

Parent-to-Parent Advice - Freshman Course Selection
Generated at REACH Parent Group, Dec. 13, 2019 monthly meeting

- Don't be too nervous about the choices you/your student is making. It's not impossible to bump down at the semester break if they are struggling. "Push and go higher" suggested one parent. "It's much easier to bump down a level than it is to bump up, so if you are on the fence, try higher level."
- "All my kids took honors level classes, even if they were not in Reach. And did fine."
- What if your kid now wants to change what they registered for, after they made their course selection in December? Reach out to their counselor ASAP; there's still time to tweak schedules.
- "Don't stress so much about earning college credit. That's not the point of taking the higher-level classes." Consider that AP and honors level classes expand their thinking; even if they get a B in the higher level class, they were exposed to higher level learning and will likely do better on SAT/ACT.
- "Allow your kid's passions to help drive the bus." If they love a subject, go for it. If they hate another, back off from taking the honors level.
- Know that MUCH has changed at York. Do your own assessment of what it takes for work and time for each class. As of 2019 school year, most classes allow students to retake tests and classes that once had a reputation of being extremely difficult and involved no longer have that kind of reputation.
- Summer school is not a must-do. Some kids like it after 8th grade so they get to know the school, etc., but if your student isn't anxious about, they don't HAVE to take summer school. However, if you are planning to enroll, know that it fills up in about 5 minutes for the classes many kids want to take, so watch the registration dates closely when they release them in early 2020.
- Sports 101. Tryouts for some sports happen BEFORE school starts, check [York athletics](#) for specifics but for sure if your child is interested in a cut sport—golf, boys soccer among them—do not plan any last minute vacations before school starts or your student will miss the tryout dates for those sports.
- Attend York meetings now. Everyone welcome. As an 8th grade parent, the York PTSA group and academic boosters meetings will give you an excellent head start on getting the scoop at York.

- Encourage your student to dive into an activity when they start York. It helps the kids connect with older students and will offer them a perspective on classes for the future, etc.
- Log onto [York parent facebook page](#) early in the summer. Great info from parents there. It's also a chance to buy used textbooks; although much of their material is now on chromebooks, some kids learn better with a physical textbook and they can be a good resource to keep at home.
- Check out the [course information York has available online](#). There are numerous videos talking about classes, details on pathways and students offering their views.