

LAKE ZURICH HIGH SCHOOL

RISING FRESHMAN PLACEMENT GUIDELINES

CLASS OF 2027



Lake Zurich High School strives to meet the individual needs of students by offering courses of varying pace and rigor at three credit-bearing levels: College Prep, Honors, and AP. Our academic program of studies, available on our website or by scanning the QR code below, lists in detail each course offering including the course description, level and amount of credit, and additional information that will be helpful throughout the placement and registration process.

Students are recommended for core course placements by the standards and criteria listed below. Parents are encouraged to discuss the placement guidelines and review placement recommendations with their student and respective middle school teachers. Questions about the high school curriculum should be directed to the appropriate division head (listed below). While uncommon and not advised, there is a waiver process in February for changing the placement recommended by the middle school teacher.

LITERACY

DIVISION HEAD: DR. LAUREN KATZMAN

LZHS English courses provide broad coverage of the texts of American and world literature. Through these sequential course offerings, students develop extensive knowledge of literature, progressively develop academic and creative writing skills, and enhance their knowledge and use of grammar, vocabulary, and communication skills. Reading Strategies is offered as a supplement to College Prep English I for select students. English placements most often mirror a student's social studies placement.

| COURSE OFFERING | 8TH GRADE PERFORMANCE | MAP READING RIT |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| English I & Reading Strategies I | Completion of 8th grade Language and Literature | 100 – 216 |
| English I | Completion of 8th grade Language and Literature | 217 – 227 |
| English I Honors | A in 8th grade Language and Literature | 228+ |

MATHEMATICS

DIVISION HEAD: MS. ANGELIKA CZAJKOWSKA

LZHS Math courses are offered in pure and applied mathematics to assist the students in the pursuit of intellectual, academic, and career goals. The aim of the department is to provide the student with a sound mathematical foundation.

| COURSE OFFERING | 8TH GRADE PERFORMANCE | MAP MATH RIT |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Algebra I Support & Algebra I | Completion of 8th grade Pre-Algebra | 100 – 225 |
| Algebra I | Completion of 8th grade Pre-Algebra | 225 – 245 |
| Algebra I* | C, D, or F in 8th grade Algebra | 0 – 245 |
| Algebra I Honors | Completion of 8th grade course with teacher recommendation | 245+ |
| Geometry Honors | A or B in 8th grade Algebra | 245+ |
| Algebra II Honors | A or B for both semesters of Algebra and A or B in Geometry Honors | 245+ |

*Students may enroll and successfully complete the LZHS summer school course Bridge to Advanced Math (one semester) to then be placed in Geometry Honors freshman year, pending availability. To successfully complete this course, students must demonstrate mastery on benchmark assessments.

SCIENCE

DIVISION HEAD: MS. MCKENNA SEROWKA

The Science Department offers courses that explore the domains of science including Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth and Space Science. Within these courses, students are collaborating, asking and answering questions, driving their own learning, engaging in self-assessment, discussing, actively participating and engaged, making predications, testing ideas, and analyzing results in order to achieve personal excellence in the realm of Science.

| COURSE OFFERING | 8TH GRADE PERFORMANCE | MAP READING RIT |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Biology | Completion of 8th grade Science | 100 – 227 |
| Biology Honors | B+ or higher in 8th grade Science | 228+ |

SOCIAL STUDIES

DIVISION HEAD: MR. RYAN SHIFLEY

Social Studies courses at Lake Zurich High School prepare students to become informed, responsible, and engaged citizens. Students have the opportunity to experience four years of Social Studies courses in geography, the histories, political sciences, economics, behavioral sciences, and current issues. All students are required to complete two semesters of World Studies (College Prep or Honors), or AP World History during their freshman year. With the exception of AP World History, it is recommend that Social Studies placement for rising freshman mirror a student's English placement (due to skill alignment).

| COURSE OFFERING | 8TH GRADE PERFORMANCE | MAP READING RIT |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| World Studies | Completion of 8th grade Social Studies/US History | 100 – 227 |
| World Studies Honors | A in 8th grade Language and Social Studies | 228+ |
| AP World History | A in 8th grade Language and Social Studies | 228+ |

WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES

DIVISION HEAD: MR. RYAN SHIFLEY

The World Language Department is designed to provide students with a broad background in French, German, and Spanish. There are four skills developed in a language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These skills are stressed throughout the program as are the languages' individual development, culture, and history.

| COURSE OFFERING | 8TH GRADE PERFORMANCE |
|---|---|
| College Prep Level I French, German, Spanish | This course is designed for students who are new to a foreign language with no previous experience. It may be taken by students who took level I in middle school, who need to review the material to gain a stronger base. |
| College Prep Level II French, German, Spanish | B or higher in 8th grade Level I of the language Recommendation by the 8th grade French, German or Spanish teacher |
| Honors Level II French, German, Spanish | A in 8th grade Level I of the language Recommendation by the 8th grade French, German or Spanish teacher |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

INNOVATION & CAREER PATHWAY DIVISION HEAD:

MS. NICOLE JENSEN

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT & WELLNESS DIVISION HEAD:

MR. TODD GREGORY

The Innovation & Career Pathways Division and the Physical Development & Wellness Division do not have specific placement criteria for rising freshmen. Specific information about the course opportunities provided for students can be found in the LZHS Program of Studies, located on the LZHS Academics Webpage, or by scanning the QR code below.

