
CLASS SCHEDULE
YEAR
TEACHER
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
Peirce Middle School
Course Selection Assembly for
Rising 8th Graders

Middle School Course Description Guide Distribution

- Was pushed out to student laptops on January 15th
- Also available on the WCASD and Peirce website
  - **Course Selection 2026-2027**

Course Selection Timeline

January 7 through January 23	Teacher recommendation window
January 26 through February 13	Student and parent course selection weeks
February 14 through February 27	Course selections may be viewed on the Parent Portal. All requests to change course selections and/or recommendations must be submitted to Mrs. Gibb during this window.
February 27- Course change deadline – Course level waiver recommendations	Course change deadline - Course level waiver recommendations require administrative approval beyond this date.

LEVELING DESCRIPTORS

Grade Level	Honors	Accelerated Honors
• Students who learn at a continuous pace • Courses provide essential skills & content knowledge aligned to grade level standards • Collaborative & guided learning through a variety of instructional activities and assessments	• Students who learn enriched content at a challenging pace • Rigorous grade level curriculum • Collaborative, guided, & self-directed learning through a variety of instructional activities and assessments	• Students who learn advanced content at an accelerated pace • Rigorous curriculum that extends beyond grade level • Collaborative & self-directed learning through a variety of instructional activities and assessments

English

7th Grade Teachers will complete recommendations.

Course Options:

- English 8 Accelerated Honors
- English 8 Honors
- English 8 Grade Level

Mathematics

7th Grade Teachers will complete recommendations.

Course Options:

- Geometry 8 (Accelerated Honors)
- Algebra 1 – Grade 8 (Honors)
- Pre-Algebra 8 (Grade Level)

Science and Social Studies (History)

- Leveled in 8th grade (two levels)
- 7th Grade Teachers will complete recommendations.

Science Course Options:

- Science 8 Honors
- Science 8 Grade Level

History Course Options:

- US History (1787-1914) Honors
- US History (1787-1914) Grade Level

January 7TH – January 23RD

- Teachers made recommendations for English, Social Studies, Math, Science, and Reading/World Language

- All recommendations were based on your performance and potential in your current classes.

January 26TH – February 13TH

- View your teachers' recommendations from content area classes
- If not recommended for Reading, select a World Language or Reading and Writing for Life Grade Level
- Select Unified Arts classes (and two alternatives)

Unified Arts Course Selection



UA Courses (6-day Quarterly Classes)

Arts & Humanities

Choose 2 + 1 Alternative

1. Art in 2D
2. Art in 3D
3. Family and Life Essentials
4. Popular Music
5. Guitar

STEM

Choose 2 + 1 Alternative

1. Food and Culture
2. Structural Design & Civil Engineering
3. Transportation Engineering and Design
4. Innovative Coding and AI
5. Junior Entrepreneur

UA Period (2-day classes)

Option A

- ❑Health 8 (2 days all year)
- ❑PE 8 (2 days all year)

AND

- ❑Performing Music (2 days all year)
  - ❑Chorus 8 or
  - ❑Band 8 or
  - ❑Orchestra 8

Option B

- ❑Health 8 (2 days all year)
- ❑PE 8 (2 days all year)

AND

- ❑"No Band, Chorus, Orchestra Option" (each class is 2 days for a quarter
  - *Teen Impact (Q1)
  - *Internet and Cybersecurity (Q2)
  - *Design for the Real World (Q3)
  - *Digital Media Creator (Q4)

*(order of courses may vary)

“No Band, Chorus, Orchestra Option" (These are UA courses for those not in a performing music)

- **Teen Impact**
  - In this course, students will explore authentic, project-based, and service-oriented learning opportunities. Students will actively engage in critical thinking and problem-solving processes based on real world needs and concerns. Citizenship, communication, character building, and resource management will provide the foundation for learning opportunities and skill development.
- **Internet and Cybersecurity**
  - Students will learn how the internet works and how to stay safe online. They will explore tools that make websites interactive and understand how networks connect. Lessons will include digital citizenship and ways to protect information, like strong passwords and encryption. Through projects, students will share ideas using writing and visuals while building skills for future technology courses.
- **Design for the Real World**
  - Students engage in hands-on activities from various areas of technology, including materials, manufacturing, and design.
- **Digital Media Creator**
  - In this class, students will explore multiple ways of creating and sharing dynamic, engaging interactive content with an emphasis on the use of video as a means of communication. The process of digital media design will include the planning, creating and editing of the project while utilizing various hardware and software tools to enhance a digital product.

8th Grade Music

Performing Music

Band, Orchestra, Chorus

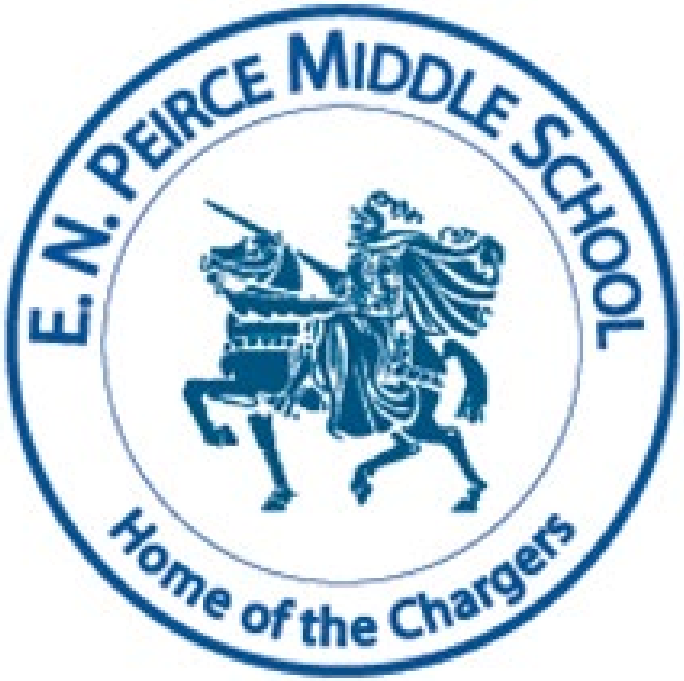
- These are for people who want to perform with a group and give concerts in those groups. They function the same way they did in 6th and 7th grade.
- They are elective, meaning they are not required. However, if you have been in these groups, we encourage you to stay in them.
- Concert Chorale for next year is auditioned at the end of this year and is your homeroom for 8th grade. Orchestra, Band, and Chorus students can do this.
- It *may* be possible for students to be enrolled in more than performing music in 8th grade.

Music Electives

- 8th Grade Music Electives - Marking Period Courses
  - Guitar
  - Popular Music

- **Any** student can sign up for one or both of these.
- Students can take these courses in addition to Band 8, Chorus 8, and Orchestra 8.
  - Example: An 8th Grade Band student can also be enrolled in Guitar and Popular Music.

Course Selection Procedure



From January 26th – February 13th:

- **YOU, with your parents will go to Parent Portal:**
  - Click the ***Class Registration*** Tab
  - Review the Teacher Recommendations
  - If a Reading class is not recommended, select a World Language OR Reading and Writing for Life Grade Level
  - If a Reading class IS recommended, do not select a language. Instead, fill out a paper waiver form with your change of course and submit to the office.
  - If French 2 or Spanish 2 IS recommended and you would like to select a different language, do not select another language. Instead, fill out a paper waiver form with your change of course and submit to the office.

From January 26th – February 13th (continued):

- **YOU, with your parents will go to Parent Portal:**
  - ➢ **Click the *Class Registration* Tab**

Review the Teacher Recommendations

Select 1:

- ➢ **Band, Chorus, Orchestra, or "No Band, Chorus, Orchestra Option"**
- **Select Two Arts & Humanities Electives, Two STEM Electives, and TWO Alternates:**
- ➢ **Arts & Humanities- Art in 2D, Art in 3D, Family & Life Essentials, Popular Music, and Guitar**
- ➢ **STEM- Food & Culture, Structural Design & Civil Engineering Sustainable Design, Innovative Coding and AI, and Junior Entrepreneur**

Reading OR World Language

- Rising 8th Grade Students will be recommended for either **Reading** or a **World Language.**
- If recommended for a Level 1 World Language, students may still choose to take a Reading Class instead (Reading and Writing for Life).
- If recommended for a Level 2 World Language, students may still choose to take a different Level 1 World Language.
- If recommended for a Reading Class (Reading and Writing for Life,**Reading Plus 8 Comprehension, or *Reading Plus 8 Phonics),* students are highly encouraged to follow the teacher recommendation.
  - *Either of the Reading Plus classes will be recommended by a Peirce Middle School Reading Specialist*
- Level 1 World Languages: French 1, German 1, Italian 1, Latin1, and Spanish 1

Reading OR World Language

- **IMPORTANT!**

- **If recommended for a Level 1 World Language**
  - You will not see a Reading class or a World Language class listed as part of your recommendations. A non-recommendation of Reading is the way you are "recommended" to take a Level 1 World Language
    - You may select a Level 1 World Language class
      - Select either French 1, German 1, Italian 1, Latin1, or Spanish 1
    - You may select Reading and Write for Life Grade Level. However, your reading teacher believes you are ready for a Level 1 World Language class.

Reading OR World Language

- **IMPORTANT!**
  - **If recommended for a Level 2 World Language:**
    - You will see the Level 2 World Language class listed as part of your recommendations (**DO NOT** select a Level 1 World Language or Reading and Writing for Life)
      - If a Level 1 World Language or Reading and Writing for Life is selected but a Level 2 World Language recommendation was made, it will over enroll the student and the course the student selected will be dropped from the student's requested courses.
      - If you would like to take a different Level 1 World Language and have a Level 2 World Language recommended for 8th grade, a waiver **must be submitted** to the Level 2 World Language.

Reading OR World Language

- **IMPORTANT!**

- **If recommended for Reading:**
  - You will see a Reading class listed as part of your recommendations (**DO NOT** select a World Language)
    - If World Language is selected but a Reading recommendation was made, it will over enroll the student and the World Language will be dropped from the student's requested courses.
    - If you would like to take a World Language and have a Reading class recommended for 8th grade, a waiver **must be submitted** to replace Reading with World Language.
- If NOT recommended for Reading:
  - Select either French 1, German 1, Italian 1, Latin1, or Spanish 1.

PowerSchool

Entering Student Course Requests On-Line

1. Go to: https://ps.wcasd.net/public/, log into PowerSchool.

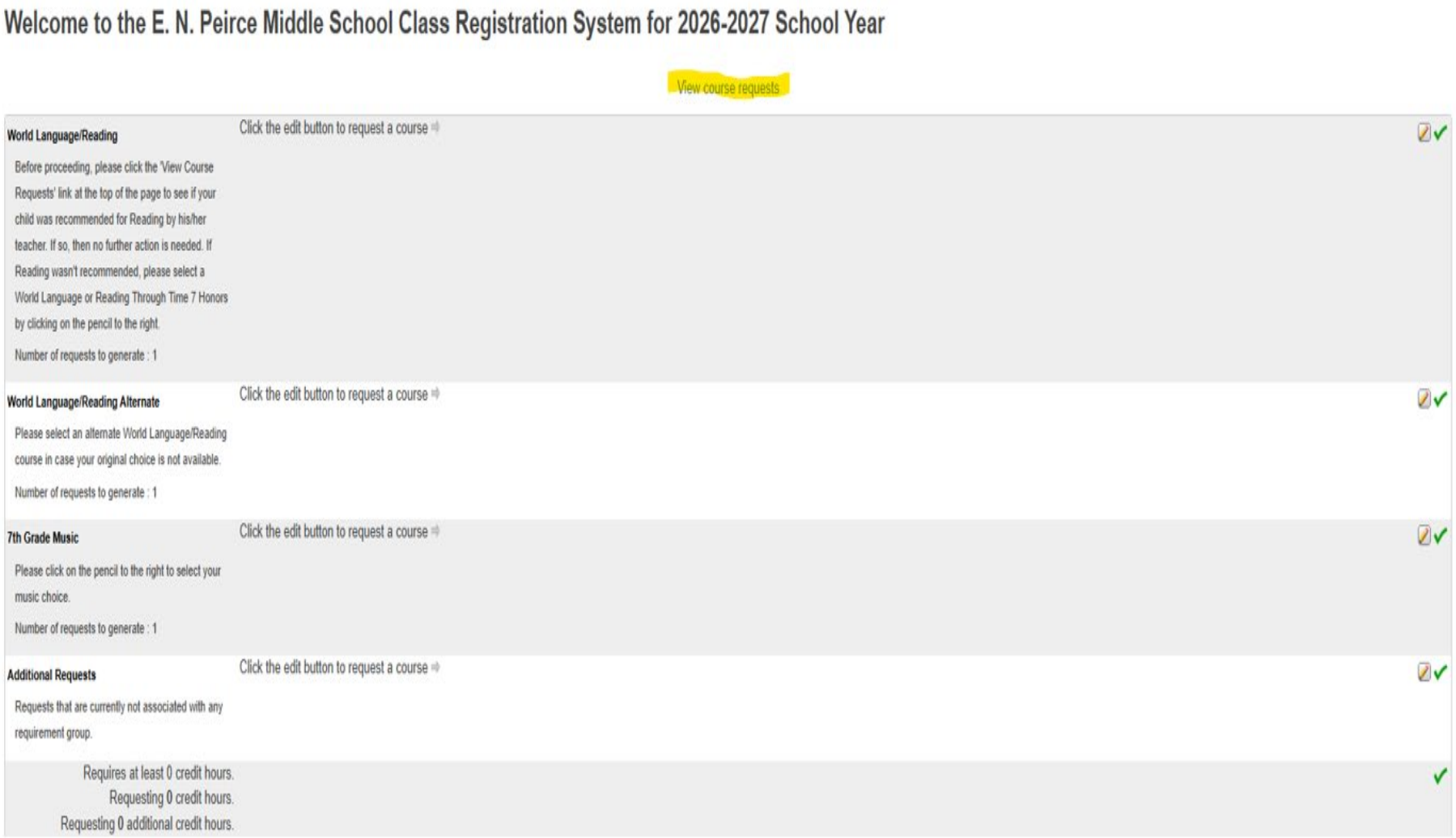


- Enter either student user name/password or parent user name/password

2. Click “Class Registration” icon (on the menu on the left).



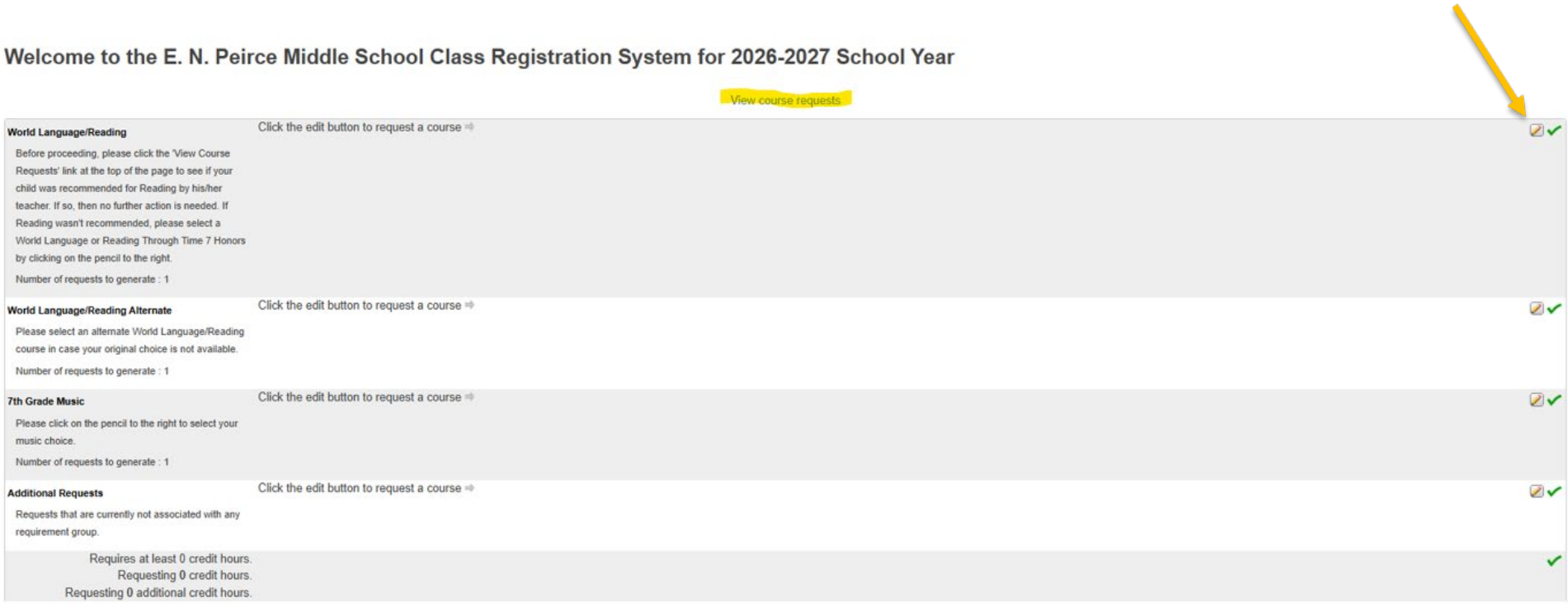
3. View Course Requests



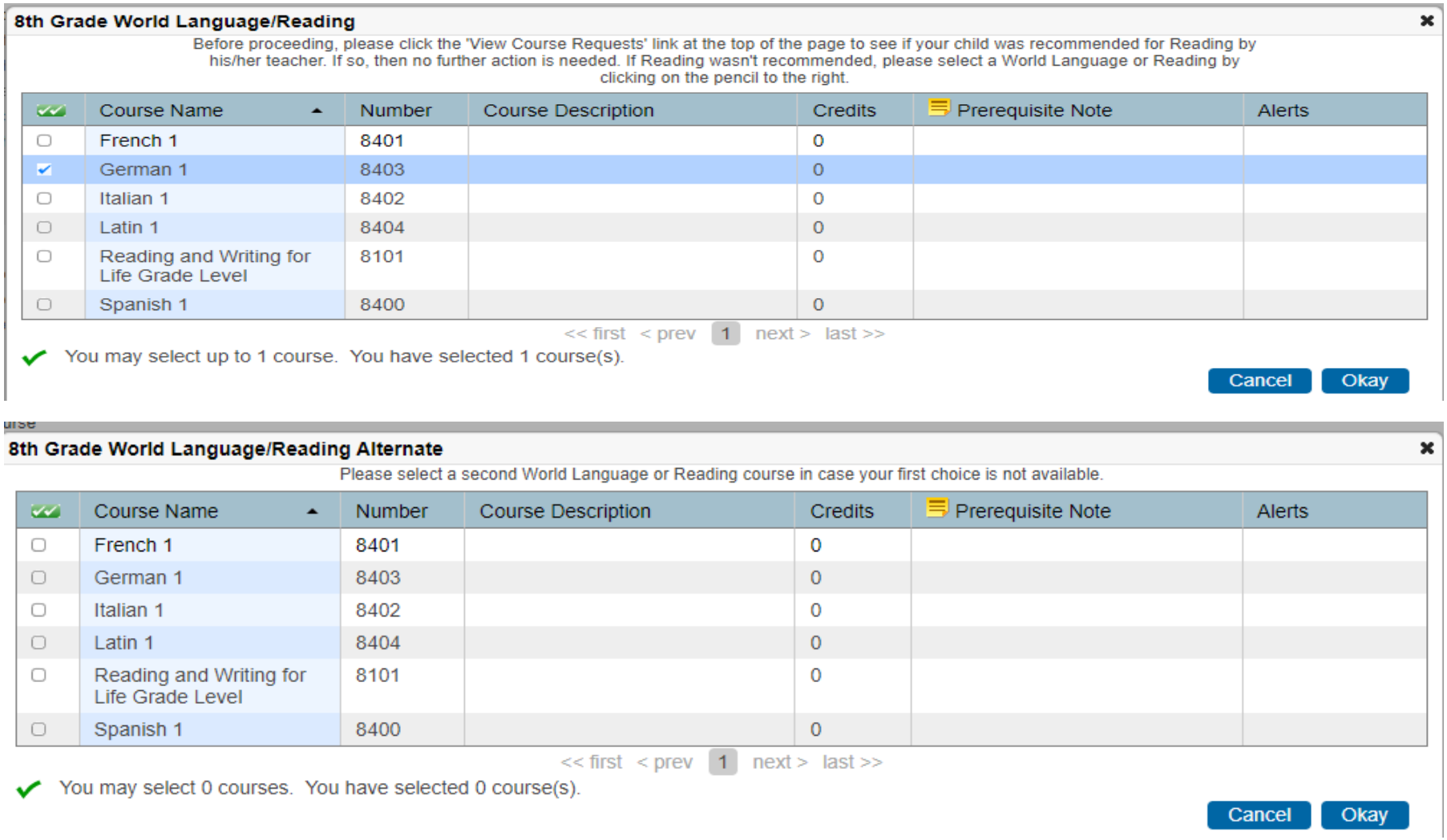
4. After viewing the teacher recommendations, click the “Class Registration” link again to select electives.



5. Edit by clicking on the pencil across from the Music, World Language or Electives category.



Course Selection Screens



8th Grade World Language/Reading

Before proceeding, please click the 'View Course Requests' link at the top of the page to see if your child was recommended for Reading by his/her teacher. If so, then no further action is needed. If Reading wasn't recommended, please select a World Language or Reading by clicking on the pencil to the right.

	Course Name	Number	Course Description	Credits	Prerequisite Note	Alerts
☐	French 1	8401		0		
☑	German 1	8403		0		
☐	Italian 1	8402		0		
☐	Latin 1	8404		0		
☐	Reading and Writing for Life Grade Level	8101		0		
☐	Spanish 1	8400		0		

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✔ You may select up to 1 course. You have selected 1 course(s).

Cancel Okay

8th Grade World Language/Reading Alternate

Please select a second World Language or Reading course in case your first choice is not available.

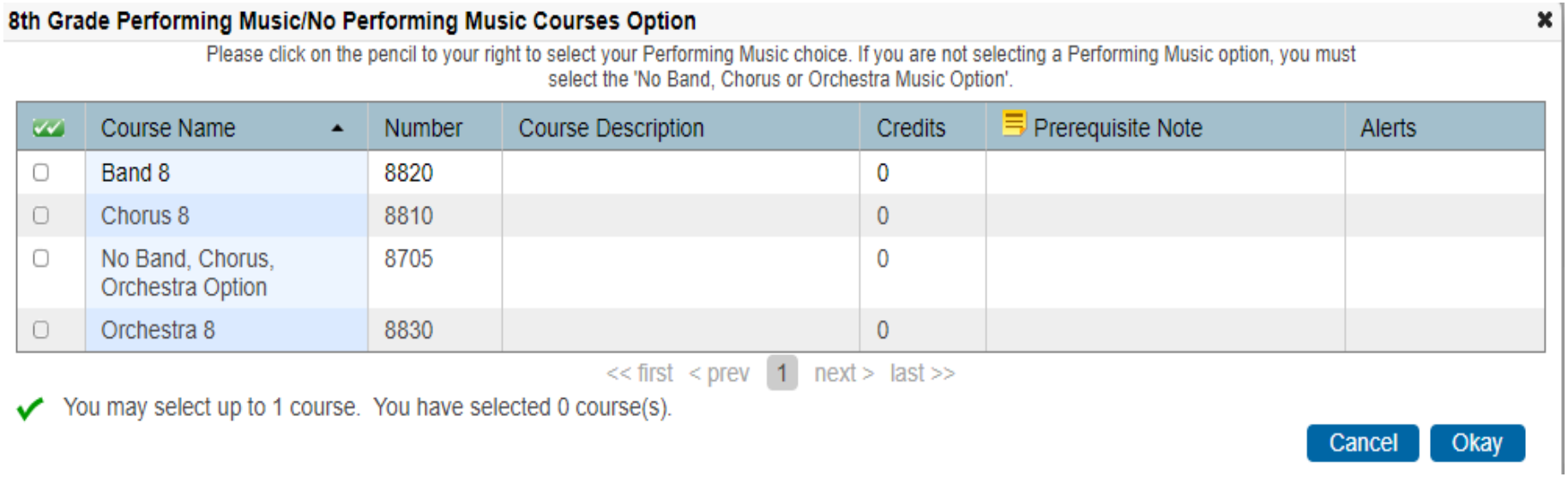
	Course Name	Number	Course Description	Credits	Prerequisite Note	Alerts
☐	French 1	8401		0		
☐	German 1	8403		0		
☐	Italian 1	8402		0		
☐	Latin 1	8404		0		
☐	Reading and Writing for Life Grade Level	8101		0		
☐	Spanish 1	8400		0		

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✔ You may select 0 courses. You have selected 0 course(s).

Cancel Okay

Course Selection Screens



8th Grade Performing Music/No Performing Music Courses Option

Please click on the pencil to your right to select your Performing Music choice. If you are not selecting a Performing Music option, you must select the 'No Band, Chorus or Orchestra Music Option'.

	Course Name	Number	Course Description	Credits	Prerequisite Note	Alerts
☐	Band 8	8820		0		
☐	Chorus 8	8810		0		
☐	No Band, Chorus, Orchestra Option	8705		0		
☐	Orchestra 8	8830		0		

Course Selection Screens

8th Grade Arts & Humanities Electives

Please click on the pencil to the right to select 2 choices. We will do our best to schedule these electives; however, no electives are guaranteed.

	Course Name	Number	Course Description	Credits	Prerequisite Note	Alerts
☐	Art in Three Dimensions	8502		0		
☐	Art in Two Dimensions	8501		0		
☐	Family and Life Essentials	8610		0		
☐	Guitar	8802		0		
☐	Popular Music	8801		0		

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You may select 2 courses. You have selected 0 course(s).

Cancel Okay

8th Grade Arts & Humanities Alternate Elective

Please select one course as an alternate to your Arts & Humanities elective choices. This will be used if your original choices are unavailable.
Please DO NOT select the same course as your elective choices.

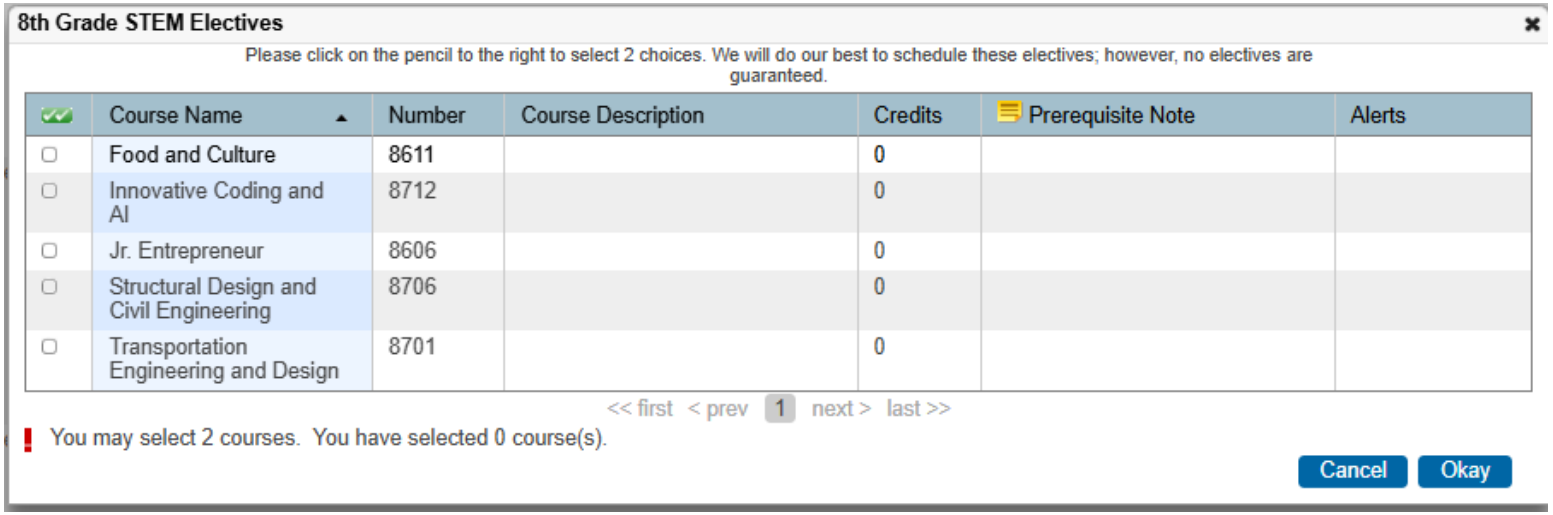
	Course Name	Number	Course Description	Credits	Prerequisite Note	Alerts
☐	Art in Three Dimensions	8502		0		
☐	Art in Two Dimensions	8501		0		
☐	Family and Life Essentials	8610		0		
☐	Guitar	8802		0		
☐	Popular Music	8801		0		

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You may select 1 course. You have selected 0 course(s).

Cancel Okay

Course Selection Screens



8th Grade STEM Electives

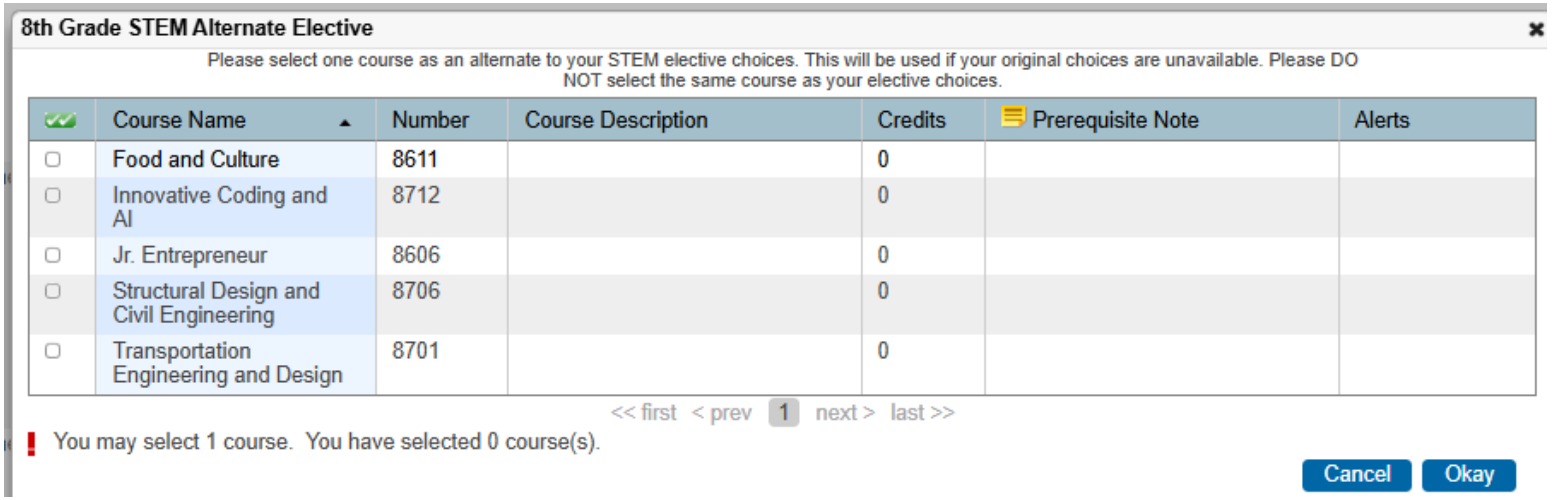
Please click on the pencil to the right to select 2 choices. We will do our best to schedule these electives; however, no electives are guaranteed.

	Course Name	Number	Course Description	Credits	Prerequisite Note	Alerts
☐	Food and Culture	8611		0		
☐	Innovative Coding and AI	8712		0		
☐	Jr. Entrepreneur	8606		0		
☐	Structural Design and Civil Engineering	8706		0		
☐	Transportation Engineering and Design	8701		0		

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You may select 2 courses. You have selected 0 course(s).

Cancel Okay



8th Grade STEM Alternate Elective

Please select one course as an alternate to your STEM elective choices. This will be used if your original choices are unavailable. Please DO NOT select the same course as your elective choices.

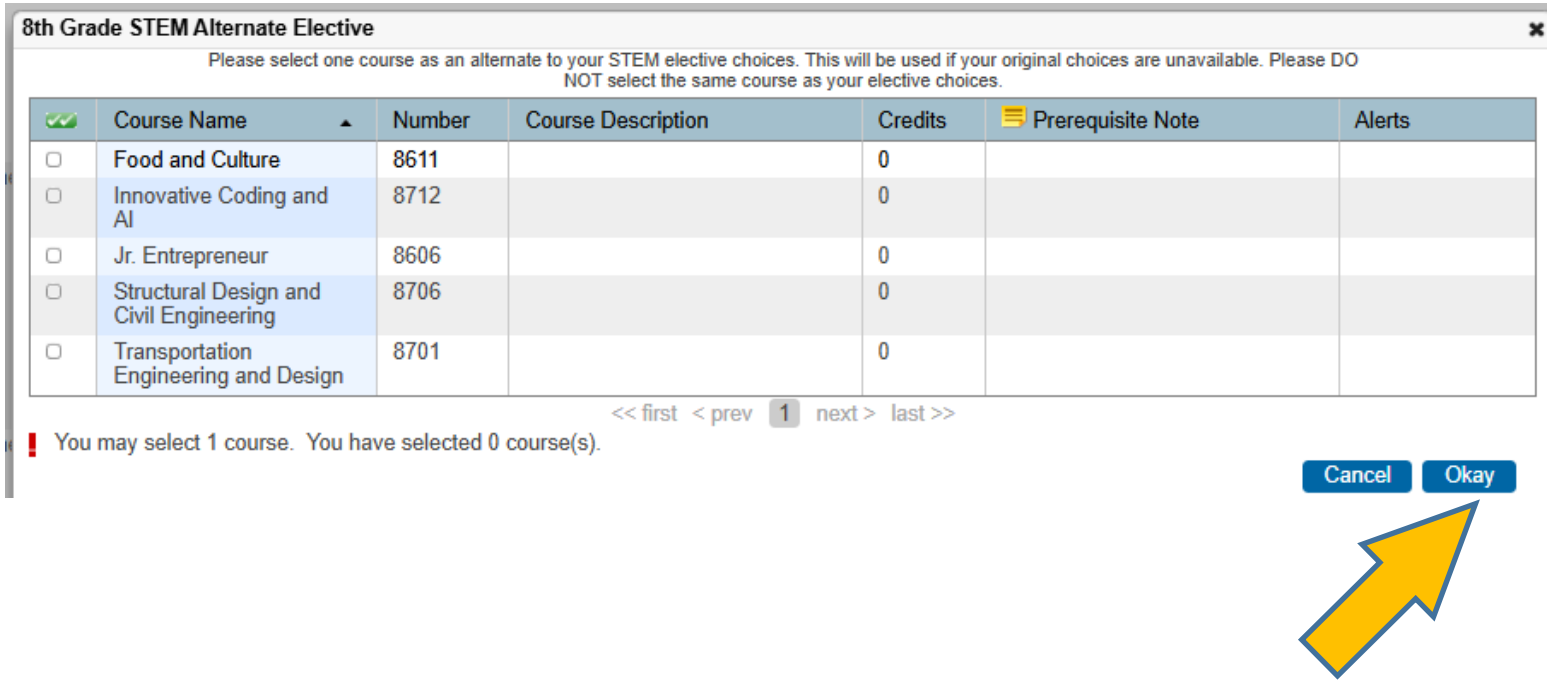
	Course Name	Number	Course Description	Credits	Prerequisite Note	Alerts
☐	Food and Culture	8611		0		
☐	Innovative Coding and AI	8712		0		
☐	Jr. Entrepreneur	8606		0		
☐	Structural Design and Civil Engineering	8706		0		
☐	Transportation Engineering and Design	8701		0		

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You may select 1 course. You have selected 0 course(s).

Cancel Okay

6. Click “Okay” to submit your selection.



7. View the courses you requested after you have completed your selections.

8. After confirming your selections, click on Sign Out to exit.



Finished!

February 14TH – February 27TH



- Review your course selections on the Parent Portal. All requests to change course selections must be submitted to Mrs. Gibb during this window (you cannot make changes yourself online during this time period).
- Use a Course Request Waiver Form found in the main office or on the Peirce website.
- A few days after submitting a course change, check to see that the changes are reflected online.
- If after a few days the changes are not reflected online, students should see Mrs. Gibb or Dr. Matilla

Course Waiver Form

Course Change Request Form for the 2026-2027 school year

Name_____ Current Grade (please circle) **6 7**

This form should be submitted for the following purposes:

Section 1 – requests to **change** any non-recommended classes (i.e. Music, Unified Arts, World Language)

Section 2 – must be completed by any student/parent requesting to override a teacher recommendation (as indicated in Parent Portal)

Section 1 – Request to Change Non-Recommended Classes (Current 6th and 7th Grade Students)

**This section must be completed for any change request to music classes, Unified Arts electives, or World Language.*

Courses to be Removed:	**Courses to be Added:**
Course Name _____	Course Name_____
Course Name _____	Course Name_____
Course Name _____	Course Name_____
Course Name _____	Course Name_____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to your school counselor ASAP. All forms must be returned by Friday, February 27th.

Section 2 – Course **Placement** Waiver Agreement (Current 6th & 7th Grade Students)

During the course selection process, teachers make recommendations for individual students carefully after considering a variety of data. If you have questions about the course and/or level that you feel would be most appropriate for your child, or would like more information on your child's current recommendation, it is strongly encouraged that you contact your child's recommending teacher or counselor. If after consideration, you still wish to override the teacher recommendation, please complete the following section of this form:

Student's Name : _____ Current School: _____

School Counselor: _____ Grade: ____ Homeroom: _____

Recommended Course/level to be changed:	**Parent/Student Selected Course/Level to be added:**
Course Name/Level: _____	Course Name/Level: _____
Course Name/Level: _____	Course Name/Level: _____
Course Name/Level: _____	Course Name/Level: _____

- I request that my child be placed in the courses I have selected and listed above. I have discussed the selections with my child's teacher and understand why my child did not meet the criteria for the particular courses. However, after careful consideration of these criteria, I still believe that the courses we have selected represent the appropriate placement for my child.
- I understand and accept full responsibility to provide my child with any support or remediation that may be needed to ensure his/her success in this course.
- I fully understand that a request to reverse this waiver and place my child in the class originally recommended by the teacher is not guaranteed. Placement in the original teacher recommended course after my request is approved is based upon availability, considering predetermined class sizes. If the original teacher recommended course has reached the maximum capacity, my child will remain in the course I requested.
- I fully understand that waiving into this course does not guarantee placement in this course.
- I understand that this agreement does not allow a student to skip prior coursework needed to fulfill a course prerequisite.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Approval Routing:
☐ School Counselor
☐ Building Administrator
☐ District Supervisor

All forms must be returned by Friday, February 27th.

February 27TH

DEADLINE FOR

Course Level Change Waivers

and

Elective Courses

RECAP

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February 27- Course change deadline – Course level waiver recommendations	Course change deadline - Course level waiver recommendations require administrative approval beyond this date.

Who will I contact if I have a question?

Dr. Matilla:

pmatilla@wcasd.net

Mrs. Gibb

lgibb@wcasd.net

Please see me or Mrs. Gibb if you have questions!!!



We are here to help you!