



LAKE ZURICH COMMUNITY UNIT
School District 95

Incoming Freshman Placement Guidelines

Class of 2024

Lake Zurich High School

Lake Zurich High School meets the individual needs of students by providing ability grouping in the core academic areas of English, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. The World Languages department also provides ability grouping in its course offerings. Parents are encouraged to discuss placement guidelines and placement recommendations with their child and respective middle school teachers. Questions about the high school curriculum can be directed to the high school department chairs. There is a waiver process in February for changing the placement recommended by the middle school teacher.



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

*The English Department provides broad coverage of the texts of American and world literature. Through these sequential course offerings, students develop extensive knowledge of literature, progressively develop academic and creative writing skills, and enhance their knowledge and use of grammar, vocabulary, and communication skills. **Some 9th graders, who are placed in College Prep English I, will also be required to take Reading Strategies I based on their test scores for the entire year, for one credit, pass/fail.** Outside of AP World History, English placements most often mirror a student's social studies placement.*

Course Offering	8 th Grade Performance	MAP Test Reading RIT Score
English I & Reading Strategies I	Passing grade in 8 th grade Language and Literature	100 - 216
English I	Passing grade in 8 th grade Language and Literature	217 - 227
Honors English I	“A” in 8 th grade Language and Literature	≥ 228

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

*The Social Studies Department and its curriculum are designed to help each student become an intelligent and responsible citizen. The teachers in the department will provide classroom experiences which will help the students learn about the past, democratic ideals, other cultures, and an appreciation of human dignity, justice, and compassion for all people. **Placement in AP World History is by teacher recommendation only.** The course is designed to provide students college-level coursework and expectations and allow students to refine skills to meet these expectations. Outside of AP World History, English placements most often mirror a student's social studies placement.*

Course Offering	8 th Grade Performance	MAP Test Reading RIT Score
World Studies	Passing grade in 8 th grade Social Studies/US History	100 - 227
Honors World Studies	“A” in 8 th grade Language and Social Studies	≥ 228
AP World History	“A” in 8 th grade Language and Social Studies	Recommended ≥ 228

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The Mathematics Department offers courses in pure and applied mathematics to assist the students in the pursuit of intellectual, academic, and career goals. The aim of the department is to provide the student with a sound mathematical foundation.

Course Offering	8 th Grade Performance	MAP Test Math RIT Score
Algebra I Support & Algebra I	Participation in 8 th grade Pre-Algebra	100 - 225
Algebra I	Passing grade in 8 th grade Pre-Algebra	Above 225
Geometry	C or D in 8 th grade Algebra	0 - 245
Honors Geometry	A or B in 8 th grade Algebra	Above 245
Honors Algebra II	A or B for both semesters of Algebra and A or B in Honors Geometry	Above 245

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The Science Department provides programs for earth/space science, biology, chemistry and physics. Programs consist of lecture, discussions, projects, and laboratory experiments. The department also provides a number of opportunities outside the classroom for learning that takes the form of projects, experiments, field trips and various science competitions offered throughout the year.

Course Offering	8 th Grade Performance	MAP Test Reading RIT Score
Biology	Passing grade in 8 th grade Science	100 - 227
Honors Biology	B+ or higher in 8 th grade Science	≥ 228

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

The World Language Department is designed to provide students with a broad background in French, German, and Spanish. There are four skills developed in a language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These skills are stressed throughout the program as are the languages' individual development, culture, and history.

Course Offering	8 th Grade Performance
College Prep Level I French, German, or Spanish	This course is designed for students who are new to a foreign language with no previous experience. It <i>may</i> be taken by students who took level I in middle school, who need to review the material to gain a stronger base.
College Prep Level II French, German, or Spanish	“B” or higher in 8 th grade Level I of the language Recommendation by the 8 th grade French, German or Spanish teacher
Honors Level II French, German, or Spanish	“A” in 8 th grade Level I of the language Recommendation by the 8 th grade French, German or Spanish teacher

APPLIED ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Applied Arts department does not have placement criteria. If students feel they are proficient in keyboarding they can elect not to take the keyboarding course. Proficient is defined as the ability to type 30 words per minute with less than three errors.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Fine Arts Department offers courses in music, art, and theater. Placement for Jazz Lab Band and percussions in all bands will be through an audition process.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Physical Education Department offers one course for incoming freshman: Freshman Physical Education. Thus, no placement criteria is necessary. Students are placed randomly into freshman physical education course sections.