

*Spaulding High School  
School Counseling Office*



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Dear future Spaulding High School students and parents/guardians,

As you undoubtedly know, under “normal circumstances” this week would have been when 8<sup>th</sup> graders from both BCEMS and BTMES would have met with their high school counselors and chosen classes for next year. This tradition of school counselors coming to the respective middle schools and meeting with new students and families is one that we, at the high school, really look forward to. Yet, this year will need to proceed a little differently. We still hope very much to meet you all face-to-face, and hopefully sooner than later, but in the meantime we have come up with a “virtual” way to have students select their courses for their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year at Spaulding High School.

Students – after reading this letter, please check your email for a follow-up email from me asking you to open a Google Form. You can also access this form by following this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqLH-yqgxbFN546aS3331fILAJShGnf1DfsJqjdi7amgdnNg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>

Prior to our move to virtually-supported learning, placement meetings were held between 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and SHS teachers to determine recommendations for all students in the areas of Humanities and Math. We will be utilizing those recommendations for 6 of the 8 credits students will be scheduled in for their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. For clarification, the amount of “credit” a course is worth in a traditional class is based on the duration of the course (ex. ½ credit classes are held one quarter, 1 credit classes last for 1 semester – or half the year, and 2 credit courses are full-year courses). “Passing a class” is based on a student meeting the required proficiencies and standards in that course (more details can be found in our Program of Studies - link is listed below). The 6 credits students will automatically be scheduled for will be Humanities (a 2-credit, full-year course, combining 9<sup>th</sup> grade English with 9<sup>th</sup> grade World History), 2 credits in Math (whether two separate 1-credit Math courses, or one full-year Math course), 1 credit of Physical Science, and 1 credit of Wellness (which meets our Health requirement and that all 9<sup>th</sup> graders are expected to take).

In the email you will receive, or by clicking on the above link, students will come to a form where they will be asked to choose their remaining 2-credits worth of courses for their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, as well as opt for Band or Chorus (or both). Students who participate in Band or Chorus earn an additional credit for a year of participation, which can complete the Fine Arts graduation requirement at SHS. It is highly recommended that students and parent(s)/guardian(s) review the Spaulding High School Program of Studies

prior to completing this form, which can be found at:

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1580743137/bsuvtorg/nltvpqpex97kmpkmtby/pos2020-2021.pdf>

The form will list all typical choices for 9<sup>th</sup> graders, and asks students to choose 4 classes from those listed. Please choose these classes in order of importance for you (i.e. your most important elective should go into #1 choice, etc . . .). We are asking that all students complete this form, preferably with their parent(s)/guardian(s), by the end of the day on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your high school counselor, or you can reach out to me at [rhoffshs@buusd.org](mailto:rhoffshs@buusd.org)

We understand this is not optimal, and again, we hope to have more personalized conversations/introductions where we can return to normalcy. By completing this form now, the high school can still respect your preferences, build a custom Master Schedule that SHS students have become accustomed to, and potentially do so on a similar timeline to what was designed at the beginning of this year. I want to personally thank all of you for your understanding, wish you both safety and peace during this time, and look forward to personally welcoming you to the Spaulding High School family.

Most sincerely –

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