LHS Course Request – Q & A

1. For a student interested in applying to the Career & Technology Center for their Culinary program, would taking Intro to Foods (½ credit elective) at LHS be required or recommended?
    a. Intro to Foods is not a requirement / prerequisite to the culinary program at CCCTC however it would be an excellent introduction to concepts found in the culinary program. Intro to foods would address various concepts such as calories, carbohydrates, proper hygiene as well as use of cutting implements in labs.
2. What should I do if we are new to the school district?
    a. Please reach out to our registrar (Ms. Shimoda) at Liberty High School during regular business hours. 410.751.3560 She can assist with paperwork associated with registering not only with CCPS but with Liberty High School as well and can coordinate a meeting with the school counselor.
3. Can 9th graders take AP Computer Science?
    a. Yes. AP Computer Science Principles does meet the graduation requirement for Technology and realize it is a college level course.
4. What is the difference between AP Seminar, grade 10 and AP English?
    a. In the 10th grade students can choose between Basic English 10, Academic English 10, Honors English 10, or AP Capstone Seminar English. AP Seminar is the first of two English courses that are part of the AP Diploma program. Without getting too in depth, please know that as part of a comprehensive school counseling program, we will provide information to our 9th grade families in the 9th grade prior to making course requests for 10th grade.
5. Do students need to take two years of a foreign language to graduate and does the 8th grade Spanish count as one of those?
    a. Yes, 8th grade Spanish does count and will be listed on a student's high school transcript and will count towards their grade point average. The first part of the question asks "does a student have to take" – and the direct answer is no. The larger question however is what does the student plan to do after high school? Historically 89% to 91% of our students graduating indicate they plan to go to college. Our graduates are sharing with us that depending on the major and college, they are being asked to take several credits of a world language when they get to college. So, if the student is planning to go to college, we need at least two credits of the same language (and more often is recommended) and if not, then an alternate completer is needed.
6. What is the process for any students who are interested in "skipping" Art I?
    a. A student must submit a portfolio to be reviewed by the Liberty HS Art department team. The portfolio is rather extensive and would represent the work and skills developed in Art I. The deadline to complete is sooner rather than later, because once the high school schedule is created, it may be difficult to change from one time slot (offering Art I) to another (Honors Art II) within the schedule. Point of Contact would be the Art Department Chairperson, Mrs. Lauren Latane (LTLatan@carrollk12.org) who can provide details to specific requirements of the portfolio review.

7. Is the Interactive Media Program at Liberty or another school?
    a. The completer program titled "Interactive Media Production" is classified as a regional program, however, is currently scheduled to be offered at Liberty. It encompasses 4 credits and requires three courses. The first two classes are offered and taught at Liberty High School. Both Honors Principles of Art, Media, and Communication as well as Honors Interactive Multimedia Production are both one credit each and taught here at LHS. The final capstone course is a 2-credit course titled Advanced Interactive Multimedia Production and may be housed at Century High School. Students from South Carroll & Liberty would join students at Century High School in this final course with transportation provided by CCPS.
8. If a student is taking Honors Algebra in 8th grade for high school credit, what would they take in HS?
    a. The next sequential math course for our students would be Honors Geometry.
9. What courses meet the Technology graduation requirement?
    a. Students can take Foundations of Technology, Exploring Computer Science, or AP Computer Science Principles.
10. What are the GPA requirements for athletes to participate in high school sports.
    a. To start, all 8th grade students beginning 9th grade are eligible to participate. Once the student is in high school, athletic eligibility is calculated quarterly and students must have a 2.0 grade point average or higher with no F's. Fall athletics begin mid-August.
11. Can a student take a placement test to test out of Geometry and into Algebra II in the 9th grade?
    a. To earn a high school diploma from the State of Maryland, students are required to take Algebra, Geometry and additional credits that are 1 credit in duration and selected from the program of studies mathematics course offerings. Carroll County Public Schools does not offer CLEP or credit by exam for courses. There are opportunities to jump into higher course offerings such as a native speaker in a world language course or as previously stated in the Art department, however it does not exempt the graduation requirement.
12. What grade can students begin taking Dual Enrollment College courses?
    a. Theoretically any grade. Students in grades 9 & 10 currently are not able to take graduation requirement coursework, will be considered on a case-by-case basis would require both a school counselor and principal recommendation. Additionally, placement testing at the community college will be needed. Students in grades 11 & 12 require an unweighted grade point average of 3.0 and at least 94% attendance. Although it is an option for our 9th, 10th, and 11th graders, we find that it is typically our 12th graders that take advantage of dual enrollment due to transportation to the community college. (CCPS does not provide transportation.) Next year, we are offering three Dual Enrollment courses here at Liberty High School, which is very convenient for our students who are participating in extra-curricular activities. All courses are taught by LHS teachers who are considered adjunct professors for CCC. English 101 which meets the senior English graduation requirement. Math 121 which meets the senior Math graduation requirement and is typically taken after Algebra II and before Pre-Calculus. Finally, the third offering will be Theater 101, which is an introductory theater course.

13. If the middle school recommendation is for one level, but the student wants to go for a higher-level course, how do we indicate it?
    a. If, for example, a student is recommended for Honors Government and would like to take AP US Government, both student and parent would check the course they wish to take and sign off at the bottom of the request form. It might be suggested that a parent discuss with the "recommending" (ORMS) teacher why the course level was recommended. Prior to winter break, ORMS teachers were appraised of specific expectations from various course levels at Liberty High school.
14. What is a completer program?
    a. A completer (required to earn a high school diploma) is a specific set of courses designed to help students prepare for what they plan to do after high school. Examples could include courses at CCCTC or several which are offered at Liberty. The one that most students refer to as the "College" Completer is officially titled "University System of Maryland" completer and requires 5 credits: Two years of the same World Language in addition to Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 minimally.
15. Does CCPS offer a seal of biliteracy?
    a. We do offer this opportunity for our students, and it is coordinated through our World Languages department. Simply put, it is a seal affixed to the Maryland High School diploma that signifies that a graduate can function in two or more languages and has a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing English as well as one or more additional languages.
16. What do you suggest for a student who does not have strong inclinations towards one career pathway or another?
    a. We would suggest focusing on meeting graduation requirements. Making sure that beyond the required English, Social Studies, Science and Math, a student is selecting a fine art along with physical education and health. Without a particular direction, this can quickly fill up a schedule for a student. Once here at Liberty High school, they will use their advisory time to begin doing some career assessments, career inventories as well as researching various career options. These are valuable pieces to the puzzle as school counselors have conversations with students regarding "Who are you, and what direction are you headed?" and plan out 10th grade, etc.
17. What is JROTC?
    a. JROTC is officially titled LET (Leadership Education Training) and is a regional program housed at Century High school. Students from South Carroll, Liberty, and Century all participate in JROTC at Century High School with transportation provided by CCPS for students. It is a class taught during the school day and is a completer program for our students. Classroom instruction on history, customs, traditions, and purpose of Army ROTC. Students will be provided with a Class A uniform (with inspections) and will participate in PT (physical training) as part of the course. Instructors are retired military personnel.
18. When do summer tryouts begin for Fall sports at Liberty?
    a. Typically, mid-August, usually the 10th, 12th, 15th of August depending on the 1st day of school.
19. Are you offering "Movement for Athletes" next year?
    a. We are not. Although the CCPS program of studies provides a comprehensive listing of all possible course offerings within CCPS, Liberty High School does not offer every course listed.

20. When would a student who is interested in a sport be able to try out?
    a. Again, the Fall sports would have tryouts beginning in early to mid-August, Winter sports have tryouts beginning November 15th and finally our Spring sports have tryouts starting March 1st.
21. The link to the program of studies is:
    a. https://www.carrollk12.org/fs/resource-manager/view/34521e2b-598d-4521-9d5f-47cbb415862f