components (1) the ACT, which includes the ACT (four multiple-choice tests in english, mathematics, reading, and science), (2) an ISBE-developed science assessment, and (3) two WorkKeys assessments (Applied Mathematics and Reading for Information).

- What is the ACT?

The ACT is a standardized test that has four multiple-choice sections. The four sections are English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The test is approximately 3 hours long and is administered on the first day of the PSAE testing days.

- What is Work Keys?

Work Keys is the second day of the PSAE testing days in April 2014. Work Keys is an assessment that is used to measure the skills that employers have identified as being important for success in today's work environment.

- Why is the PSAE important?

There are several reasons why the PSAE is important: students must take the PSAE in order to receive a diploma, Illinois colleges and universities use PSAE scores as criteria for admission, and the PSAE scores do appear on student transcripts.

- What is the purpose of the PSAE?

The PSAE shows the progress that students in schools, districts, and the state have made academic progress in three subjects: reading, mathematics, and science.

- Why is the ACT important?

The ACT is an important part of how colleges and universities evaluate YOU as a potential candidate. For the admissions team at colleges and universities, the ACT provides a way for them to compare your score to a score of a student at other schools. It also helps colleges and universities determine if you're "college ready" and is used as a predictor of how successful you'll be in college level courses.

- When do you take the ACT?

The ACT is part of two days of PSAE testing on April 23 and April 24, 2014. The first day (April 23, 2014) will be the full ACT and the second day (April 24, 2014) will be Work Keys.

- How will we prepare for the ACT?

Each junior class will be designing skill-based lessons, giving quarterly Interim assessments based on College Readiness standards, giving advice on how the test is structured, and test strategies.