

## 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade– Issaquah High School

We are excited to welcome our next batch of Eagles to the nest! We know that transitioning to high school can be both exciting and a bit nerve wracking for students and parents, especially if this is the first student in your family to enter high school.

***Please see our [informational flyer](#) about our 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Registration Nights, the first of a few events we have to help 8<sup>th</sup> graders transition to the high school. This is an evening program for both parents and students to learn about courses and make appropriate course requests for 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. We plan to highlight factors that impact your course selection, academic support options and most of the FAQs families and students have. Please see the details in the flyer. Please note that following the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Registration Nights we'll be posting the presentations and other resources on the website.***

***We have assigned various alpha groups to specific dates and times to allow for smaller breakout sessions with your student's counselor. We strongly urge you to attend your assigned session but realize that you may have conflicts. We can accommodate a few changes each night and ask if you need to attend on a night different than your assignment to meet in the library.***

After reading the flyer, you may feel you need to prepare. We assure you, you do not need to prepare anything prior to attending this event. You will have plenty of time to dig into all of the resources, ask questions and finalize decisions after our 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Registration Night.

However, we do know that some students and parents want to start digging in early. We have compiled a list of questions we typically get this time of year from families of 8<sup>th</sup> graders and so below are some options for you to look at:

- “Registration” for 9<sup>th</sup> grade is actually called Course Request Process at the high school. It is a time where we encourage conversations between students and their support networks, related to personal strengths and limitations, considering both academic ability & performance in addition to extracurricular activities & the demands on a student's time.
- We support a balanced approach to high school and beyond planning, and encourage students to participate in self-reflection prior to course selection each year. These conversations might include feedback from your student's current grades, grade trends, information from instructors past and present and advice you might solicit regarding challenge or rigor for your student in a certain subject moving forward.
- High School offers grade level and honors level coursework in many subject areas, however not every student is suited for honors level work across the board. Conversations about what might be the best approach for your 9<sup>th</sup> grader would be helpful to have sooner rather than later.

**Additional sources for information include:**

**[IHS Counseling Website](#)** – updated regularly with information related to the navigation of high school graduation planning and preparing for what your student intends to do after earning their diploma.

**Course Requests** - location of information that relates specifically to the selection of courses for each school year. This is where we house the course guide for each school year. This site currently still being updated, but All of the documents will be updated for the Class of 2029 by February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes** – Students will choose courses for 7 full periods. We are on semesters (the year divided in half) rather than trimesters that you experienced at the middle school. Some courses are yearlong classes (meaning they won't change at semester) and some will be only 1 semester so you'd take 2 semester long classes in the same period. See an example below:

	Semester 1	Semester 2
1 <sup>st</sup> period	Biology	
2 <sup>nd</sup> period	English	
3 <sup>rd</sup> period	World History	
4 <sup>th</sup> period	Health	PE
5 <sup>th</sup> period	PE	Visual Arts
6 <sup>th</sup> period	Algebra 1	
7 <sup>th</sup> period	Concert Band	

**Humanities (English & Social Studies)** - For 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, one thing to start thinking about is whether you will choose grade level or honors in humanities offerings. There are honors options for both English and Social Studies.

**Math** – Your 9<sup>th</sup> grade math level should be determined by your performance in your 8<sup>th</sup> grade math class. This is where some teacher feedback might be useful in making a selection for next year. High School graduation requirements include: 3.0 credits of math. Four year college admissions advisors will recommend those 3.0 credits include at minimum through Algebra 2. Most four year institutions also list a senior year quantitative course as an admissions requirement. This fourth credit of math would be an elective for high school graduation purposes, but an elective they are choosing to be prepared for their pathway after high school graduation. The course guide will offer a flow chart of choices with recommendations for pattern and sequence.

**Science** – Typically 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take Biology. The exception to that would be students already in Biology in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. If that is you – please consider the information in the course guide carefully as it relates to recommendations for science courses beyond biology. Please also consider the recommendations as they relate to the math level related to certain courses. There are times where we see students struggle in Chemistry (for example) because they are yet being instructed in content covered in Algebra 2. Additionally – the high school graduation requirement is 3.0 credits of science. Any student taking a fourth credit of science is 'electing' to take this course for their post high school pathway. The fourth credit would count toward the high school graduation requirement area 'elective'. The course guide will offer a flow chart of choices with recommendations for pattern and sequence.

**PE and Health** – The stated graduation requirement for health is .5 credit (one semester), and for PE is 1.5 credits (3 semesters). There are a few options for the completion of both health and PE – however those options will not have much relevance as it relates to course selection for grade 9. A majority of our students take health at IHS as part of the seven period day in grades 10-12. PE is a topic of many questions related to four year planning.

We look forward to working with all of you, as you navigate your first step in becoming Eagles!

Erin Connolly

Issaquah High School

Principal