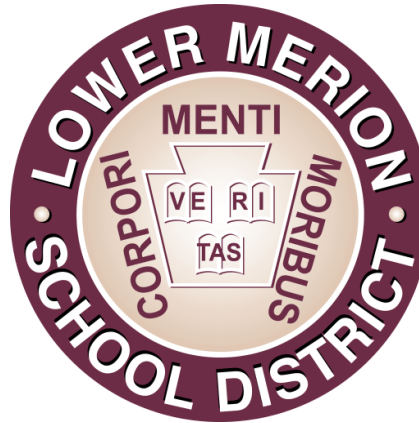


# **TRANSITION PROGRAM**

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**JANUARY 16, 2025**

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- **Stuart Warshawer, Harriton HS**
- **Mike Johnson, Ed.D., Lower Merion HS**
  - **Karen deFranco, Lower Merion HS**
- **Steph Graziosi-Hibbs, Ed.D., Harriton HS**



# Principals' Welcome



This presentation will be available online.

# AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- 9<sup>th</sup>-Grade Teaming
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# Administrative Team Structure

Lower Merion High School	
Principal	Mike Johnson, Ed.D.
Grade 9	Karen deFranco
Grade 10	Lauren Hopkins, Ed.D.
Grade 11	Olufemi Fadeyibi, Ed.D.
Grade 12	Jon Fadely

Harriton High School	
Principal	Stuart Warshawer
Grade 9	Steph Graziosi-Hibbs, Ed.D.
Grades 10 – 12 Last Names A – L	Lauren Marcuson
Grades 10 – 12 Last Names M - Z	Patrick Snyder



# High School Student Services Department

## Lower Merion High School

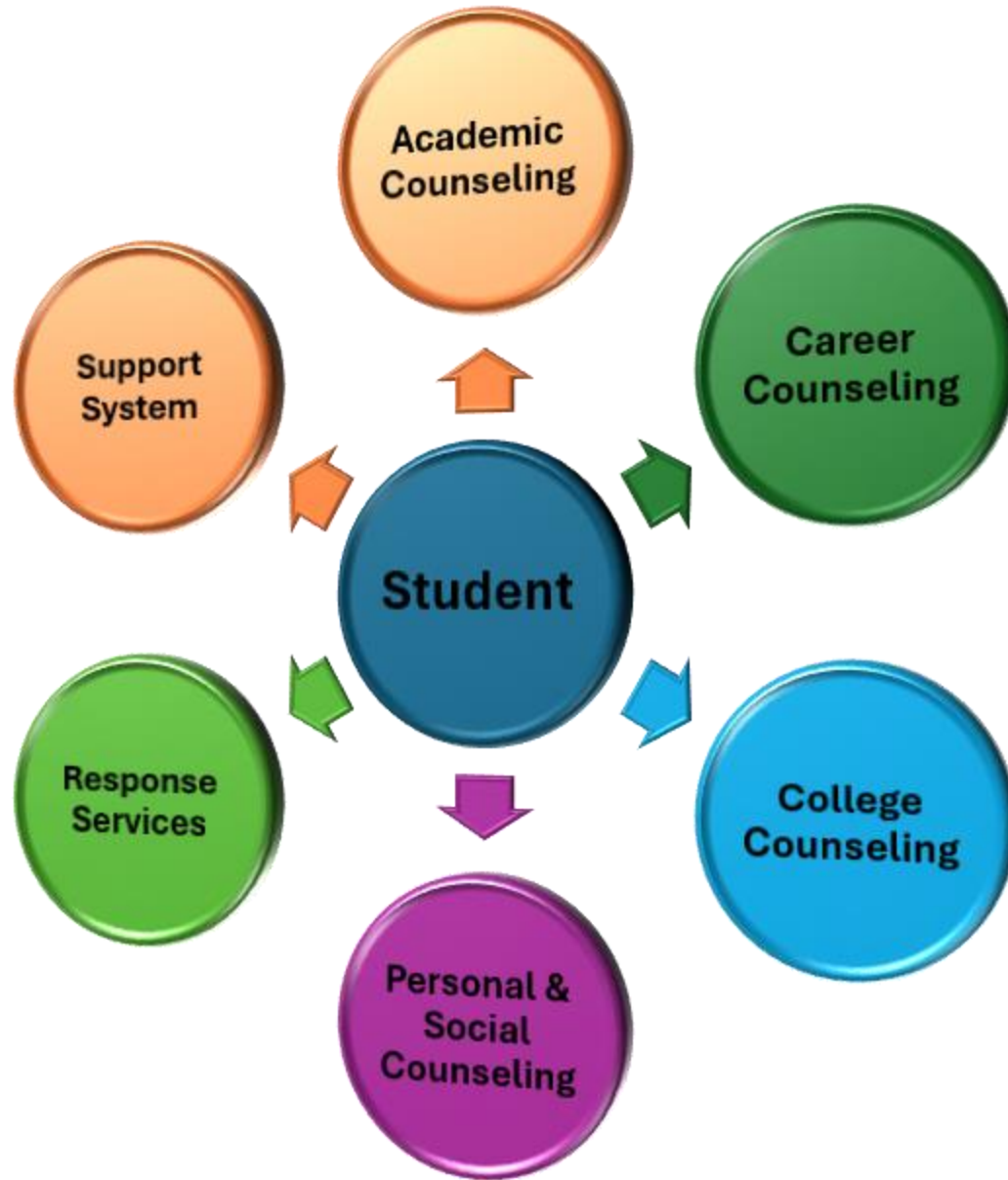
Last Names A – Buc	Tasha Gesacion
Last names Bue-Fo	DonEl Brown
Last Names Fr – Hu	Marsha Rosen
Last Names Hw-Lu	Miriam Collins
Last names Lun-Pea	Gene Werley
Last Names Pep-So	Eli Skinner
Last Names Sp – Z	Jennifer Vallieres
Health and Wellness	Caroline Stief
Career & College Access Counselor	Jared Epler
School Psychologist	Lynne Malara
Social Worker	JoAnn Montalvo Anne Hensel

## Harriton High School

Last Names A – D	Dani London
Last Names D – K	Barbara Serratore
Last Names K – M	Genevieve Waldman
Last names M – S	Allison Bowman
Last Names S - Z	Mike Mallozzi
Health and Wellness	Jared Bland
Career & College Access Counselor	Korey Bell
School Psychologist	Sarah Brodrick
Social Worker	Mara Manfre



# Student Services



# CHALLENGE SUCCESS



Stanford  
University



# The Washington Post

Students in high-achieving schools are now named an 'at-risk' group, study says

By **Jennifer Breheny Wallace**

September 26



Denise Pope





# The Washington Post

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

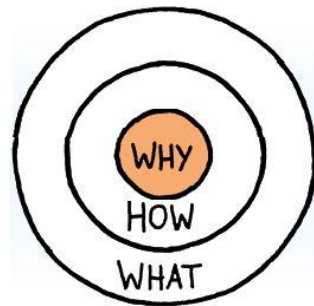
does this sound  
*Familiar?*

... are experiencing higher rates of behavioral and mental health problems compared with national norms.

# The Washington Post

By Jennifer Breheny Wallace  
September 26

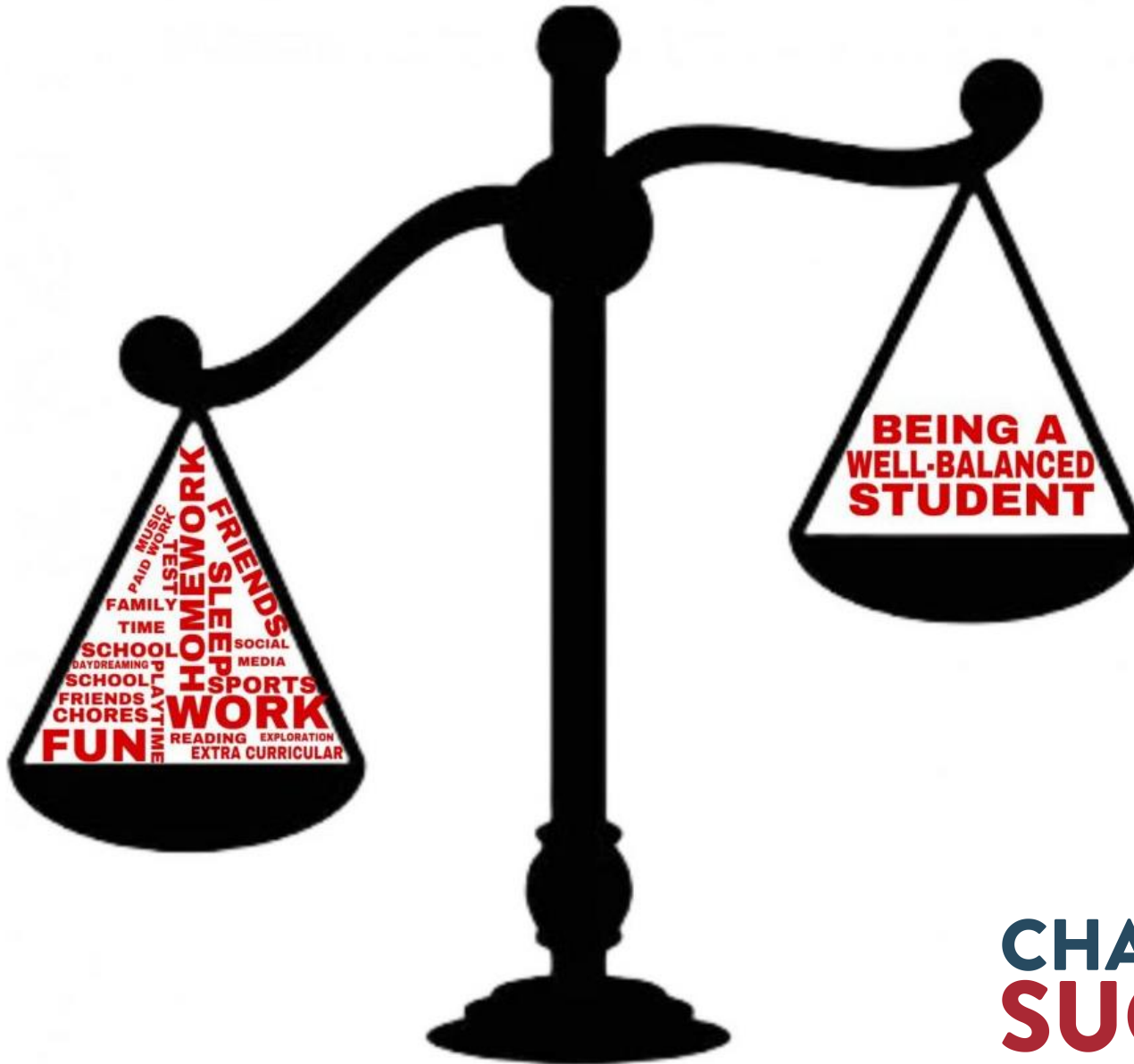
Adolescents who believed that both of their parents valued character traits as much as or more than achievement exhibited better outcomes at school, greater mental health and less rule-breaking behavior than peers who believed their parents were primarily achievement-minded, the researchers found.



# Course Selection Night

1/28/25 LMHS

1/30/25 HHS



**CHALLENGE**  
**SUCCESS**

# AGENDA

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KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
Enjoy  
High School

High School

# Mission

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.





# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Goals

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 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Improving student achievement through personalization and focused discussions about student learning.

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***Essential Partners: Parents & School***

# The ABC's of High School Success

## Think Big - Start Small



- **A**chievement

- GPA begins Grade 9
- Get and Stay Organized
- Improve Study Skills

- **B**ehavior

- Participate
- Self advocate



## Root for involvement:

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

- **C**ommunity Building & Communication

- Teachers
- School Counselor
- Advisory teachers
- Email

"How's it going?" "What have you been learning?"

**LISTEN TO YOUR CHILD**  
Ask open ended questions.

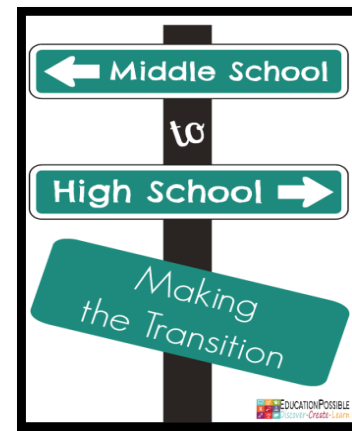
**Show support**  
Get familiar with their new class schedule and their teachers.

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# January/February Transition Dates



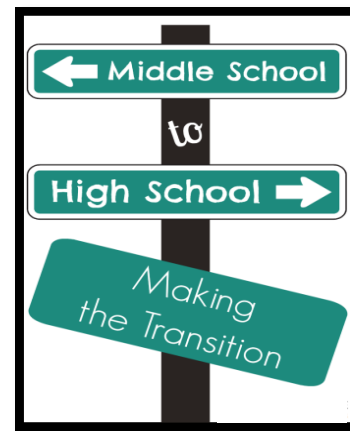
**January 16: Presentation** meeting for parents and guardians of current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, regardless of current middle school or next year's high school. Topics will be geared toward the specific 9<sup>th</sup> grade program and course options.

**January 31: 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

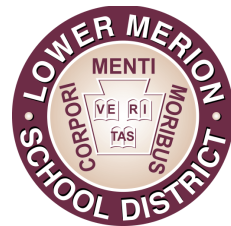


# January/February Transition Dates – cont.



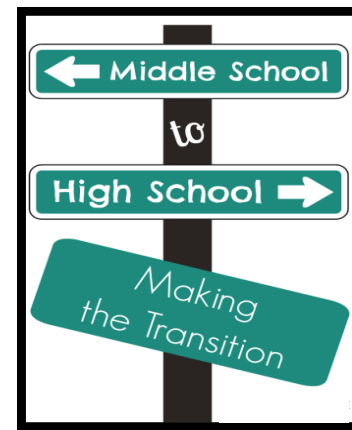
- **January 28** Lower Merion High School Course Selection Night
- **January 30** Harriton High School Course Selection Night

Course selection information for all parents of students who will be in grades 9-12 during the 2025-2026 school year. Administrators, School Counselors and Department Chairs will provide information regarding the course selection process, available courses and 4-year planning.

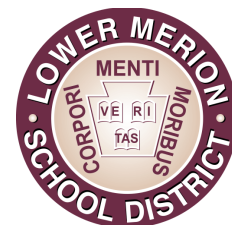


# February Transition Dates

**January 31 – February 10. Online course selection opens**



February 10	HHS counselors to BRMS
February 11	LMHS counselors to BCMS
February 11	HHS counselors to WVMS
February 12	LMHS counselors to WVMS
February 12	HHS counselors to BCMS
February 18	LMHS counselors to BRMS

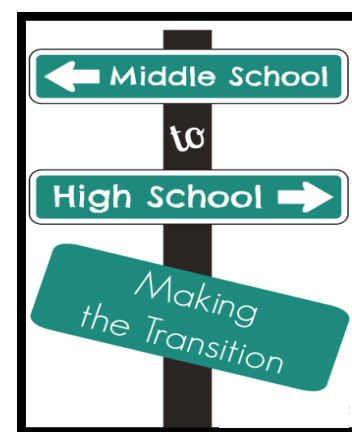


# Spring and Summer Transition Dates



**MAY 22**

**Move Up Day**



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

**Last Week in August – Date TBD**

**Student & Parent Orientations**

As the 2025-2026 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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



# Course Selection Process

It's time to select your courses for next year!



- Middle School teams make recommendations for content area courses and levels
- High School teams review the recommendations
- Beginning **January 30 – February 10** 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



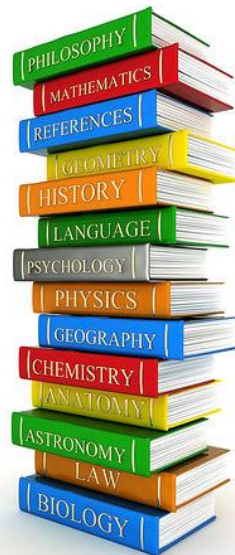
# Course Levels

## 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 student.

## 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.



# Course Levels

## 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.



# Course Levels



## 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 Harrington High School only.



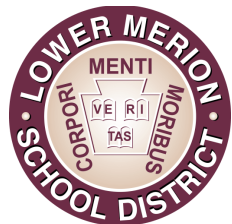
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# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Course of Study

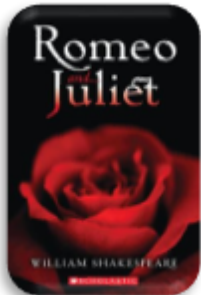
- ❑ English 1
- ❑ Global Studies 1
- ❑ Biology
- ❑ Integrated Math 1/ 2/ 3
- ❑ World Language
- ❑ One Full Year Elective/Two Semester Electives



# English 9

## Skills

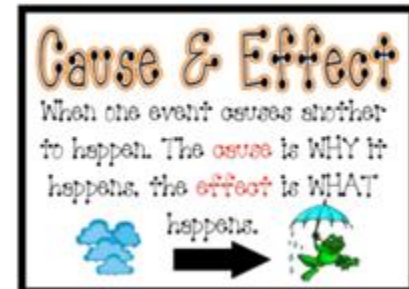
- ❑ Annotation, close reading, and analysis of both fiction and non-fiction text.
- ❑ Improving Writing skills.
- ❑ A focus on literary analysis research, and some argument and synthesis skills.
- ❑ Graded discussion & debates.
- ❑ Participation is very important (in and outside of the classroom 😊).



# 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

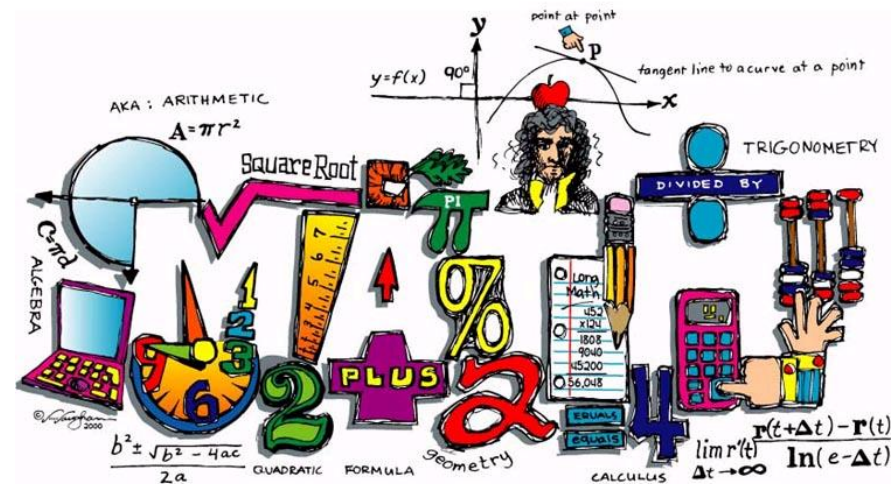
- Scientific Method
- Characteristics of Life
- Basics of Biochemistry
- Cell Structure & Function
- Mitosis & Meiosis
- DNA, Genetics & Inheritance
- Evolution & Natural Selection
- Ecology & Environmental Science



# Mathematics

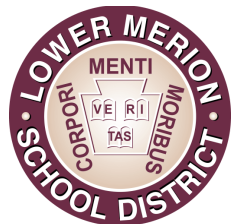
## COURSE OFFERINGS

- Integrated Math 1 (College Prep)
- Integrated Math 2 (College Prep/Honors)
- Integrated Math 3 (College Prep or Honors)



# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade World Languages

- French
- Latin
- Spanish



# Unified Arts Electives Offerings



## ***Full Year Electives:***

- Music
- AP Computer Science Principles
- 9<sup>th</sup> 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 8:30am-3:15pm. 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.



# Resources and Support

- ❑ **Career & College Access Counselor:** Mr. Korey Bell 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 Mr. Bell 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.
- ❑ **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.





# Summer School



**When: June 20 – July 31**

**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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# Bell Schedule



## 2024-25 Schedule



Set	A	Set	B	Set	C	Set	D
1	8:30-9:20 50 min	4	8:30-9:25 55 min	3	8:30-9:25 55 min	2	8:30-9:25 55 min
2	9:25-10:14 49 min	1	9:30-10:23 53 min	4	9:30-10:23 53 min	3	9:30-10:23 53 min
	10:19 – 10:39 <b>*ADVISORY* 20 min</b>	2	10:28-11:21 53 min	1	10:28-11:21 53 min	4	10:28-11:21 53 min
3	10:44 – 11:33 49 min		<b>LUNCH AND LEARN</b> 11:21 – 12:21 60 min		<b>LUNCH AND LEARN</b> 11:21 – 12:21 60 min		<b>LUNCH AND LEARN</b> 11:21 – 12:21 60 min
	<b>LUNCH AND LEARN</b> 11:33 – 12:33 60 min						
5	12:38 – 1:27 49 min	8	12:26– 1:19 53 min	7	12:26– 1:19 53 min	6	12:26– 1:19 53 min
6	1:32 – 2:21 49 min	5	1:24 – 2:17 53 min	8	1:24 – 2:17 53 min	7	1:24 – 2:17 53 min
7	2:26 – 3:15 49 min	6	2:22 – 3:15 53 min	5	2:22 – 3:15 53 min	8	2:22 – 3:15 53 min

# Sample Student Schedule

SET	A	SET	B	SET	C	SET	D
1	Integrated Math 2	4	Spanish 2	3	Study Hall	2	English 1H
2	English 1H	1	Integrated Math 2	4	Spanish 2	3	Study Hall
Adv	Advisory		X		X		X
3	Study Hall	2	English 1H	1	Integrated Math 2	4	Spanish 2
L&L	Lunch & Learn		Lunch & Learn		Lunch & Learn		Lunch & Learn
5	Global Studies 1H	8	Biology H Lab	7	Biology H	6	Film/Photo 1
6	Film/Photo 1	5	Global Studies 1	8	Academic Seminar	7	Biology H
7	Biology H	6	Film/Photo 1	5	Global Studies 1	8	Phys. Ed



# Sample Student Schedule

Exp	Trm	Crs-Sec	Course Name	Teacher	Room
1(A-D) 2(D)	20-21	03150102-1	Integrated Math 1	Grace, Erin M	229
2(A)	S1	08110100-19	9th Grade PE Fall	Roeder, Shari	1
2(A)	S2	08010220-40	Phys Ed 2nd Semester	Michaud, Kyrie	1
2(B) 3(A-D)	20-21	04010303-9	Biology H	Hamaker, JoAnna	221
4(A-D)	20-21	01010202-3	English 1	Schwartz, Matthew	315
5(A-D)	S1	11020100-5	Foods and Nutrition 1	Dawson, Jennifer Joy	116
5(A)	S2	17020300-5510	Study Hall Spring	Kilpatrick, Glenn Scott	144
5(B)	S2	17020300-5511	Study Hall Spring	Kilpatrick, Glenn Scott	144
5(C)	S2	17020300-5512	Study Hall Spring	Kilpatrick, Glenn Scott	144
6(A-D)	20-21	05010903-4	French 2 H	Clarke, Mary Samantha	117
7(A-D)	20-21	02010413-5	Global Studies 1 H	Reed, Thomas	301
8(B)	S1	17020200-343	Study Hall Fall	Stiebitz, Laura	313
8(B-D)	S2	09010200-4	Entrepreneurship	Seibert, Scott James	333
8(C)	S1	17020200-5496	Study Hall Fall	Vinci, David M	216
8(D)	S1	17020200-151	Study Hall Fall	I	
9(A-D)	20-21	17110100-912	Advisory	I	

# ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

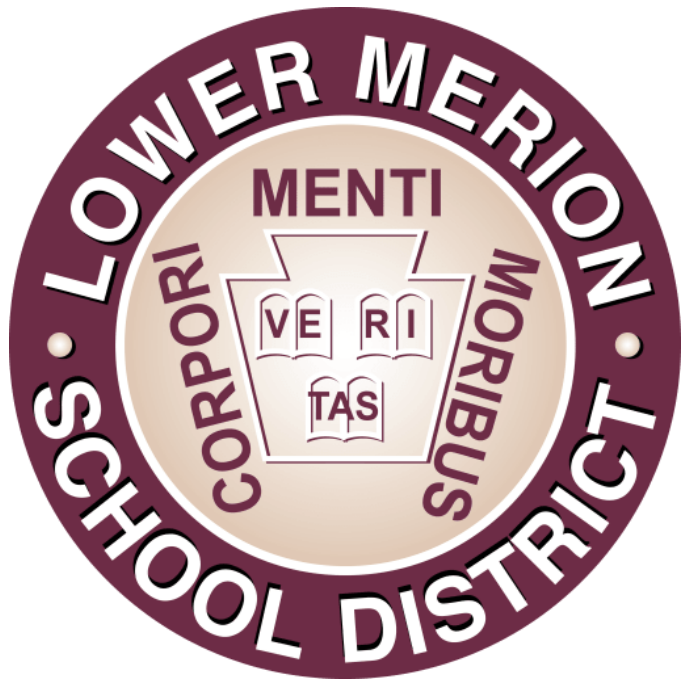
- Over 60 activities and 30 sports with various levels
- Organizations range from service (build On) to our theatre organizations....there is something for **EVERYONE!**
- **Golf and Football begins on August 4<sup>th</sup>**
- All other Fall sports begin **August 11<sup>th</sup>** Students interested 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.



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# 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.



# Why Dual Enrollment?

- Offers a unique opportunity to begin accumulating college credit while in high school.
- Gives students a chance to explore an area of academic interest at a high level.
- Grants a college transcript from the university.
- Transfers credits to other colleges and universities.
  - Students are strongly advised to consult with the institution of their choice to determine transferability of credits earned as a dual enrollment student.
- Reduces tuition cost, \$400 per 3 credit course.
  - Assistance will be provided to those who demonstrate financial need.





# Dual Enrollment Courses and Timelines

## Year 1

**Fall-** DE Introduction to  
Business Seminar

**Spring-** DE Introduction  
to Marketing

## 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 2025-2026 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](mailto:obrient@lmsd.org)



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- How many honors classes should my child take?
- How many study halls should a student have?
- What courses can students take in the summer?
- What is the difference between the schools?



THANK  
YOU!

If you have any additional questions you can contact:

**Steph Graziosi-Hibbs, Ed.D., Harriton High School at [grazios@lmsd.org](mailto:grazios@lmsd.org)**

**Karen deFranco, Lower Merion High School at [defrank@lmsd.org](mailto:defrank@lmsd.org)**

