TRANSITION PROGRAM
JANUARY 18, 2024

- Mike Johnson, Ed.D., Lower Merion HS
- Scott Weinstein, Harriton HS
- Karen deFranco, Lower Merion HS
- Steph Graziosi-Hibbs, Ed.D., Harriton HS
Principals’ Welcome

This presentation will be available on the LMSD website.
AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
  - 9th-Grade Teaming
  - Partnership
  - Transition Dates
  - Course Selection Process
  - 9th-Grade Curriculum Overview
  - Resources and Support
  - High School Schedule
  - Special Programs
  - FAQs
# Administrative Team Structure

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower Merion High School</th>
<th>Harriton High School</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Principal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Johnson</td>
<td>Scott Weinstein</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 9</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Kilpatrick</td>
<td>Stu Warshawer</td>
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Last Names A – L

Last Names M - Z
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<td>Dani London</td>
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Students in high-achieving schools are now named an ‘at-risk’ group, study says

By Jennifer Breheny Wallace
September 26
Emerging research is finding that students in “high-achieving schools” — public and private schools with high standardized test scores, varied extracurricular and academic offerings, and graduates who head off to top colleges… are experiencing higher rates of behavioral and mental health problems compared with national norms.

does this sound familiar?

… are experiencing higher rates of behavioral and mental health problems compared with national norms.
Adolescents who believed that both of their parents valued character traits as much as or more than achievement exhibited better outcomes at school, greater mental health and less rule-breaking behavior than peers who believed their parents were primarily achievement-minded, the researchers found.
Course Selection Night

1/31/24 LMHS
2/1/24 HHS
KEEP CALM AND Enjoy High School
It is our mission that all ninth grade students are known to a team of teachers and are appropriately placed in challenging courses with systemic support to encourage academic and emotional success, especially during the transition years between middle school and high school. Teams are comprised of professionals from the following areas: English, Global Studies, Biology, Special Education, Counseling and Administration.
To provide a supportive learning environment that encourages achievement by:

- Providing team support to encourage personal and academic connections between teachers, students and families.
- Forming positive academic and social relationships between students of all ethnic backgrounds.
- Increasing communication between the triangle of parent/student/teacher.
- Easing transition from Middle School to High School through research based instructional teaming appropriate for 9th grade students.
- Improving student achievement through personalization and focused discussions about student learning.
AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- 9th-Grade Teaming
- Partnership
  - Transition Dates
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  - 9th-Grade Curriculum Overview
  - Resources and Support
  - High School Schedule
  - Special Programs
  - FAQs
Essential Partners: Parents & School
The ABC’s of High School Success

• **Think Big - Start Small**
  - Achievement
    - GPA begins Grade 9
    - Get and Stay Organized
    - Improve Study Skills
  - Behavior
    - Participate
    - Self advocate
  - Community Building & Communicate
    - Teachers
    - School Counselor
    - Advisory teachers
    - Email

HELP YOUR CHILD TRANSITION

Middle School  High School

Root for involvement:
Encourage your teen to join a club, a sports team or an afterschool activity. Inclusion can boost self-confidence.

LISTEN TO YOUR CHILD
Ask open ended questions.

Show support
Get familiar with their new class schedule and their teachers.
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January/February Transition Dates

- **January 18: Presentation** meeting for parents and guardians of current 8th grade students, regardless of current middle school or next year’s high school. Topics will be geared toward the specific 9th grade program and course options.

- **January 26: School Choice Deadline**

- **January 31: High school email** to include parent letter, individualized course selection sheet and course offerings as presented in the Program Planning Guide
January/February Transition Dates – cont.

- **January 31**  Lower Merion High School Course Selection Night
- **February 1** Harriton High School Course Selection Night

Course selection information for all parents of students who will be in grades 9-12 during the 2024-2025 school year. Administrators, School Counselors and Department Chairs will provide information regarding the course selection process, available courses and 4 year planning.
February Transition Dates

2/5 – 2/22: Online course selection portal opens for all rising 9th grade students. Portal opens at 7:30 AM on 2/5/24 and closes at 7:30 AM on 2/22/24

2/12: HHS counselors meet with BR 8th graders

2/13: LMHS counselors meet with BC 8th graders
HHS counselors meet with WV 8th graders

2/14: LMHS counselors meet with WV 8th graders
HHS counselors meet with BC 8th graders

2/20: LMHS counselors meet with BR 8th graders
Spring and Summer Transition Dates

MAY 23, 2024
Move Up Day

8th graders visit the high schools that they will be attending as 9th grade students. Students will get an opportunity to meet with athletic and activities sponsors, tour the school, and discuss high school with upperclassmen mentors.

August 28, 2024
Student & Parent Orientations

As the 2024-2025 school year approaches, the high schools are planning to provide student and parent orientations in late August. The purpose of these orientations will be to help students and parents become familiar with what to expect at the high school level and to answer any questions that might have arisen over the summer.
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Recommendations are made collaboratively by 8th grade teams and high school staff.

In making these recommendations the teams consider:

- Current progress
- Grade 7 PSSA scores in math and reading
- DRP scores (Degrees of Reading Power)
- PA Holistic Writing Rubric Score
- Teacher rating based on preparation for class, classwork, self advocacy and independence as a learner
- Overall course load
Middle School teams make recommendations for content area courses and levels
High School teams review the recommendations
Beginning February 5–22 you can review the recommended core courses on PowerSchool
Program Planning Guide will be available on the high school websites
Parents and students review course of study and register online for electives
High School counselors meet with middle school students to review course selections and to answer any questions
Course Levels

College Preparatory

The college preparatory level applies to required and elective courses that are designed for most students. College Prep courses are appropriate for students preparing for college. Expectations for achievement are maintained at a challenging level for the typical academic.

Honors

Courses designated honors level are rigorous courses, both required and elective courses for which prerequisites have been defined. Expectations for student achievement are maintained at a level to challenge the most academically able students.
Advanced Placement (AP)

Courses designated Advanced Placement follow the specific curriculum guidelines of the College Board’s Advanced Placement Program. Advanced Placement serves three groups: students who wish to pursue college level studies while still in high school, schools that desire to offer these opportunities, and colleges that wish to encourage and recognize such achievement. Students are encouraged to take the College Board’s Advanced Placement Exam at the end of an Advanced Placement Course.
International Baccalaureate (IB)

Courses designated International Baccalaureate follow the specific curriculum guidelines of the IB curriculum. Students must be accepted into the IB program in order to enroll in the IB Diploma program. However, students may enroll in select IB electives which are available to non-IB students. IB is offered at Harriton High School only.
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9th Grade Course of Study

- English 1
- Global Studies 1
- Biology
- Integrated Math 1/ 2/ 3
- World Language
- One Full Year Elective/Two Semester Electives
Annotation, close reading, and analysis of both fiction and non-fiction text.

Improving Writing skills.

A focus on literary analysis research, and some argument and synthesis skills.

Graded discussion & debates.

Participation is very important (in and outside of the classroom 😊).
Global Studies 1

UNITS OF STUDY

- **Foundations**: The skills of the historian & application of historical inquiry.
- **Regional Development**: How an area of the world unites & creates a distinct region.
- **Expanding Zones of Exchange & Encounter**: How regions of the world unite.
- **Contact**: The roots of globalization.
- **The Great Global Convergence**: How the world became a global society.
Biology

Topics of Study

- Scientific Method
- Characteristics of Life
- Basics of Biochemistry
- Cell Structure & Function
- Mitosis & Meiosis
- DNA, Genetics & Inheritance
- Evolution & Natural Selection
- Ecology & Environmental Science
Mathematics

COURSE OFFERINGS

- Integrated Math 1 (College Prep)
- Integrated Math 2 (College Prep/Honors)
- Integrated Math 3 (College Prep or Honors)
9th Grade World Languages

- French
- Latin
- Spanish
Unified Arts
Electives Offerings

**Full Year Electives:**
- Music
- AP Computer Science Principles
- 9th Grade Art Honors

**Half Year Electives:**
- Art
- Engineering Technology
- Computer Aided Draft & Design
- Computer Science 1H and 2H
- Family & Consumer Science
- Foundation of Business/Entrepreneurship
- Foundations of Engineering & Design
- Innovation & Invention/Robotics
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Resources and Support

- Interdisciplinary Teams
- Laptop computers
- Lab courses
- **Lunch and Learn**: This is 60 minutes during the middle of the school day. Students have 30 minutes to eat lunch and 30 minutes to work with teachers and/or peers on academics.
- **Learning Center**: The Learning Center is open at both high schools from 7:30am-2:40pm. It is staffed with teachers from all major subject areas. Students may come in and meet with a teacher to have specific questions answered regarding a variety of academic concerns.
- **NHS tutors**: Students may sign up to meet with an NHS tutor in a specific subject. This peer tutoring occurs during Lunch & Learn or a study hall. Students may see their counselors for more information.
Resources and Support

- **Academic Enrichment**: Students must be recommended by a teacher to be placed in Academic Enrichment after school. Students work individually or in small groups in math/science or history/English or World Language.

- **College Access Counselor**: Ms. Misty Whelan is available at HHS and Mr. Jared Epler is available at LMHS to provide one-on-one support regarding the college search process. It is recommended that the student first meet with his/her counselor and then follow up with Ms. Whelan or Mr. Epler.

- **Wellness Counselor**: A counselor is available at both high schools to provide one-on-one support regarding a variety of wellness issues including but not limited to peer interactions, stress, mental health concerns, etc.

- **SCATE (School Counselor and Transition Experience)**: SCATE involves group guidance sessions that are tailored to each grade level and occur throughout the school year.
Summer School

When: 6/17 – 8/2 for on-line courses
     6/24 – 8/1 for in person courses

Time: 8:00-12:30

Location: Lower Merion High School

Offering for students entering Grade 9:

- Biology College Prep/Honors: in-person or online
- Credit Recovery: online only
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<td>Advisory</td>
<td>Matta, Vanessa M</td>
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ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

▪ Over 60 activities and 30 sports with various levels
▪ Organizations range from service (build On) to our theatre organizations….there is something for EVERYONE!
▪ Golf and Football begins on August 5th
▪ All other Fall sports begin August 12th Students interested in a Fall sport (football, soccer, field hockey, cross country, girl’s tennis, girl’s volleyball, cheerleading, & golf) will have an opportunity in the Spring to speak with coaches and current players.
AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- 9th-Grade Teaming
- Partnership
- Transition Dates
- Course Selection Process
- 9th-Grade Curriculum Overview
- Resources and Support
- High School Schedule

Special Programs

FAQs
WHAT IS THE LMSD DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM?

- Opportunity for juniors and seniors at both high schools to earn college credit from Gwynedd Mercy University.
- Courses are included on the high school and college transcripts for a student.
- Students experience college level business courses while in high school.
- Courses are taught during the regular scheduled school day.
- Courses are taught by LMSD teachers.
DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES AND TIMELINES

**Year 1**

**Fall**- DE Introduction to Business Seminar

**Spring**- DE Introduction to Marketing

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**Year 2**

**Fall**- DE Accounting

**Spring**- DE Principles of Management

*Recommended sequence*
BUT MY CHILD IS NOT A JUNIOR OR SENIOR…

Incoming Freshman students who may be interested in these courses should sign up for

*Foundations of Business* or *Entrepreneurship*

as an elective for the **2024-2025** school year.
International Baccalaureate Program

- Two-year program for juniors and seniors that leads to an internationally recognized high school diploma.

- Integrated, interdisciplinary curriculum with a focus on developing critical thinking.

Tom O’Brien, IB Coordinator
610-658-3958
obrient@lmsd.org
AGENDA

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- FAQs
- How many honors classes should my child take?
- What is the difference between the schools?
- What should my student do now to be ready?
THANK YOU!

If you have any additional questions you can contact:

Steph Graziosi-Hibbs Harriton High School at grazioso@lmsd.org

Karen deFranco Lower Merion High School at defrank@lmsd.org