# 8TH GRADE COURSE SELECTION GUIDELINES

## 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

- Haverford High School follows a block schedule. The day consists of four 85 minute blocks.
- There are two 18 week semesters.
- A year-long everyday class equals 2.0 credits, a year-long every other day class equals 1.0 credit, a semester course equals 1.0 credit, and a semester-long alternate day elective equals 0.5 credit.
- Sample schedule:

| | 1st Semester | | 2nd Semester | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A | B | A | B |
| Block 1 | | | | |
| Advisory | | | | |
| Block 2 | | | | |
| Block 3 Lunch 1 or 2 | | | | |
| Block 4 | | | | |

- In most cases, English and History will be scheduled in the same semester.
- In most cases, Math and Science will be scheduled in the same semester.
- Lunch is during block 3.
- During course selection, you will be able to request courses you would like to take. However, you cannot choose the block or semester the course will be scheduled in.
- Every student will have the same Advisory Teacher and School Counselor for all 4 years.

## 2 HOW TO PREPARE

- Visit the Haverford High School website > Counseling > Course Selection Process
- Review course selection resources and Graduation Requirements.
- Familiarize yourself with the Course Selection Guide and Course Listing Brochure for incoming 9th grade students.
- Review course descriptions, prerequisites, credit values, etc. in detail.
- Talk with your parent(s)/guardian(s) about course and leveling options .

## 3 CONSIDERATIONS

- Course selections should align with academic and career plans.
- Course selections and levels should be consistent with ability and work ethic.

## 4 TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Levels for core classes (English, Math, Social Studies, and Science) are recommended by 8th grade teachers and preloaded into the online system.
- Courses are offered at the Honors and College Prep level.
- Recommendations are based on classroom performance, aptitudes, and work ethic while also taking into consideration the requirements and rigor of the sequential course.
- Students may ask to waive a teacher's recommendation by completing the Course Level Waiver Request form.

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## CHOOSING COURSES

- **REQUIRED** (TEACHER RECOMMENDED)
  - English 9
  - U.S. History - Part 2
  - Engineering to Learn
  - Algebra 1 or Geometry (if you are currently taking Algebra 1 in 8th grade)
  - Physical Education 9
- **RECOMMENDED**
  - World Language: French, Italian, Latin, or Spanish
  - Please discuss what course and level you should take with your current World Language teacher
- **ELECTIVES**
  - There are many elective classes available. Please review the Course Listing Brochure for incoming 9th grade students found on the High School Counseling website.
- **Every student should request a total of 8.0 credits.**
- In addition, every student should select three (3) additional alternate/backup elective courses in case their first choices can not be met.

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## MUSIC STUDENTS

- Students wishing to participate in any combination of band, orchestra, or chorus should enroll in the appropriate course and sectional.
- Music courses are year-long, every other day, and during block 4.
- Choose Physical Education 9 and one other alternating day elective.

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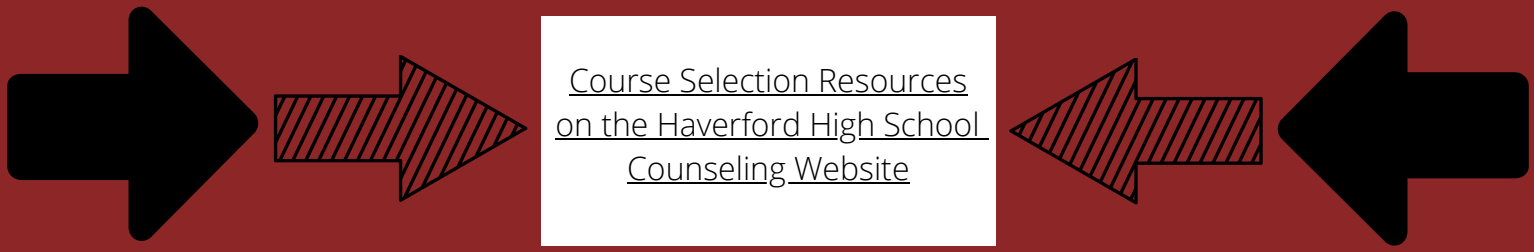
## ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Students select courses online by clicking on Class Registration in their Student Portal in PowerSchool.
- Online registration is open for approximately two weeks.
- Please watch the “how-to” video below based on your current 8th-grade math course. These videos will walk you through the registration process step-by-step.
- Course selection video for students currently in MA8200 and MA8400
- Course selection video for students currently in MA8100 and MA8110
- Be sure to review your final course requests with a parent/guardian.
- Carefully consider selections as changes are not always able to be accommodated.

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## FINALIZED STUDENT SCHEDULES

- After all student course requests are submitted a master schedule that best meets the maximum number of student requests is developed.
- Schedules are posted to the student's PowerSchool Portal in early August.



Course Selection Resources on the Haverford High School Counseling Website