

Dear Families of Issaquah School District Highly Capable Students,

Secondary students in the Issaquah School District Highly Capable Program can choose from a variety of academically accelerated and rigorous programs and courses. In middle school, these options include Advanced Language Arts and several math and science pathways, and World Language. In high school, these options include, but are not limited to: Honors classes, International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), Running Start (for Juniors and Seniors only), College in the High School, CTE Dual Credit, and online courses.

The opportunity for choice in the course request process allows students to select the level of learning that they feel is most appropriate for their own academic goals. Course request choices in middle and high school also provide the opportunity for self-actualization, the fulfillment of one’s talents and potentialities, and the chance to expand friendships through interactions with students who have different backgrounds and life experiences.

Each spring, typically in March, families have the opportunity to attend family nights at their student’s middle school, high school and/or the district office that provide information about all course options available. We have provided additional information, including links to more detailed descriptions on our district and school websites below.

Middle School Options	
English Language Arts (ELA)	Middle School Advanced Language Arts
Science	Science Courses K - 12 including Middle School Pathways I and II
Mathematics	Middle School Curriculum & Pathways Skipping 6th grade content with compacted pacing Exceptional Placement
High School Options	
Science	Science Courses K - 12
Mathematics	High School Mathematics

Additional Secondary Resources

Middle and High School Programs

[Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#)
[Career & Technical Education \(CTE\)](#)
[International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#)
[Online Learning](#)
[Running Start](#)
[AP & IB Courses](#)

9-12 Grade Course Catalogs by School

[9-12 grade course catalogs by school](#)

ISD's Choice High School

[Gibson Ek High School](#)

Gibson Ek High School is Issaquah's choice high school for students looking for a more independent, project-based approach to learning with an emphasis on design thinking. Students learn through self-directed projects, incorporating reading, writing, science, Social studies and math along the way.

Occasionally, student needs are not met through these advanced courses, and families could work directly with their school to consider alternatives:

In-District Transfer

Transfer to a different school in the district that may offer class options that your neighborhood school of attendance does not. If the transfer is approved, the student maintains the transferred status throughout the course of the grade levels taught at the school (through 8th for Middle School, through 12th for High School). Please refer to details from [the website](#) regarding this process or contact [Debi Courage](#), Enrollment Coordinator. Alternatively, call 425-837-7010.

Please note these important details about in-district transfers:

- The annual Open Enrollment period is the month of February (2/1 to the final day of February).
- A lottery determines the waitlist order by grade level/school of all in-district transfers received by the open enrollment deadline.
- All of our Middle and High Schools are full and the only transfers allowed are processed on a one-in, one-out basis between the neighborhood school and the non-neighborhood school using the waitlist created from the requests received at each grade level.

- All requests received AFTER February are dated and added to the bottom of the waitlist in the order they are received.

Online Courses

Online Learning serves students in grades 7-12 who reside in Issaquah School District. Online courses are approved by OSPI/ISD. The online [Middle School](#) and [High School](#) course lists include AP, Honors and Core Level classes. Please work with your school counselor to ensure accurate course selection for college entrance requirements. You may also visit [Online Learning](#) to find out more information. Please contact [Emily Tam](#) with any additional questions.

Homeschooling

Consider [Homeschooling](#) and access ISD classes on a part time basis. There are specific requirements from the state that must be met for this option. Along with the specific paperwork that must be completed, the family and student are responsible for meeting state requirements regarding instruction and assessment. Please work with your school counselor and principal when considering this option. In addition, you may contact [Cindy Feng](#) for information.

UW Robinson Center for Young Scholars

[UW Robinson Center for Young Scholars](#). Non-credit enrichment opportunities and Early Entrance Program (to UW).

While we do our best to meet the needs of our students, on occasion, some of our students identified highly capable may need different types of support and options. In these cases, parents should work directly with their school principal and/or counselor to discuss their student's needs.

Secondary Counselor Support

Issaquah schools provide in each building. In addition to a selection of advanced courses, secondary students identified as highly capable may also receive additional academic and targeted social/emotional support from [school counselors](#). In the fall, secondary counselors check with students identified as highly capable either individually or in small groups. During this check-in, counselors generally review student schedules, administer a student survey and engage the student in individual goalsetting in [Xello](#), the District's new tool to support High School and Beyond Planning. Based on the survey results counselors may invite students to targeted opportunities, which could include lunch groups, small group instruction, career exploration, or presentations on a social/emotional topic. In the spring, counselors provide a final individual or small group check in to follow up on individual goal completion in Xello, and review student course requests for the following school year.

In considering student needs, it is important to understand that options/resources available are not limitless and access to accelerated learning and enhanced instruction through the program for highly capable students **does not constitute an individual entitlement** for any particular student.

As you and your student embark on this exciting journey into secondary education, we hope you find this resource helpful in assisting your student in navigating the Middle School and High School course request process.

Sincerely,

Page Perey, Director of Elementary Special Programs

Dr. Josh Almy, Deputy Superintendent

Susan Mundell, Executive Director of Elementary Education

Melinda Reynvaan, Executive Director of Elementary Education

Jason Morse, Executive Director of Middle School Education

Andrea McCormick, Executive Director of High School Education