



Dear Parents and Students of the Class of 2024,

We are very excited to welcome you to Crystal Lake South High School! By now, you should have received multiple emails from me with information about Curriculum Night and 8th Grade Night. Both nights are very important for the 8th grade enrollment process. If you have not received emails from me, please take a moment and fill out this Google form to update your email address: <http://bit.ly/CLSClassof2024>.

This letter is full of important information about the 8th grade enrollment process, so please make sure you review it prior to January.

Overview of Curriculum Night and 8th Grade Night

Just as an overview, Curriculum Night will be held on January 7th, 2020 at 6 p.m. in the Crystal Lake South Theater. On this night, you will learn about our course offerings, the four-year course planning process, and our electives programs. It is very important that you RSVP for this night because we will be creating a personalized itinerary for you. If you have not already RSVPed, you can RSVP at <http://bit.ly/CLSCurriculumNight2020>. Please fill out the form even if you can't come so we can account for everyone.

Our 8th Grade Night will occur on January 16th, 2020. You have been assigned to a time based on the first letter of your last name (see below). If you cannot attend your assigned time, please call Laurie Macko at 815-455-3860 x3226. Like Curriculum Night, you will be receiving a personalized itinerary for the evening. This time, the itinerary will be based on your students' interests as indicated on the Athletic/ Activity Interest form. If your student has not already filled out this form, you can find it at <http://bit.ly/CLS8thGradeNight2020>. It's important that your student fills out this form so that we can match him or her up with a current CLS student guide for the evening. We will also use the information provided on that form to send you important information about signing up for sports and activities.

Thursday, January 16th from 5:00-6:30: Last names beginning with A, C, D, H, I, J, K, N, O, P, Q, S, Z

Thursday, January 16th from 6:45-8:15: Last names beginning with B, E, F, G, L, M, R, T, U, V, W, X, Y

Please make sure you fill out the Google form for both nights (the RSVP form with elective selections for Curriculum night and the athletic/ activity interest form for 8th grade night) so that we will be able to provide you your personalized schedule for each night. We look forward to meeting you in person!

Course Recommendations

All freshmen have been recommended for placement in a certain English, math, and science course. You can find these recommendations in the top right corner of this letter. The criteria for placement in freshman level coursework is outlined below. Please note that the score ranges are used to make informed decisions, but they are not the sole criteria for placement. We collaborate with the respective middle schools to gather a complete picture of a student prior to making a recommendation. If your child has an IEP, your transition meeting with the high school will ultimately decide placement.

English Criteria

a. **Honors English 103/104**

Freshman Honors English is a challenging course that requires strong reading and writing skills as well as student independence and initiative. To place students in this course, a number of factors are considered:

- A fall MAP Reading RIT score of 230 or above
- 8th grade teacher recommendation

b. **English 101/102**

Most of our freshmen are placed in English 101. Students will engage in a comprehensive high school English course including an integrated approach to literature, reading, writing, speaking/listening and research. In most instances, a student qualifies for English 101 by earning a fall MAP reading RIT score of 212-229. Students who score in the range



of 212-216 are also placed in a one semester Targeted Reading II class designed to help them develop reading skills necessary for success in all high school classes.

c. **CLIMB English 171/172**

The CLIMB curriculum was designed to strengthen literacy skills through the use of specific strategies and materials. In most instances, a student qualifies for CLIMB English with a Reading RIT score below 212 as well as the recommendation of the 8th grade teacher. Students who are placed in Climb English are also placed in a year-long Targeted Reading class designed to strengthen their reading skills.

Science Criteria

a. **Honors Biology 319/320:**

Students are placed in honors biology with a score of 461 or higher with concurrent enrollment in Geometry or Algebra II with Trigonometry (Regular or Honors). The equation used to identify a student's score is noted here: Math MAP RIT + Reading MAP RIT. Middle school teacher recommendations are also considered for all placements.

b. **Biology 309/310:**

Students are placed in biology with a MAP Reading RIT score above 208 and enrollment in Algebra I or higher. Middle school teacher recommendations are also considered for all placements.

c. **Basic Biology:**

Reading level < 208 on Reading MAP RIT. Students learn all the key concepts taught in 309/310, but with extra support to build up student reading comprehension. Middle school teacher recommendations are also considered for all placements.

Math Criteria

a. **Honors Algebra II 373/374 and Algebra II: 365/366-** 8th grade enrollment in geometry

b. **Honors Geometry: 371/372**

Math MAP RIT score ≥ 245 , reading RIT also factored. Completion of algebra with a B or higher

c. **Geometry: 363/364**

Math MAP RIT score < 245 , reading RIT also factored. Completion of algebra with a C or higher

d. **Algebra: 361/362**

Math MAP RIT score ≥ 218 , reading RIT also factored. Students who are identified as not having mastered Algebra content while in middle school will be placed in this course again as it is critical for success in all other STEM courses.

e. **Basic Algebra: 355/356-** Math MAP RIT score < 218 , reading RIT also factored.

Additional Documents and Other Forms of Communication

We have included additional documents in this mailing that may be helpful to you as you prepare for Curriculum Night and 8th Grade Night. One is a four-year planning document. Crystal Lake South students are encouraged to create a four-year plan early in their high school career and modify the plan as their post-secondary goals develop and change throughout high school. The other document is a wish list of courses available to freshmen. We will cover the elective choices and the four-year planning process more at Curriculum Night.

If you have not already, we encourage you to like the Crystal Lake South Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CrystalLakeSouthHS/>). Several of our last Facebook Live broadcasts specifically mention the 8th



Office of
Student Services
Crystal Lake South

grade transition to high school. You are also encouraged to follow us on Twitter (@clsouthhs, @JoshuaTNobilio, @clsratliff, @cls_ss, and @CLsouthathletic) and on Instagram (cls_gators).

Thank you so much for all of your help! We are looking forward to meeting you in January.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Ratliff
Vice Principal

Carson Sterchi
Student Services Coordinator