

Welcome to PLMS!

Incoming 6th Grade Families

Course Request Process

for the 2025-2026 school year

Community* *Respect* *Excellence* *Discovery* *Integrity

Michelle Caponigro: Principal

Mike Deletis: Assistant Principal

Kristen Brittain: Counselor – Last Names (A - L)

Young Chang-Miller: Counselor – Last Names (M-Z)

Karen Hoetzel: Registrar

What is the Course Request Process?

- The course request process = how students and families request classes for the next school year.
- Students should request the class level that feels right for their **skills** and **learning goals**.
- In middle school, students can request electives classes based on what interests them. This supports our school's belief of *Discovery*.

Before requesting classes, ask your student to think about...

- What topics do I enjoy and want to learn more about?
- How much homework do I like to do/am I willing to do?
- What activities/time commitments do I have outside of school?

Reminder... Moving from elementary to middle school is a big change.

- **New & Changing People** – Meeting new teachers, students, and making new friends
- **New Rules & Routines** – Using lockers, classroom expectations, lunch, hallways, and more
- **New Places** – Learning your way around a new building
- **Becoming Independent** – Getting to class on time, talking to teachers, and taking responsibility for schoolwork

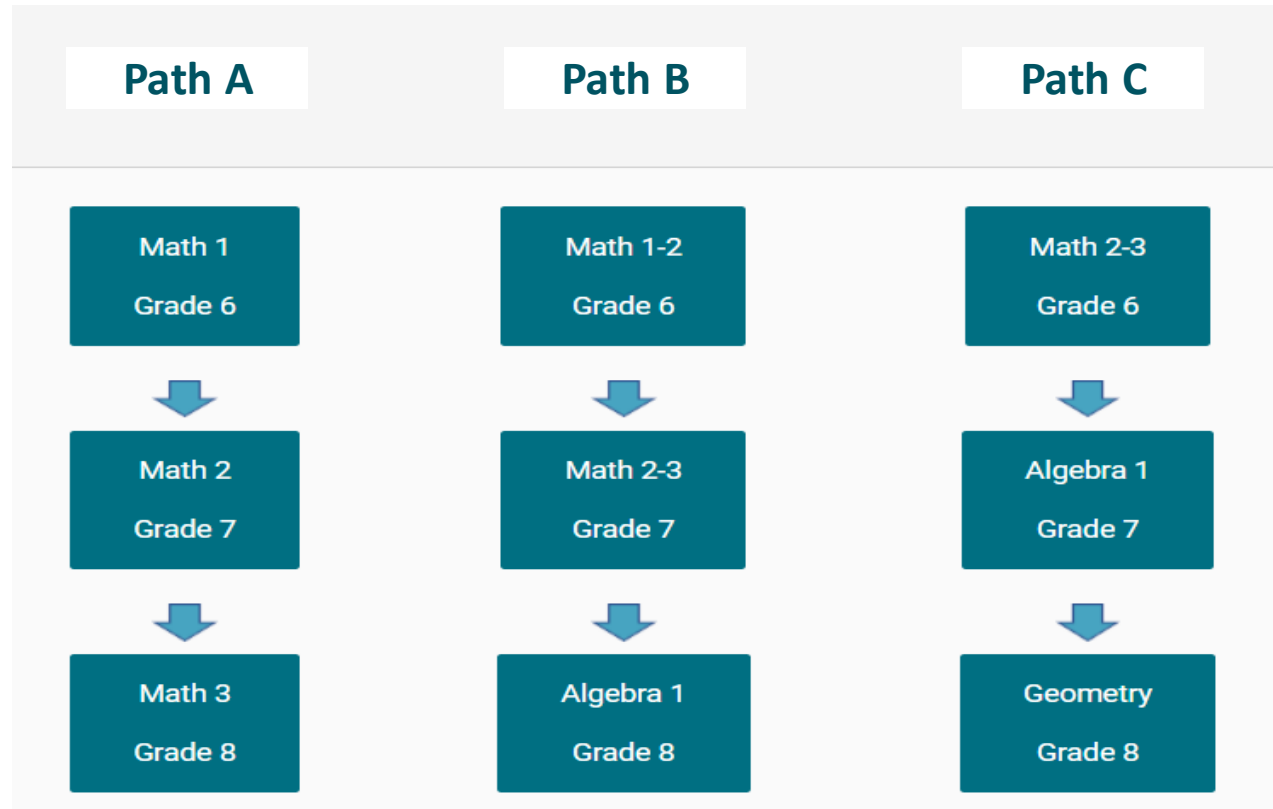
Sample Student Schedule

Period	Course
Homeroom	Community, Academic, and Social/Emotional Lessons (SEL)
1	Language Arts
2	Math
3	Science
Lunch	"A" Lunch for all 6th Graders
4	Social Studies
5	PE and Health Rotation
6	Elective (year-long or trimester electives)

Course Options

Subject	Courses
English Language Arts	Language Arts 6 <u>OR</u> Advanced Language Arts 6
Math	Math 1 <u>OR</u> Math 1-2 <u>OR</u> Math 2-3
Science	Life Science <u>OR</u> 7 th Grade Earth and Space Science
Social Studies	Social Studies
PE and Health	PE 6 / PE 6 / Health 6
Elective(s) Choose 1 year-long or 3 trimester-long electives	<u>One</u> year-long (e.g. Choir, Orchestra, Band) OR Intro to Woods, Art, and Computer Science 1

Middle School Math Pathways (Sarah Bluhm)



Standard

Compacted

Skipping & Compacted



Math Pathway A

(PACING MATCHES THE WASHINGTON STATE STANDARDS)

In 6th Grade register for...	Middle School	Common High School Path
Math 1	6th grade: Math 1 7th grade: Math 2 8th grade: Math 3	9th grade: Algebra 10th grade: Geometry 11th grade: Algebra 2 12th grade: Choice

Students will focus on
depth and proficiency of
grade level standards.

Math Pathway B

(COMPACTS MS MATH 1 THROUGH MS MATH 3 INTO TWO YEARS)

In 6th Grade register for...	Middle School	Common High School Path
Math 1-2	6th grade: Math 1-2 7th grade: Math 2-3 8th grade: Algebra 1	9th grade: Geometry 10th grade: Algebra 2 11th grade: Pre-Calculus 12th grade: Calculus

Recommendations for students in Pathway B:

- Strong understanding of 5th grade math content.
- Motivated to persevere through a challenging math course
- Emotionally mature to handle productive struggle and the demands of the course
- Level 3 and 4 grades in Math
- Level 3 or 4 on i-Ready and SBA assessments

Math Pathway C

(SKIPS 6TH GRADE MATH AND ½ OF 7TH GRADE MATH)

In 6th Grade register for...	Middle School	Common High School Path
Math 2-3	6th grade: Math 2-3 7th grade: Algebra 1 8th grade: Geometry	9th grade: Algebra 2 10th grade: Pre-Calculus 11th grade: Calculus AB 12th grade: Calculus BC

Recommendations for students in Pathway C:

- Displays **mastery** of the following concepts:
 - Integer, fraction, and decimal operations
 - Ratio relationships
 - Algebraic expressions
 - Intro to solving equations
 - Intro to linear relationships
- Motivated to persevere through a challenging math course
- Emotionally mature to handle productive struggle and the demands of the course
- Level 4 grades in 5th grade math
- Winter i-Ready Math score of 4.17 or higher knowledge of math 1-2 concepts.

Math Pathway D (PLACEMENT TEST REQUIRED)

In 6th Grade register for...	Middle School	Common High School Path*
Register for Math 2-3 <i>(must pass a placement test. Schedule will change if approved).</i>	6th grade: Algebra 1 7th grade: Geometry 8th grade: Algebra 2	9th grade: Statistics 10th grade: Pre-Calculus 11th grade: Calculus AB or IB Calculus 12th grade: Calculus AB or IB Calculus

PLACEMENT TEST REQUIRED

Please contact the district
office for further
information.

This path creates a GAP YEAR
when
students get to high school. (IB
Pathway)

English Language Arts

Students will explore diverse literary genres by exploring theme and character analysis.

Advanced LA:

- Covers more material and more in-depth than regular Language Arts.
- Both Language Arts options fully prepare students for 7th grade.
- An annual decision

Advanced Language Arts

Look for:

- They are curious learners, prepared to engage in a wide variety of reading and writing activities and are reflective in their observations
- Demonstrate *intrinsic* motivation & maturity
- Have strong study habits and organizational skills
- Have strong communication and reading skills
- Above grade level on the iReady & SBA

Considerations:

- Pace of class/course load and reading expectations are higher
- Grades may be lower if this as a stretch class for your student.

Advanced Language Arts

What students are best suited for Advanced Language Arts?

High achieving students who are self-motivated, organized, and willing to embrace a challenge would typically be successful in this class. This course requires higher volumes of reading and writing - so enjoying reading and writing is important.

Indicators:

- SBA ELA Score: Level 4.
- i-Ready reading score in 5th Grade above 4.00 and reading above grade level
- Report Card Grades in Reading and Writing: 4
- Really enjoys reading & writing
- Excellent study habits and organizational skills.
- Strong communication
- Motivation, maturity, perseverance and stamina for learning challenging material.
- Actively participate in the classroom - discussions, group or individual projects.

Science Paths

(Jeff Burgard)

	MS Science Path I	MS Science Path II Alternate - NOT advanced Skips 6th grade Life Science
6th Grade	Life Science	Earth & Space Science Students will be mixed with 7 th grade students
7th Grade	Earth and Space Science	Physical Science Students will be mixed with 8 th grade students
8th Grade	Physical Science	High School Biology High school level reading and graphing required

Science Paths

Grade Level	MS Science Path I	What is missed? This is not a low level class:
6 th	Life Science	Great labs, lab skill development and local ecosystem impact projects and <i>the only dissection lab students can experience in ISD</i>
7 th	Earth and Space Science	
8 th	Physical Science	

Middle School Science Path 2

Suitable for students with all these characteristics:

- Strong Background in Life Science (Biology)
- Previously developed lab skills
- Advanced academic skills and knowledge
 - Reading well above grade level
 - Level 4 grades in math and reading
 - Level 4 on i-Ready and SBA assessments
 - Accelerated math courses
- Higher level of responsibility and workload (Lots of independent work)
- Higher level of maturity (willing to struggle, ask for help and overcome barriers)

**Please make your
students aware of these
recommendations**

Things to keep in mind...

- If students in Path 2 struggle as 6th and 7th graders, they typically struggle in biology as 8th graders.
 - **THERE IS NO EXIT PLAN without repeating a course**
- Block scheduling at the High School allows labs to be more easily completed and debriefed on the same day
- Grading is different in middle and high school
- Not all high schools or colleges accept high school courses taken in middle school for credit

We want to have all students have a **LOVE for science
when they leave middle school!**

Math/Science Connection

(if you request Earth and Space Science – you must request Math Path B or C)

Grade	Math	Path 2 Science
6	Path B or C as 6th grader	Earth Science
7		Physical Science
8		Biology
9	Geometry	Chemistry
10	Algebra 2	Physics

Elective & Physical Education/Health

(Kristin Little and Seth Adams)

Students will request either the Trimester electives or a Year-Long elective.

Elective(s) Choose 1 year-long or 3 trimester-long electives	<u>One</u> year-long (e.g. Choir, Orchestra, Band) or <u>Three</u> trimester-long (Intro to Woods, Art, and Computer Science 1)
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Students will be enrolled in 2 Trimesters of PE and 1 Trimester of Health

PE and Health	PE 6 PE 6 Health 6
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Trimester Electives

***Art, Computer Science, and Intro to Woods**

Benefits:

- *Learn how to use Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) in real life*
- *Build important skills for everyday situations*
- *Become more independent and confident*
- *Get better at solving problems in creative ways*
- *Learn to think in new and different ways*
- *Gain experience that can help with future jobs or projects*

7th and 8th grade offerings:

- Art
- Computer Science 2 & Computer Science 3
- Digital Photography
- Film Making
- Integrated Projects (Engineering)
- Intro to Leadership
- Speech & Debate (Intro & Advanced)
- Woodshop 1 & Woodshop 2
- Yearbook

Exploratory Art!

Be creative! Try new things! Have fun!



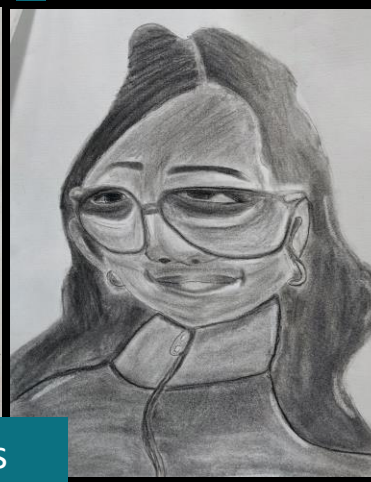
Paper mache sculptures



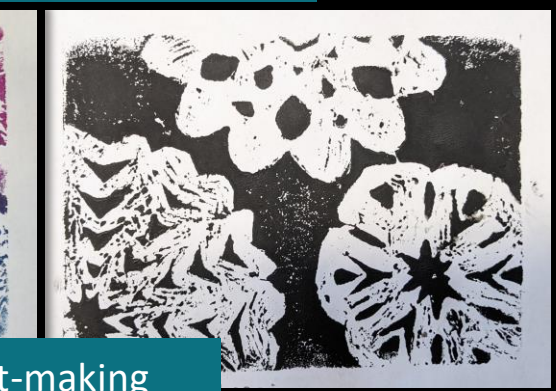
Students trace each other's shadows for a self-portrait



Students practice color mixing while making snowflake stamps



Silly charcoal self-portraits



Print-making

Exploratory Art students wearing T-shirts that they designed and printed!



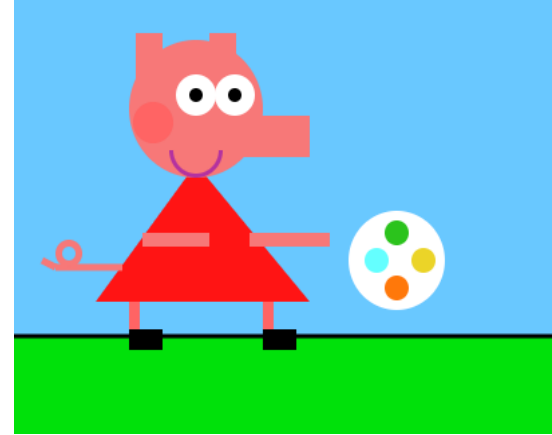
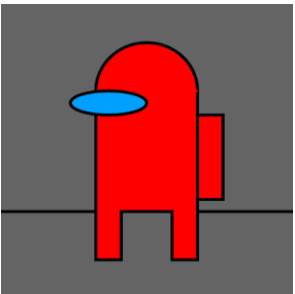
Computer Science 1

This class is fun, exciting, and full of challenges! You'll get to explore the world of coding by learning how to use commands, variables, if-then statements, loops, and even randomness.

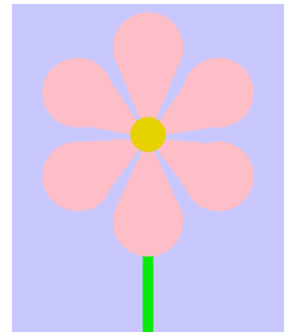
Best of all—anyone can learn to code, no matter their experience.

```
7 print("Who can guess the number first, from 1 to 10?")
8 # Declare an alternating boolean called player_1_turn,
9 # set to True
10 player_1_turn = True
11 # This loop runs until a player guesses correctly
12 while True:
13
14     # Get input, with a prompt depending on the player
15     if player_1_turn:
16         guess = int(input("Player 1, take a guess: "))
17     else:
18         guess = int(input("Player 2, take a guess: "))
19
20     # End the loop if they guessed correctly
21     if guess == 5:
22         print("You guessed it!")
23         break
24     else:
25         print("No, that's not it.")
26
27     # Make player_1_turn alternate
28     player_1_turn = not player_1_turn
```

- After Computer Science 1, students can take CS 2 and CS 3 where they learn to draw and animate their drawings or sprites.

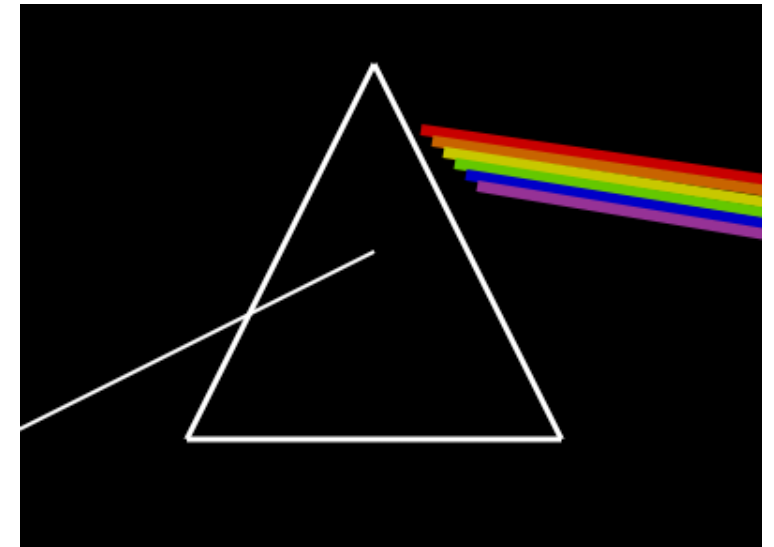


"Ms. Little's class was always something to look forward to, she made sure that every single student was heard and engaged in the content. Her CS class was always so much fun! Intro to python provided the essential basis for me to build my CS education off of throughout middle and high school, all thanks to Ms. Little!" - Sana Parkhi



Computer Science – from former students

- “Computer Science was definitely my favorite elective. As a beginner coder, it was a great way to get an experience in a unique field with lots of support from the platform and Ms. Little, and even provided challenges for students that felt ready. Even if coding isn’t really your thing, the class is a great way to gain problem solving skills and creative thinking strategies. I highly recommend this class!” - Ishaan Vij
- “I loved being in Ms. Little's class because she always explained things in class, which made me learn so much. Also, there was a lot of creative freedom so I could integrate my interests into projects, and made me look forward to the class every day.” - Vaidehi Joshi



Woodshop

Hands-on, project-based problem solving!



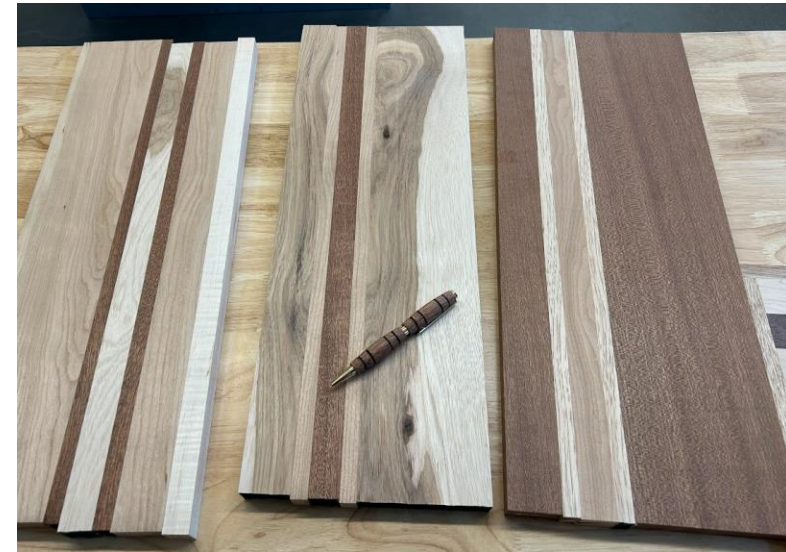
Open and creative
projects



CO2 Car Design and
Modeling

Woodshop

Hands-on, project-based problem solving!



Over 30 different possible projects – String Art, Wood Crates, Cutting Boards and projects on the Lathe (Pens, Key Chains, Ice Cream Scoops and Bowls... to name only a few.

If your student is a Multilingual Learner:

- A certified teacher leads the English Language Development class for MLL students.
- This class helps students improve their academic English skills to succeed in other subjects.
- It focuses on speaking, reading, writing, and understanding English.
- Students may also get extra help with their regular classwork.

If your student has an IEP, 504 or Health Plan:

- Student accommodations, including IEPs, 504 Plans, and Health Plans, will transition with them to middle school.
- Elementary school IEP teachers, counselors, and nurses will collaborate with middle school staff to ensure continuity of support.
- Key information regarding student needs will be shared to facilitate a smooth transition.
- This process ensures that students continue receiving the necessary resources to support their success in middle school.

Student Health Care Information

Life-Threatening Health Care Plans (HCP)

If your student has a life-threatening health condition, you will need to provide the school with a 2025-2026 Health Care Plan (HCP), along with any doctor's orders and medication, before the first day of school. These documents must be brought to the Health Office by **August 15th** so the nurse has enough time to review them. According to Washington State Law and Issaquah School District regulations, your child will not be able to attend school until these items are submitted. To access ISD Medical forms click [HERE](#)


Student immunization records (CIS)

Per Washington State Law and Issaquah School District regulations, students must have all their required vaccines before they can go to school. To access immunization records online click [HERE](#) To obtain a certificate of exemption click [HERE](#)

Please contact Erin Hayes, PLMS Nurse, with any questions: HayesE@Issaquah.wednet.edu

Sample Student Schedule

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6	PE and Health Rotation



PINE LAKE

MIDDLE SCHOOL

EMPLOYMENTPORTALS ▾SAFETY CONCERNDISTRICT SITE

SCHOOLS

ENGLISH ▾📅🔍

OUR SCHOOLACADEMICSFAMILIES & COMMUNITYSTUDENT LIFESTAFF

Activities

Athletics

Counseling

Health Room / Nurse

Library

School Spirit

Social/Emotional Student Support

1

2

HOME > STUDENT LIFE > COUNSELING

Counseling

School Counseling and Mental Health in the Issaquah School District

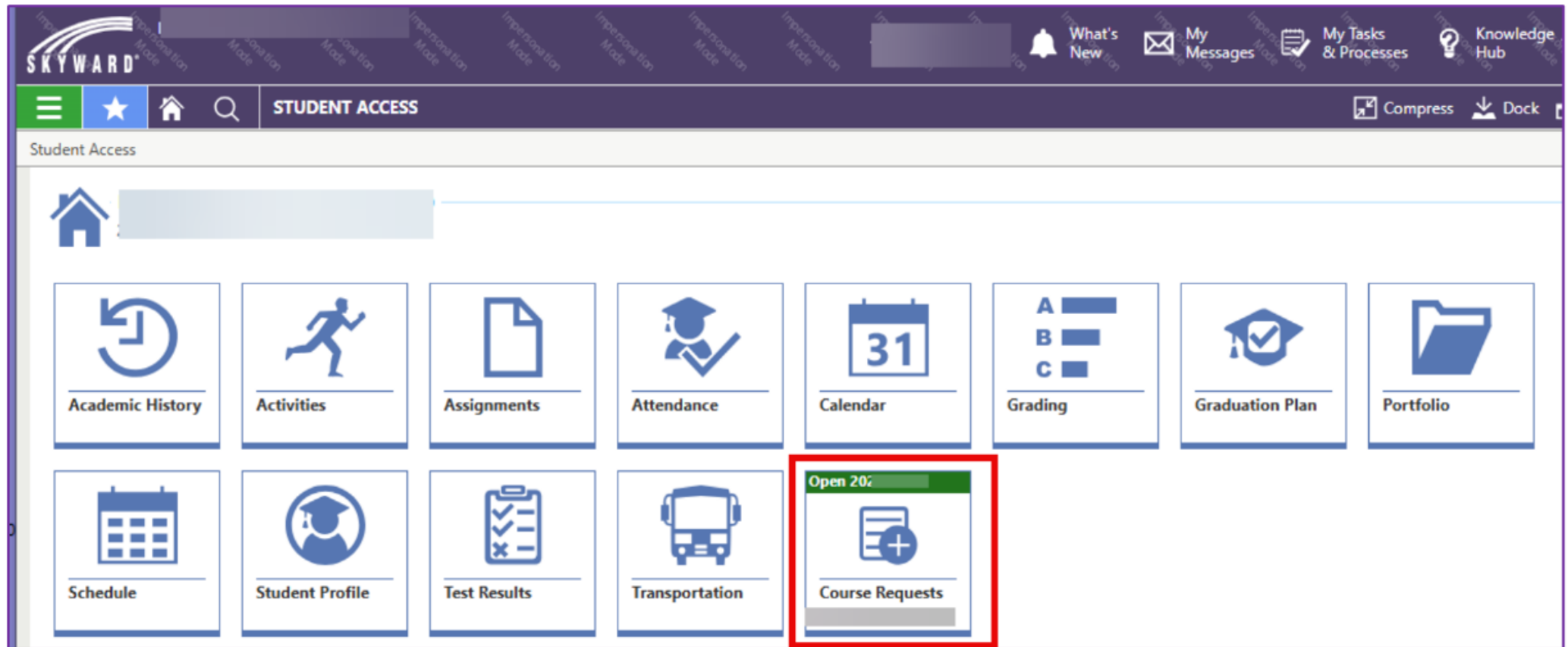
Issaquah schools provide comprehensive guidance and school counseling services in each building. All students have access to and the right to participate in these programs, which focus on academic, career

3

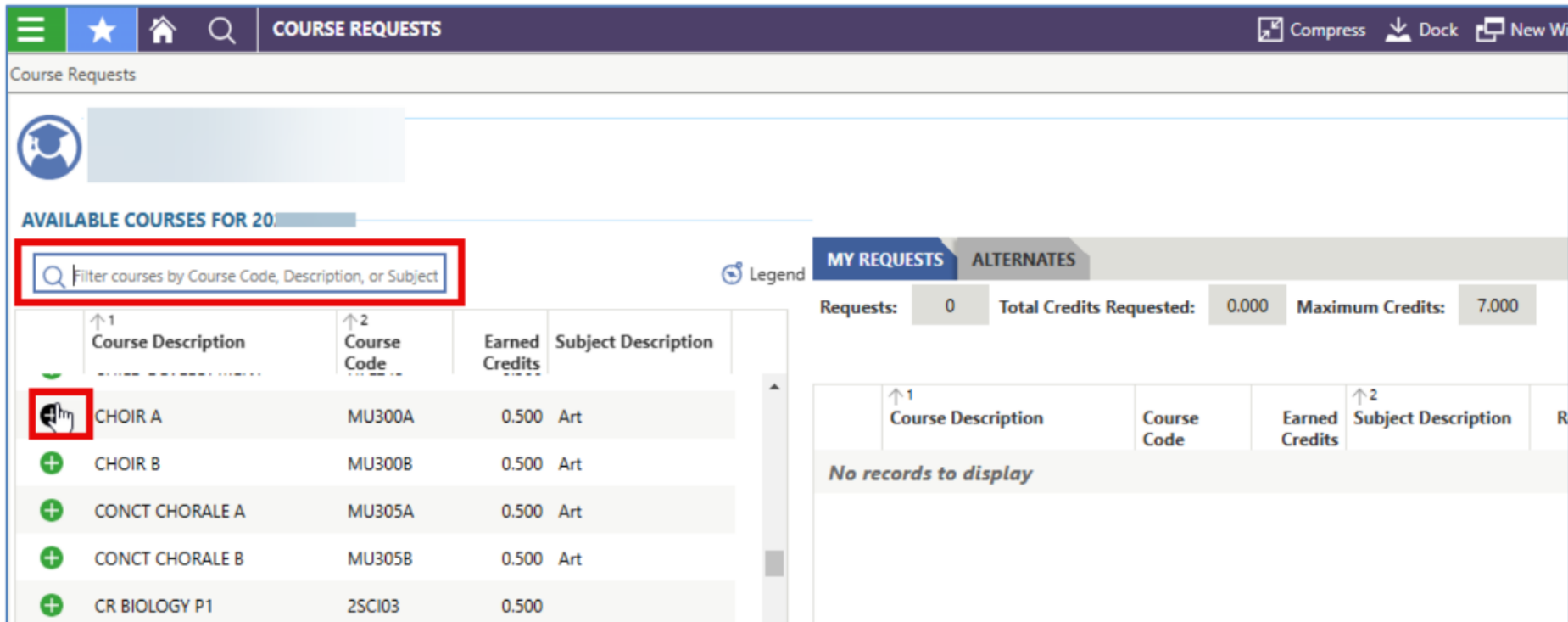
Course Request Process >



1. Log into Student Access and select the Course Requests tile



- Select a new course by clicking the plus sign next to the course title. You also can use the search bar to find a course.



The screenshot shows the 'COURSE REQUESTS' interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a menu icon, a star, a home icon, a search icon, and the text 'COURSE REQUESTS'. Below this, there is a search bar labeled 'Filter courses by Course Code, Description, or Subject'. A red box highlights this search bar. Below the search bar, there is a table of 'AVAILABLE COURSES FOR 20...'. The table has columns for 'Course Description', 'Course Code', 'Earned Credits', and 'Subject Description'. A red box highlights the first row of the table, which is 'CHOIR A' with course code 'MU300A' and 0.500 credits. To the right of the table, there is a 'MY REQUESTS' section. It has a 'Legend' icon and a 'MY REQUESTS' tab. Below the tab, there is a summary: 'Requests: 0', 'Total Credits Requested: 0.000', and 'Maximum Credits: 7.000'. Below this, there is a table with columns for 'Course Description', 'Course Code', 'Earned Credits', and 'Subject Description'. The table is empty and displays the message 'No records to display'.

Course Description	Course Code	Earned Credits	Subject Description
CHOIR A	MU300A	0.500	Art
CHOIR B	MU300B	0.500	Art
CONCT CHORALE A	MU305A	0.500	Art
CONCT CHORALE B	MU305B	0.500	Art
CR BIOLOGY P1	2SCI03	0.500	

The course you selected will appear on the right side of the screen under “My Requests”. If it is a year-long course, all semesters/trimesters should appear.

There may be courses listed under “My Requests” that have already been added for you by the counselor or registrar.

3. Continue adding requests until you reach the maximum number of credits.

★

🏠

🔍


COURSE REQUESTS

Compress

Dock

New Window

Course Requests



Course MU300A is part of a linked group; the following linked courses were also requested: MU300B

AVAILABLE COURSES FOR 2024

Legend

MY REQUESTS

ALTERNATES

Requests: 2

Total Credits Requested: 1.000

Maximum Credits: 7.000

Save Course Requests

Cancel

↑1	Course Description	↑2	Course Code	Earned Credits	Subject Description
+	CHOIR A		MU300A	0.500	Art
+	CHOIR B		MU300B	0.500	Art
+	CONCT CHORALE A		MU305A	0.500	Art
+	CONCT CHORALE B		MU305B	0.500	Art

↑1	Course Description	Course Code	Earned Credits	↑2	Subject Description	Req
-	CHOIR A	MU300A	0.500	Art		
-	CHOIR B	MU300B	0.500	Art		



4. Click on the **Alternates** tab and follow the same process to request Alternates:

COURSE REQUESTS

course Requests

AVAILABLE COURSES FOR 20

Filter courses by Course Code, Description, or Subject

↑1	Course Description	↑2	Course Code	Earned Credits	Subject Description
+	INTRO TO COMPUTER SCIEN...		INT245	0.500	Career & Technical E...
+	INTRO TO VIDEO PRODUCTI...		INT150	0.500	
+	INTRODUCTION TO CULINAR...		HFL100	0.500	
+	INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHO...		SST529	0.500	
+	JAPANESE 1 A		FO410A	0.500	

Legend

MY REQUESTS **ALTERNATES** Reorder Alternates


Requests: 2 Total Credits Requested: 1.000 Maximum Credits: 3.000

Save Course Requests Cancel

↑1	Course Description	Course Code	Earned Credits	↑2	Subject Description	Request
-	HISTORY OF SPORTS	SST221	0.500			
-	INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHO...	SST529	0.500			

5. When you are finished, click **Save Course Requests**

Course Requests



3

AVAILABLE COURSES FOR 20

Filter courses by Course Code, Description, or Subject

	↑1 Course Description	↑2 Course Code	Earned Credits	Subject Description
+	INTRO TO COMPUTER SCIEN...	INT245	0.500	Career & Technical E...
+	INTRO TO VIDEO PRODUCTI...	INT150	0.500	
+	INTRODUCTION TO CULINAR...	HFL100	0.500	
+	INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHO...	SST529	0.500	

MY REQUESTS



ALTERNATES

↕ Reorder Alternates

Requests: 2

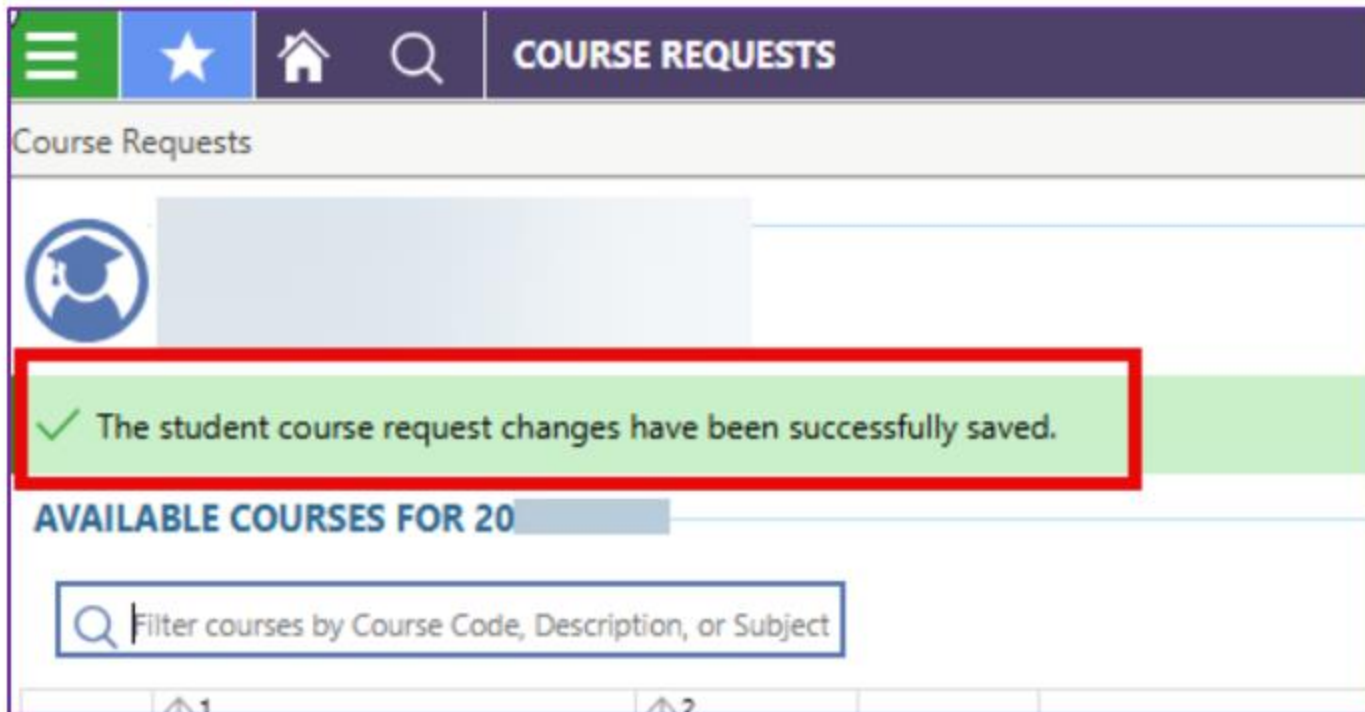
Total Credits Requested: 1.000

Maximum Credits: 3.000

 Save Course Requests
  Cancel

	↑1 Course Description	Course Code	Earned Credits	↑2 Subject Description	Reque
−	HISTORY OF SPORTS	SST221	0.500		
−	INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHO...	SST529	0.500		

6. A message will appear saying that the course requests have been saved, and you can log out of Student Access.



Timeline

March 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Course Request Process OPEN	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Question and Answer via Zoom 1:15 -2 pm (optional)	18	19 Course Request Process CLOSSES at 8 am	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Tips for Middle School Success

Before School Starts:

- Practice using a combination lock (we will practice this the first week as well!)
- Gather all necessary school supplies (check the PLMS website for supply lists).
- Plan to attend the 6th grade COMPASS Day in August!
- Keep Building Executive Functioning Skills – Consider having daily checklists/routines, Weekly Calendar/Activity reviews for the whole family, so they get familiar with the idea of backwards planning/looking ahead/planning ahead.
- Keep Building your Student's Agency/Responsibility/Problem-solving skills – Assign tasks your child is responsible for, so they get used to being in charge of things and having to problem-solve when needed.

After School Starts:

- Create a daily homework routine with a set time and place.
- Encourage your student to use a planner or organizational tool every day.
- Regularly check Canvas to see assignments, grades, and missing work.
- Stay involved by discussing school with your student.
- Teach your student to ask teachers for help by speaking with them or sending emails.

Building these habits takes effort, but it will help your student succeed!

Middle School Bell Times

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
8:10 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

Hallways Open 7:55 a.m.

Homeroom	8:10 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.	30 minutes
Period 1	8:40 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	50 minutes
Period 2	9:35 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.	50 minutes
Period 3	10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	50 minutes
Lunch A	11:20 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	30 minutes
Period 4 – A	11:55 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	50 minutes
Period 4 – B	11:25 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	50 minutes
Lunch B	12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	30 minutes
Period 5	12:50 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	50 minutes
Period 6	1:45 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.	50 minutes

Wednesday: 10:20 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
(Delayed Start)

Hallways Open 10:05 a.m.

Period 1	10:20 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	45 minutes
Period 2	11:10 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	40 minutes
Period 3	11:55 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.	40 minutes
Lunch A	12:35 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.	30 minutes
Period 4 – A	1:10 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.	45 minutes
Period 4 – B	12:40 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.	45 minutes
Lunch B	1:25 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.	30 minutes
Period 5	2:00 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	40 minutes
Period 6	2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	45 minutes

After-School Athletics

*Summer is the perfect time to
get sports physicals completed!*

- After-school athletics at Pine Lake Middle School is optional.
- To play a sport, you must register through FinalForms.
- In the summer, you will receive an email from FinalForms with instructions.
- **Sign up early** for sports to ensure you are added to FinalForms on time.
- Students are only allowed to participate in one sport per season due to scheduling.
- A **sports physical is required** to participate in any school sport.
- Print the ISD Sports Physical Evaluation form and take it to the doctor.
- The physical must remain valid for the entire sports season

If you have any questions about sports, please contact the office after August 13th.

How to receive information:

- The Pine Lake Middle School (PLMS) Website
- Signing up for the Weekly Bulletin (at bottom of PLMS homepage)
- Text Alerts for school closures or updates (Text "Yes" to 67587)
- Your student (announcements and Canvas messages)
- The PLMS Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) website

Upcoming Events

- March 17th: Optional Q&A via zoom for **parents** at 1:15 pm
- March 19th: CRP closes at 8 am
- August 7th-13th: Enrollment Verification Process
- August 13th-15th: Drop off Health Care Plans for nurse to PLMS (if applicable)
- August 14th: Back to School Visit for **students and parents** from 9-12
- August 27th : Compass Day/6th Grade Orientation for **students** from 8-12
- August 28th : First Day of School
- September 16th: Curriculum Night for **parents**

Stay tuned for more information coming in August.

Please make sure to sign up for the PLMS Weekly Bulletin!

General School Supply List

- Filing system - example: small Three Ring Binder with dividers, or folder(s) etc.
- Organizational Planner- PLMS Planner (available for purchase), or electronic planner, or use within Canvas
- Pencil Pouch
- Pencils – pre-sharpened
- Colored pencils (erasable)
- Erasers
- 2 Red Pens
- Glue Stick (small)
- Pencil Sharpener (small)
- Notebook Paper- Lined 3 hole
- College ruled composition notebook
- Two-pocket folders with prongs (6)
- Scientific Calculator (TI-30XIIS is recommended)
- Wired headphones to use with laptops that fit in pencil pouch
- Reusable water bottle
- Math: (2) Graph paper composition notebooks
- Life Science: Three Ring Binder 1/2"-1"
- Earth & Space Science: Spiral notebook – single subject at least 100 pages 8 1/2 x 11" with plastic cover (example: 5-Star spiral)

**This is not intended to be a complete list and some teachers may make additional requests once school begins. This list is intended to be a general list of useful supplies.*



ISSAQUAH
SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Thank you!

Please join the student panel in the Commons following this presentation.