

PTSA ACADEMIC BOOSTER PROGRAM NOTES

Heather Saylor, Counseling Department Chair

12-7-2017

Mrs. Saylor was invited to provide an overview of the new counseling department concentrations, counseling PLCs, and directions in student engagement.

York is planning to offer **online course registration** for the 2018-19 school year, starting in February with **freshmen**.

- A student's 4-year course plan will link to the course book by Academic Department.
- Full implementation goal is for each department to provide course syllabus and student testimonials for each course.

Current freshmen will be **piloting** a new *online* course selection process.

- Course selection documents for current freshmen will be delivered using students' FOG Google Classrooms. This will allow students to have access to their 4-year course plan and other Google Docs previewed during FOG.
- A Future Ready folder was created by each student during their final day of FOG. This folder offers students the opportunity to have a central location to house their 4 Year Plan, Dukes Beyond the Classroom (document of activities – like an activity resume) and career related assignments completed in FOG. The Future Ready folder is shared with each student's counselor and the course selection worksheet will be housed in the folder as well.

This year's 8th graders, sophomores, and juniors will continue using the familiar way of scheduling using paper forms.

- Revised forms will include teacher recommendations and student choices. Forms will not include a parent signature, but emails will be sent to all parents in February for confirmation.

Course Selection Schedule

- **In February, parents will be sent an email to verify requested courses through PowerSchool, and any schedule changes can be made until March 1st. After that date, schedule changes will only be made after April 15th, based on course availability.**
- January 16th current course selection starts for rising seniors (current juniors)

- 1st week of February rising freshmen course selection starts (current 8th graders)
- In February an email will be sent to all parents
- March 1 – Schedule/course changes due
- Between April 15 and start of school year, schedule changes will only be possible based on course availability

York has made changes to its course level change policy.

Level changes can only be made before the school year has started or at the change in semesters. Before any level change is considered, students must demonstrate that they have made an effort to succeed in the class by completing all homework and seeking additional help from the teacher or resource area staff member. If all efforts to improve have failed and the student still wishes to change, he/she must do the following:

1. Obtain a Request for Level Change Form from the department chair.
2. Have the teacher, department chair, and parents complete the Request for Level Change Form.
3. Return the form to the counselor. ***Students must remain in class for the remainder of the semester.***

In some cases, other changes in the student's schedule will have to be made to accommodate the level change. If classes are full, or other scheduled conflicts occur, a level change may not be possible.

The Counseling Department is shifting its focus from asking students “*what do you need to graduate*” to “*do you know what your interests are?*” This context shift changes how counselors interact and guide students.