

LA PLATA HIGH SCHOOL

TO: 9th Grade Students

FROM: Mrs. Reamy

DATE: January 31, 2022

SUBJECT: 10th Grade Course Selection Instructions

1. In addition to these instructions, you should have received a Course Selection sheet and a Graduation Pathway Options sheet. The Course Selection sheet lists all classes offered to you as a 10th grader at La Plata High School and the Graduation Pathway Options sheet describes all the pathway options available. You will use all these sheets to choose your classes for next year.
2. The Charles County Public Schools “High School Program of Studies” for 2022-2023 is posted on the CCPS website at <https://www.ccboe.com/departments/student-services/student-support/high-school-program-of-studies>. This document provides information on graduation requirements, grading policies, and other general information. More importantly, there are descriptions of all the courses listed on your Course Selection Sheet. Please refer to the “High School Program of Studies” descriptions for any courses you are considering before completing your Course Selection Sheet.
3. Maryland high school graduation requirements are listed on page 3 in the “High School Program of Studies”. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU REVIEW THESE REQUIREMENTS CAREFULLY. Your graduation requirements are listed under the “Entered 9th grade in SY21-22 and beyond” section of the chart. There is also a credit checklist on page 80 of the “High School Program of Studies”. This checklist will help you keep track of your credits throughout high school and your progress towards graduation.
4. Please review the “Course History” tab found in your StudentVue to determine what classes you still need for graduation. If you need assistance with choosing your classes, 10-minute appointments can be scheduled with Mrs. Reamy all this week. To schedule an appointment, please come into the Counseling Office before 1st period to set up a time with Mrs. Posey. Walk-in appointments are also available during your lunch. Additionally, Mrs. Reamy will meet individually with each student after Course Selection sheets are submitted to finalize each student’s courses for next year.
5. All students must complete one of the two graduation pathways listed on the Graduation Pathway Options sheet you received. Please review that document to help you in selecting your sophomore year electives and for developing your four-year plan. More information about the Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs can be found on pages 19-40 of the “High School Program of Studies”.
6. When completing your Course Selection Sheet, you must sign up for seven classes and three alternate elective courses. Unless otherwise told by your teacher or Mrs. Reamy, most 10th graders will need to sign up for the following courses: English II, U.S. History, Math, Biology, 3 additional courses (Tech Ed, Fine Art, Fitness for Life and Health, graduation pathway and/or desired electives), **AND** 3 alternate electives.
7. Schedule changes each year are only made in extreme circumstances, such as errors in academic placement. For this reason, you must be **very** careful with course selection. Please wisely select the correct levels with the help of your parents/guardians and your current teachers. Carefully choose your electives and alternates and make sure these are classes you will be happy with. You should review the “High School Program of Studies” for a description of the course before signing up for the

class. If you're still unsure about a course, please speak with Mrs. Reamy or the current course teacher before selecting the class.

8. Your current teachers will give their recommendation for placements in A-level, honors, or AP courses. If your parent/guardian disagrees with the teacher's recommendation, they should contact the teacher to discuss their concerns. After discussing it with the teacher, if the parent/guardian wishes to override the recommendation, a written request must be attached to your Course Selection Sheet when it is submitted. Parent/guardian requests will be honored when the schedule is prepared for next year.
9. Department Chairs will be available in the cafeteria before 1st period Tuesday-Friday this week to sign your Course Selection sheets for elective courses that require a signature.
10. Your Fitness for Life teacher from this year must sign for any PE courses you wish to take next year. You must also have Mrs. Getgen's signature if you wish to take Weight Training.
11. If you are interested in Navy Junior ROTC, see GySgt. Bailey or Captain Yates for a signature. REMEMBER: THERE IS A STRICT DRESS CODE FOR NJROTC. ASK ABOUT THIS BEFORE SIGNING UP. NJROTC can be used as a graduation pathway for students who complete NJROTC I, II, and III. However, you can still enroll in NJROTC even if you don't plan to use this as your pathway.
12. If you are planning to attend college, it is important to take challenging courses throughout high school. If you are not already in honors classes, you should seriously consider selecting at least one honors level course for your sophomore year. Most college admissions officers tell us that taking challenging courses is more important than earning straight A's in high school!
13. Remember you will be required to take a math course each year you are in high school and earn 4 high school math credits in order to graduate. For admission to any public college or university in Maryland, you will be required to take a math class at the Algebra II or higher level in your senior year of high school. Additionally, while we require two credits in the same foreign language for graduation, many colleges either require or prefer students to have 3 credits of the same foreign language.
14. Some students may wish to pursue a Charles County Certificate of Merit or receive Scholars recognitions. If you are interested in those academic recognitions, please review the requirements for these programs on page 5 of the "High School Program of Studies".
15. Your Course Selection Sheets must be submitted by the deadline: **Friday, February 4.** *IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR COURSE SELECTION SHEET BY THE DEADLINE, MRS. REAMY WILL SELECT COURSES FOR YOU.*
16. The completed Course Selection Sheet should be turned in to the "9th Grade Completed Course Selection Sheets" box outside the Counseling Office in the Commons Area. The boxes will be there each day this week before 1st period class and during lunch. You may turn in your sheet during any of those times. Again, the deadline to submit your sheet is **Friday, February 4.**