

8th Grade Overview

9th Grade & HS Preview

Agenda

8th Grade Year Focus

- Academics
- Related Services, PE, Electives and Enrichment
- 8th Grade Events/Activities
- Additional Information and MCAS
- LPS Core Values

9th Grade Year & High School Preview

- 9th Grade Year Focus
 - Academics
 - Related Services, PE, Electives
- 9th Grade Events/Activities
- Additional Information and Events
- MS vs. HS – Similarities and Differences
- HS Program Overview
- What is the Experiential Learning Program (ELP)?
- How do we help our kids prepare for college?
- Student Outcomes

8th Grade Year Focus: Academics

Language Arts/Encoding & Decoding

During the eighth grade year, students are being taught from components from the Wilson and Megawords programs for decoding/encoding strategies and vocabulary development. Language arts and reading connections are made through daily encoding and decoding lessons. Students are exposed to a variety of daily warm ups (through activities and hands-on games and/or digital activities) and engaging instructional lessons. Pragmatic language skills including staying on topic, taking turns, and reading non-verbal messages and interpreting body language. History and Science courses teach students the mechanics and structure of content area composition writing.

Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension classes focus on guided reading instruction utilizing short articles and lengthier stories to strengthen and build vocabulary, accuracy, proper phrasing, and comprehension. Students participate in class discussions and learn the importance of active listening and turn taking. After class discussion, learners answer both short answer and open response comprehension questions of factual and inferential nature. With teacher guidance, Thinking Maps are utilized to organize learned information. Daily lessons include the introduction and application of new vocabulary, the development of close reading skills, and the practice of proper phrasing and expression. Students also investigate the analytical skill of drawing conclusions by supporting ideas with evidence from the text.

8th Grade Year Focus: Academics

Middle School Math

Math class appropriate to level

- Students in 8th Grade will work from the Number Worlds curriculum, and will be grouped by ability level. Concepts which students will learn can range from multiplication and division of multidigit numbers to operations with fractions and decimals. Students at the highest levels will work on Pre-Algebra related concepts in order to be ready for Algebra 1 in their 9th grade year. Calculator usage will be occasionally permitted, however students will spend a significant amount of time working towards proficiency in computational skills without the assistance of a calculator.

Pre-Algebra

- Students taking Pre-Algebra will have the opportunity to gain proficiency with operations with fractions, decimals, and percents, along with understanding ratios and proportional relationships. Word problems and problem solving will continue to be reinforced, along with increased practice with multi step problem solving. Students will gradually begin to work with the concept of variables, and will gain an understanding of the basic rules of Algebra in order to simplify expressions and solve equations for unknown quantities. Students will often be permitted to use calculators in the classroom, as long as the focus is on problem solving and not solely on computational skills.

Algebra 1

- Students taking Algebra 1 will build off their initial understanding of basic Algebra skills in order to prepare for higher level problem solving, along with more multi step equation solving. Working with linear representations and the concept of “rate of change” is also emphasized at this level. Students will examine this concept algebraically, but will also work frequently with graphs, and the idea of slope in order to visually represent a positive or negative rate of change. Students will often be permitted to use calculators in the classroom, as long as the focus is on problem solving and not solely on computational skills.

8th Grade Year Focus: Academics

Science

- Students engage in activities that support their understanding of the cause and effect of key natural phenomena and designed processes. Topics include earth as a planet and its systems, heredity and evolution, matter and its interactions, and processing materials.

Social Studies

- Civics: Students study the influences of how and why our Constitution was written and learn about the parts of the Constitution (The Preamble, the 7 articles, and the Bill of Rights). Students also learn how our government works by learning about the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch, and the Judicial Branch of Government. Students will then learn about the government of Massachusetts.

Written language skills are worked on at different levels in the Middle School depending on the level/skills of the students in the class. Skills worked on include generating complete sentences, generating cohesive paragraphs, generating cohesive essays, using correct capitalization, ending marks, and grammar, and organizing content information using a variety of Thinking Maps.

Related Services, PE, Electives and Enrichment

Speech and
Language
Therapy

If Applicable

Physical
Education
And
Electives

Computers, art, food service,
and horticulture

Focused on continuing to
develop positive work behavior,
social and soft skills

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Work ethic
- Task completion

Occupational
Therapy

If Applicable

Counseling
and
Health Class

Health & Student Issues

Once per week
Social thinking concepts,
peer relationships, self
esteem, disability
awareness, conflict
resolution, puberty,
anti-bullying

Enrichment

Focused on
developing social
skills and exploring
fun activities

8th Grade Events/Activities

Events/Activities

- After School Activities
- Student Council
- GSA
- Yearbook
- Social Events
 - 3 dances per year
 - Field Day
 - Field Trips

Specific for 8th graders

- Step Up Day
- Counselor support transitioning to the HS
 - Tours of the building
 - Speak to a HS student
- Moving On Ceremony

Transition Information Night for Parents

- Adult service presentation
- Guardianship
- Independent living presentation
- Transition information

8th grade Additional Information

Access to State Agencies

- Some of our 8th graders have the ability to register with these agencies
- Agencies commonly used by LPS students are:
 - Pre-ETS (begins at age 14): they work on skills including self advocacy, work readiness, career exploration, post-secondary education planning and community-based work experiences.
 - TAP (begins at age 14): Transition to Adulthood Program: students can work on money management, public transportation, setting long term goals, preparing for the driver's permit test, etc.
 - Easter Seals Youth Services:
 - Thrive (begins at age 14) - mentoring program for young women
 - Brothers Against Discrimination (BAD) (begins at age 14) - mentoring program for young men

MCAS

- Testing in ELA, Math and Science
- Small group or 1:1
- Students receive all their IEP accommodations

LPS Core Values Integrated into the Program



Compassion

LPS students are demonstrating compassion when they reflect on themselves and their peers as learners and individuals full of similarities and differences.

Students will:

- Students will show empathy by being sensitive to the perspectives, needs and feelings of others
- Students will care about others and help them
- Students will reach out to those in need

Compassion at LPS

- During counseling sessions LPS students use social communication strategies to navigate social situations and explore the thoughts and feelings of themselves and others.
- LPS students take part in being sensitive to the needs of others by participating in Breast Cancer Awareness and Unity days during the school year.

LPS Core Values Integrated into the Program



Honesty

LPS students are fostering honesty when they are being truthful in their actions and words.

Students will:

- Seek to tell the truth
- Accept ownership and responsibility for actions and work
- Maintain trust in all relationships

Honesty at LPS

- LPS' Experiential Learning Program develops and improves students' "soft skills" in order to be successful participants in the workplace.
- LPS students are recognized on a weekly basis for displaying LPS' citizenship characteristics.

LPS Core Values Integrated into the Program



Courage

LPS students are showing courage by making mistakes and persevering despite the setbacks.

Students will:

- Stand up for what is right, even when it's unpopular
- Take appropriate risks
- Seek advice when making difficult decisions

Courage at LPS

- LPS students engage in a common read which fosters diverse discussions and self reflections. ([2021 Common Read](#))
- LPS students are invited to participate in the Gender Sexuality Alliance and Blue/Green Spirit Program to expand and enrich our inclusive school culture.

LPS Core Values Integrated into the Program



Responsibility

LPS students are showing responsibility when they take an active part in their learning by recognizing accountability for their own behaviors and academic goals.

Students will:

- Demonstrate accountability for personal behavior
- Take initiative to do the things that are unexpected
- Follow through with commitments

Responsibility at LPS

- Student Council consists of elected LPS students working together to organize, coordinate and participate in school-wide activities.
- LPS students participate in food services by preparing and planning a variety of dishes for their peers.

LPS Core Values Integrated into the Program



Respect

LPS students show respect by honoring and valuing people, property, the environment, and themselves.

Students will:

- Demonstrate polite and appropriate interactions with others
- Value themselves and others
- Care for surroundings

Respect at LPS

- During daily Enrichment LPS students collaborate, create and problem solve with their peers.
- LPS' Horticulture program teaches mindfulness for our environment, value in working together and patience and care in harvesting the plants.

9th Grade

And HS Preview

9th Grade Year Focus: Academics

- **Language Arts**
 - Vocabulary skill building
 - Compositions - narrative and persuasive
 - MCAS skill building
- **Literature**
 - Called reading comprehension in the middle school
 - Central idea and character building in text - a shift towards inferential thinking
 - MCAS skill building
- **Science**
 - Biology

- **History**
 - Called social studies in the middle school
 - US History 1
 - Expository writing
- **Math**
 - Integrated Math
 - Pre-Algebra
 - Algebra 1
- **Reading Tutoring** (if applicable)

9th Grade Year Focus

Related Services

- **Consumer Skills**
 - Once per week
 - Work on everyday household tasks
 - grocery shopping, cooking, laundry, home maintenance
- Health
 - **Twice per week**
 - Social communication, drugs & alcohol awareness, sexuality, social safety & dating relationships
- Counseling
- Speech (if applicable)
- OT (if applicable)
- PE

Electives

- Computer
- Art
- Food Service
- Horticulture
- **Child Care** (for students who are 15 years old and older)
- Focus on continuing to develop positive work behavior, social and soft skills
 - Communication
 - Teamwork
 - Work ethic
 - Task completion

9th Grade Events

For Students

- Student council
 - Representatives
- GSA
- **Monthly student council social events in the evenings**
- Yearbook
- After school activities

For Families

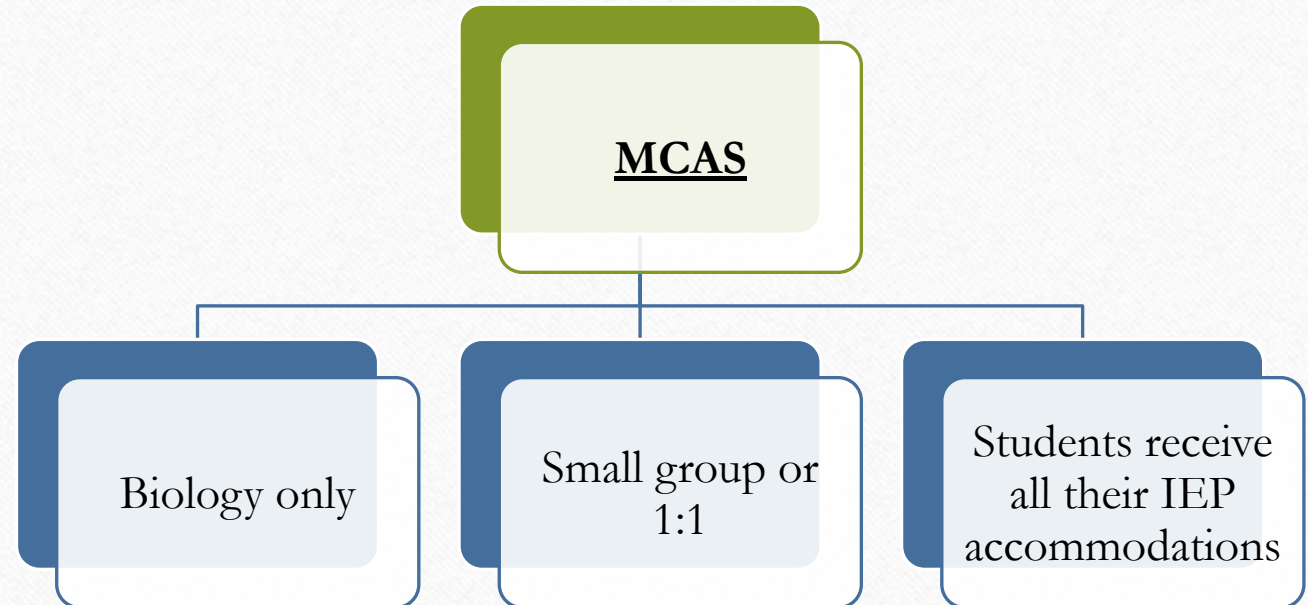
- **Transition Information Night for Parents**
 - Adult service presentation
 - Guardianship
 - Independent living presentation
 - Transition information
- **Post High School Fair** (families invited)

9th Grade Additional Information

Access to State Agencies

- Our 9th graders have the ability to register with these agencies

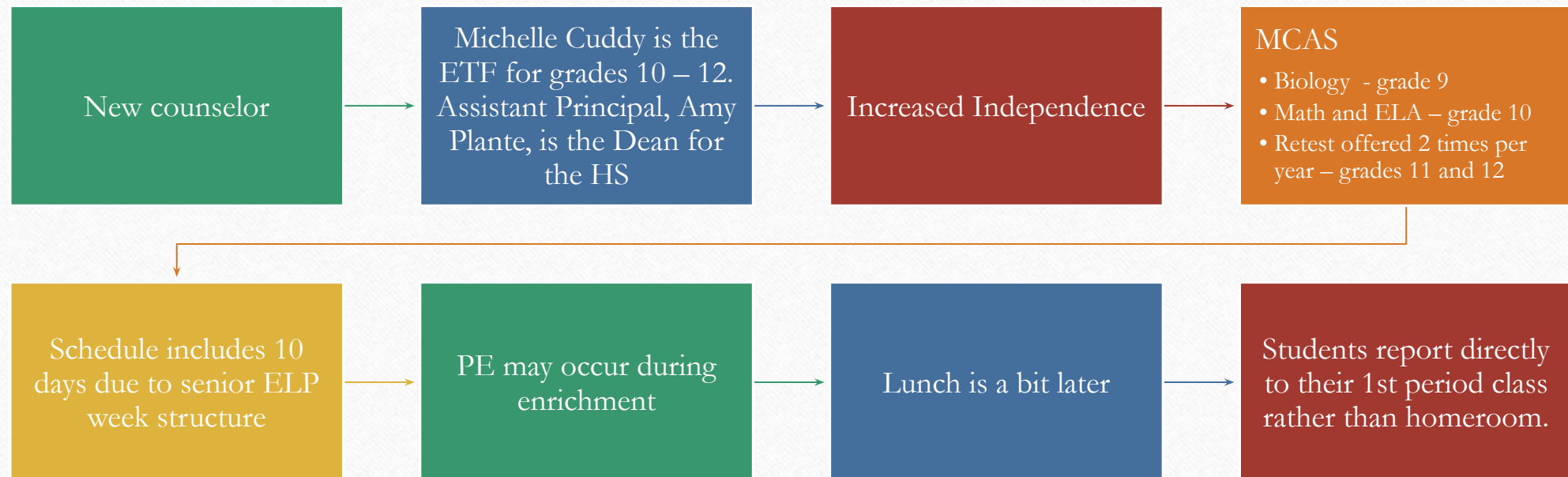
• Transition Resources



How is the High School the same as the Middle School?

- Safe Learning Environment
 - Thinking Maps and Social Thinking concepts
 - 1:1 Chromebook with Google Suite apps
 - Discipline
 - Students can earn a Referral for similar behaviors
 - Discuss behaviors with Amy Plante
 - Follow up phone call home
 - Language Based instruction
- Same executive functioning supports
 - structured schedule
 - binder system
 - 8:1 ratio
 - Student breaks are available but are typically less frequent and more independent.
 - Class rules are similar to Middle School.
 - Progress reports on IEP goals sent home with report cards
 - Good Citizen of the Week
 - Melissa Rudnick is the ETF for grade 9

How is the High School the different from the Middle School?



How is the High School the different from the Middle School?

Homework is assigned nightly in each academic subject, 20 minutes per subject per night, totaling about 1½ hours of homework per night assigned in Google Classroom

No tests are given on Mondays.

The testing schedule is as follows:

- Tuesdays – Science
- Wednesday – Math
- Thursday – History
- Friday – Language Arts and Literature

Report cards look different

- Include 5 comments and a grade

Sample 9th Grade Schedule

21-22 Learning Prep High School Program 1507 Washington Street, W. Newton MA 02465 Page 1 of 1				Student Schedule For Grade: 09 Student Number: Term(s): Q2 Courses enrolled: 16						
	Term Q2 (11/08/2021-01/21/2022)									
	M1	T1	W1	TH1	F1	M2	T2	W2	TH2	F2
1	HS602-1 Horticulture Chiaravallot Isabella	HS802111-7 Consumer Skills Heath, Abagael Rm: 234B	HS701-4 Art Smith, Marianne Rm: 301	HS902101-8 HSI Owens, Robert Rm: 234A	HS902101-8 HSI Owens, Robert Rm: 234A	HS602-1 Horticulture Chiaravallot Isabella	HS802111-7 Consumer Skills Heath, Abagael Rm: 234B	HS701-4 Art Smith, Marianne Rm: 301	HS902101-8 HSI Owens, Robert Rm: 234A	HS902101-8 HSI Owens, Robert Rm: 234A
2	HSLA022-3 Language Arts Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLA022-3 Language Arts Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLA022-3 Language Arts Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLA022-3 Language Arts Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLA022-3 Language Arts Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLA022-3 Language Arts Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLA022-3 Language Arts Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLA022-3 Language Arts Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLA022-3 Language Arts Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLA022-3 Language Arts Bushey, Martha Rm: 308
3	HSEN901-20 Enrichment Physical Education Scafidi, Peter	HSEN901-20 Enrichment Physical Education Scafidi, Peter	HSEN901-20 Enrichment Physical Education Scafidi, Peter	HSEN901-20 Enrichment Physical Education Scafidi, Peter	HSEN901-20 Enrichment Physical Education Scafidi, Peter	HSEN901-20 Enrichment Physical Education Scafidi, Peter	HSEN901-20 Enrichment Physical Education Scafidi, Peter	HSEN901-20 Enrichment Physical Education Scafidi, Peter	HSEN901-20 Enrichment Physical Education Scafidi, Peter	HSEN901-20 Enrichment Physical Education Scafidi, Peter
4	HS2151-2 Pre- Algebra Manzella, Jeffrey Rm: 335A	HS2151-2 Pre- Algebra Manzella, Jeffrey Rm: 335A	HS2151-2 Pre- Algebra Manzella, Jeffrey Rm: 335A	HS2151-2 Pre- Algebra Manzella, Jeffrey Rm: 335A	HS2151-2 Pre- Algebra Manzella, Jeffrey Rm: 335A	HS2151-2 Pre- Algebra Manzella, Jeffrey Rm: 335A	HS2151-2 Pre- Algebra Manzella, Jeffrey Rm: 335A	HS2151-2 Pre- Algebra Manzella, Jeffrey Rm: 335A	HS2151-2 Pre- Algebra Manzella, Jeffrey Rm: 335A	HS2151-2 Pre- Algebra Manzella, Jeffrey Rm: 335A
5	HS100023-4 Speech Ortega, Rosa Rm: 25A	HS1100112 Work Center/ O.T. Therapy Dabdoub, Katie Rm: 328A	HS100023-4 Speech Ortega, Rosa Rm: 25A	HS1100112 Work Center/ O.T. Therapy Dabdoub, Katie Rm: 328A	HS90311-18 Counseling Boehmer, Lina Rm: 311	HS100023-4 Speech Ortega, Rosa Rm: 25A	HS1100112 Work Center/ O.T. Therapy Dabdoub, Katie Rm: 328A	HS100023-4 Speech Ortega, Rosa Rm: 25A	HS1100112 Work Center/ O.T. Therapy Dabdoub, Katie Rm: 328A	HS90311-18 Counseling Boehmer, Lina Rm: 311
6	HSLIT012-3 Literature Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLIT012-3 Literature Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLIT012-3 Literature Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLIT012-3 Literature Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLIT012-3 Literature Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLIT012-3 Literature Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLIT012-3 Literature Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLIT012-3 Literature Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLIT012-3 Literature Bushey, Martha Rm: 308	HSLIT012-3 Literature Bushey, Martha Rm: 308
7	HSLUNCH- Lunch	HSLUNCH- Lunch	HSLUNCH- Lunch	HSLUNCH- Lunch	HSLUNCH- Lunch	HSLUNCH- Lunch	HSLUNCH- Lunch	HSLUNCH- Lunch	HSLUNCH- Lunch	HSLUNCH- Lunch
8	HS302-4 Biology Baggen, Cheryl Rm: 232A	HS302-4 Biology Baggen, Cheryl Rm: 232A	HS302-4 Biology Baggen, Cheryl Rm: 232A	HS302-4 Biology Baggen, Cheryl Rm: 232A	HS302-4 Biology Baggen, Cheryl Rm: 232A	HS302-4 Biology Baggen, Cheryl Rm: 232A	HS302-4 Biology Baggen, Cheryl Rm: 232A	HS302-4 Biology Baggen, Cheryl Rm: 232A	HS302-4 Biology Baggen, Cheryl Rm: 232A	HS302-4 Biology Baggen, Cheryl Rm: 232A
9	HS401-4 US History I DiBenedetto, Jonathan Rm: 245A	HS401-4 US History I DiBenedetto, Jonathan Rm: 245A	HS401-4 US History I DiBenedetto, Jonathan Rm: 245A	HS401-4 US History I DiBenedetto, Jonathan Rm: 245A	HS401-4 US History I DiBenedetto, Jonathan Rm: 245A	HS401-4 US History I DiBenedetto, Jonathan Rm: 245A	HS401-4 US History I DiBenedetto, Jonathan Rm: 245A	HS401-4 US History I DiBenedetto, Jonathan Rm: 245A	HS401-4 US History I DiBenedetto, Jonathan Rm: 245A	HS401-4 US History I DiBenedetto, Jonathan Rm: 245A

High School Course Curriculum

Grouped by skill level			Modified grade-level content					
5x/week	5x/week	5x/week	5x/week	5x/week	2x/week	1x/week		
Language Arts	Literature	Levels available: Integrated Math Pre-Algebra Algebra I Geometry Intgr. Geometry Comsumer Math Algebra II Pre-Calculus	United States History 1	Biology	Health and Student Issues	Counseling	Consumer Skills (1x/week)	
Language Arts	Literature		United States History 2	Earth Science	Health and Student Issues	Counseling	Consumer Skills (1x/week)	
Language Arts	Literature		World History	Environmental & Physical Science	Health and Student Issues	Counseling	Consumer Skills (1x/week)	Career Education (2x/week)
Language Arts	Literature		American Government and Civics	Applied Biology available	Health and Student Issues	Counseling	Consumer Skills (2x/week)	Career Education (3x/week)
Students alternate all year between Academic Week and Experiential Learning Week								Experiential Learning Program (Bi-weekly)

Experiential Learning Program (Bi-weekly)

Available Services:

- Speech & Language Therapy (Small group)
- Occupational Therapy/Work Center (Small group)

Enrichment

Daily for all students' period 3.
Options have included Yoga, Book Club, Journaling, Photography, Sports history, Cultural group, Yearbook & more.

Electives:

- Horticulture
- Food Service
- Computers
- Art
- Physical Education
- Child Care (Age 15+)

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What is the Experiential Learning Program (ELP)?

This program integrates real-life academics and independent/community living components into each student's overall Experiential Learning Program (ELP) week experience.

- Students are assigned to week 1 or week 2, alternating with their academic week.
- Once weeks are allocated, each student is placed further into groups based on their post high school plans and level of support while working.
- Students begin first period each day with a real-life academic class. Class topics include; computers, reading, writing, math, social/soft skills and college prep. Typically, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, students leave for their work placements immediately after first period ends and return for 9th period to participate in ELP classes. On Thursdays and Fridays, students participate in community-based outings which may include community service or activities with exposure to real-life situations such as T training, navigating a community, college visits or a trip to the bank, to name a few.

How does LPS help kids prepare for college?

All Classes

- Emphasis on self-advocacy and independence

Academic Classes

- Increasing expectations as students move through the grades (such as writing lengthier essays, reading more complex texts, completing more word problems and multi-step problems in math)
- Teaching students' strategies they can use independently (such as highlighting key terms, comprehension strategies like looking at headings and images, using Thinking Maps to organize prior to writing, using reference sheets in math, etc)

Counseling

- Developing an understanding of the students' individual learning style, reviewing their IEP, and looking at needed accommodations so they can advocate more effectively
- Working on social/emotional skills specific to the student that will be needed in adult life- ranging from coping strategies for anxiety to setting boundaries with peers

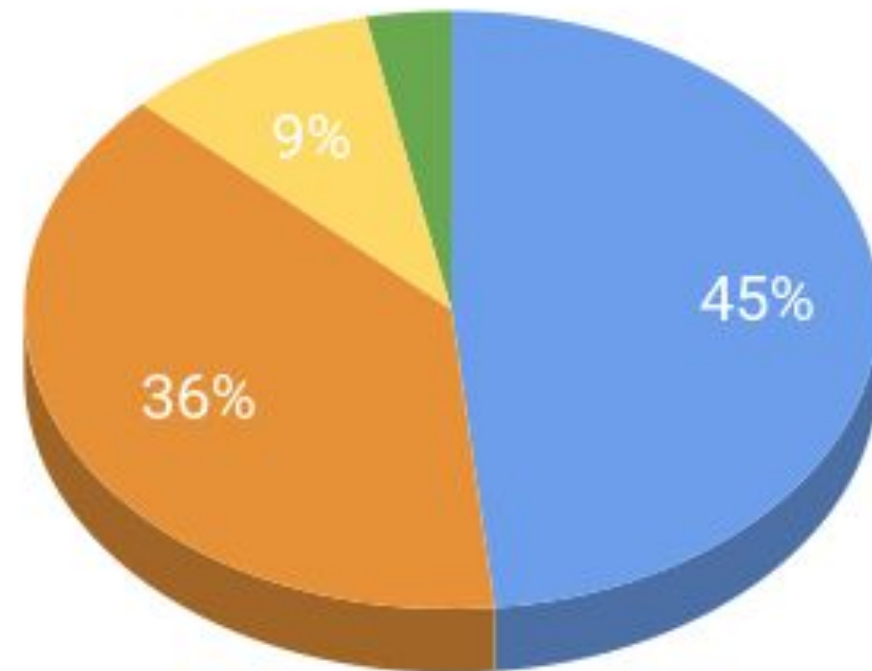
Career Education and ELP

- Developing an understanding of the ADA laws and how self advocacy changes after leaving high school, learning about college and what supports are available

Student Outcomes

2017-2021 Placement Outcomes

● Transition ● College ● Workforce ● Trade School



Questions?
