



Thomas Jefferson School

95 E Main street Rockaway, New Jersey 07866

Tel: 973-625-8603 Fax: 973-625-7355

Leon Samuels

Principal

December 2025

Dear 8th Grade Parent/Guardian:

It's hard to believe we are in December already! This means we are approximately a month away from starting scheduling with our 8th graders for high school. I am hoping that by getting this packet of information out early enough, you and your 8th grader(s) will have some time to sit down and review everything in time for me to meet with them in January. Please take time to review each piece of this packet as it contains important information to ensure a smooth transition into high school. The pink sheet is the 9th grade course selection sheet for 2026-2027. It is crucial for students to take the process seriously and give significant thought to course selection and decision making as this is the next big step in their educational journey!

Starting Mid January, I will begin to meet with each individual 8th grader to input their course selections made by their teachers as well as input their rank of their chosen electives, in preparation for 9th grade. Students are expected to come prepared with the ELECTIVES portion of their pink sheet filled out. This is for the electives that they wish to have for 9th grade ranked 1 through 5 (1 being the TOP choice). All course level recommendations come from their teachers, therefore any questions regarding placements should be directed to their teachers.

Important dates:

Tuesday, January 6th, 2026 @ 7pm: 8th Grade High School Parent & Student Orientation - Morris Hills High School

Thursday, January 8th, 2026 @ 7pm: 8th Grade High School Parent & Student Orientation - Morris Knolls High School

Please feel free to reach out to me regarding any questions or concerns about the 9th grade scheduling process.

Bryanna Dennison

School Counselor

Thomas Jefferson Middle School

bdennison@rockboro.org

MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT
9th GRADE COURSE SELECTION SHEET 2026-2027



MHRD Program of Studies

Student Name: _____

Counselor: _____

MH MK

English- 5 Credits (Check 1)

- EN310 English 9 H (R)
- EN210 English 9 CPA
- __EN110 English 9 CPB
- __English 9
- WL050 ESL Beginner
- WL051 ESL Intermediate
- WL052 ESL Advanced

Social Studies -5 Credits (Check 1)

- SS310 World History H (R)
- SS210 World History CPA
- __SS110 World History CPB
- __World History

Physical Education

- All Students will be scheduled for 3.75 credits of P.E. and 1.25 credits of Health

Mathematics- 5 Credits (Check 1)

- MT210 Algebra I CPA
- __MT110 Algebra I CPB
- __Algebra I _
- WL063 ESL Integrated Math 1
- MT310 Geometry H (E)**
- MT220 Geometry CPA (E)**
- MT320 Algebra 2 H (E)**
- MT230 Algebra 2 CPA (E)**

Science- 5 Credits (Check 1)

- SC310 Biology H (R)
- SC211 Biology CPA (R)
- __SC200 Environmental Science CP
- __Environmental Science
- SC320 Chemistry H (E) Copeland/Valleyview students in Biology H only

Key

(R) = Teacher recommendation
REQUIRED
(E) = Eligibility based on placement exam or standardized test results

ML/ELL Students ONLY

English as a Second Language (ESL)

- WL000 ESL Newcomer
- WL060 ESL Literature & Lang
- WL061 ESL Beginning Comp.
- WL062 ESL Composition

****In District Students will take the placement test in their respective middle schools**

ELECTIVES: RANK (in order of preference) Your TOP 5 Electives

Using numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (1 Being the TOP choice)

Visual & Performing Arts - 5 credits

- ... VP970 Introduction to Art
- ... VP973 Digital Art & Design
- ... VP975 Cartooning & Animation
- ... VP977 Mixed Media Sculpture
- ... VP980 Band
- ... VP981 String Orchestra
- ... VP982 Music Appreciation
- ... VP984 Music Theory/Composition
- ... VP990 Concert Choir
- ... EN920 Theatre Arts

21st Century Life & Careers- 5 credits

- ... BN911 Esports Experience
- ... BN912 Intro to Business
- ... BN913 Personal Finance
- ... BN924 Game Development
- ... BN950 Yearbook Publication 1
- ... MT421 AP Computer Science Principles
- ... MT910 Cybersecurity Foundations
- ... TC911 Computer Aided Design 1*
- ... TC951 Electricity

21st Century Life & Careers- 5 credits continued

- ... TC952 Intro to Graphic Communications
- ... TC953 Intro to Woodworking
- ... TC954 Metalworking*
- ... TC967 Engineering Maker Lab
- ... TC970 TV Production 1*

Other - 5 credits

- ... EN952 Public Speaking & Writing
- ... EN957 Film Studies
- ... SC212 Intro to Aviation*
- ... SS960 Anthropology

Half Year Courses - 2.5 credits

(Paired based on teacher schedules & must be taken together)

- ... EN954 Shakespeare Remix & EN955 Great Books
- ... SS952 Intro to Economics & SS954 Sports in American Culture
- ... SS951 African American Studies & SS950 Criminology
- ... SS950 Criminology & SS956 Military History
- ... SS956 Military History & SS951 African American Studies
- ... EN951 Multimedia Journalism & EN953 News in the Digital Age
- ... Study Hall/Support Study

***World Language- 5 credits**

- WL210 French 1
- WL211 German 1
- WL212 Spanish 1
- WL110 Spanish Language 1
- WL220 French 2 (R)^
- WL221 German 2 (R)^
- WL222 Spanish 2 (R)^
- WL330 French 3 H (R)^
- WL332 Spanish 3 H (R)^

^ In District students will need a teacher recommendation for enrollment in Year 2 or 3 of a World Language.

Freshmen are encouraged to select a Visual and Performing Arts elective AND a 21st Century Life & Careers elective choice.

*Year 1 of CTE Sequence

MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT
9th GRADE COURSE SELECTION SHEET 2026-2027



MHRD Program of Studies

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Selecting subjects for the high school years is extremely important. As early as it may seem, the decisions made now can have a tremendous influence on the future. Students and parents are encouraged to get all of the assistance possible to help them in this decision-making process. Your teachers and counselors are the professionals who will assist you in selecting subjects that best fit your needs and abilities. Do not hesitate to seek their advice. If you wish to contact the eighth-grade counselor, teacher, or principal, please call the middle school. If you want to speak with a counselor at the high school, please call:

MORRIS KNOLLS SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE – 973-664-2223 or 973-664-2211
MORRIS HILLS SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE – 973-664-2313 or 973-664-2484

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN PLANNING YOUR PROGRAM

1. In order to graduate, all students need a total of 140 credits. Five credit courses run the entire year and two and a half credit courses are semester offerings. Please refer to the Program of Studies to review the graduation requirements for all incoming freshmen. The Program of Studies can be accessed online at www.mhrd.org under the "Curriculum" tab or you can scan the QR code found on the top of page 1.
2. The district has an alternate day block schedule format, including lunch; therefore, every student should select enough credits to fill a minimum of seven blocks. English, world history, mathematics, and science levels are determined by 8th grade teacher recommendations (current performance and previous standardized testing results are considered). All 9th graders must take Physical Education and Health. Additional course selections will depend upon a student's interest and ability. Parents and students should refer to the Program of Studies for program suggestions and course descriptions. Students are strongly encouraged to select a course in world language, visual/performing arts, and/or twenty first century life and careers to fulfill state and district requirements.
3. Parents and students should be aware that there may be minor changes in a requested schedule due to a conflict in scheduling some courses. In these cases, students may not be scheduled for their first or second elective course selections to complete the schedule. If your child decides to change their recommended academic courses or electives, please refer to the "Schedule Change Calendar" section located in the general information page of the Program of Studies. Careful planning and knowledge of course offerings will help avoid such requests.
4. In accordance with Board of Education policy, all students who participate in athletics or after-school activities sponsored by the school, including those associated with classes such as Yearbook Publications or TV Production will be entered into the random drug testing pool. Participation in all athletic programs or after-school activities is voluntary.

COURSE LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS

At the end of 8th grade, middle school teachers will collaborate with the high school staff to make final recommendations for course placement. Grades, standardized test scores, teacher recommendations, and scores on any placement exams (mathematics) will be taken into consideration to determine if any adjustments need to be made to course recommendations. **Parent requests to waive their child into a higher level academic course will ONLY be considered up to June 30th.**

Middle School Name : _____ Middle School Counselor: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name(Print): _____ Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____



MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT

48 Knoll Drive Rockaway New Jersey 07866 | 973.664.2280 | www.mhrd.org



Morris Hills High School
520 West Main Street
Rockaway, NJ 07866 973.664.2309



Morris Knolls High School
50 Knoll Drive
Rockaway, NJ 07866 973.664.2200

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Daniel Haug
Director of Human Resources
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December 2025

Dear 8th Grade Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to Morris Hills Regional District's online registration portal, designed to pre-register your student(s) in school. This letter is intended to introduce you to the process and platform. **The registration portal will open December 15, 2025, and the registration process should be completed no later than February 2, 2026.** Delays in registration may impact the availability of elective courses, the scheduling of transportation, and athletic participation for your student.

Students who live in Denville, Rockaway Borough, Rockaway Township, or Wharton must register with Morris Hills Regional using our online platform if they plan on attending Morris Hills, Morris Knolls, Morris County Vocational School District (for tuition and transportation), or a private/parochial school (for transportation or aid in lieu of transportation).

Important Reminders:

- Only a parent, court-appointed guardian, or legal-aged student may complete the online enrollment process.
- You are legally obligated to provide accurate information during the registration process.
- You are responsible for maintaining your online portal password. If your password is ever compromised, you must change it immediately.
- Prior to enrolling, all new students will have their addresses verified with the street address map and/or tax records.

Getting Started (See Flyer on Reverse Side/Next Page):

- If you are new to the district, please go to <https://www.mhrd.org/curriculum/registration-information/overview>. If you already have an MHRD student or have ever had an Aspen login to register a student in the past, use your [Aspen login](#) and go to "Start a New Online Registration" in the middle of the page.
- If you have forgotten your Aspen password, please select "forgot password" to reset it. If Aspen tells you that your email address is already in the system, that means you have an account; **do not create a new one**. Use the "forgot password" option to reset your account. If you're still having difficulty, please contact chromesupport@mhrd.org.
- This process can be done on any computer or device with Internet access. If you are using a phone, be sure to click on "**request desktop access**" when viewing the Aspen website on a mobile device.
- You can save your work and return at a later time to complete the process.
- You will also be asked to submit a copy of the student's birth certificate and documents to prove residency in the district. If you are unable to provide the necessary documents online, you can schedule a required meeting with the registrar. A list of acceptable documents can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/mhrdresidency>

If at any point in the process you require assistance, or if you do not have internet access at home, please don't hesitate to contact Susan Andersen at 973-664-2295 or via e-mail at registrar@mhrd.org.

MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT

ONLINE REGISTRATION

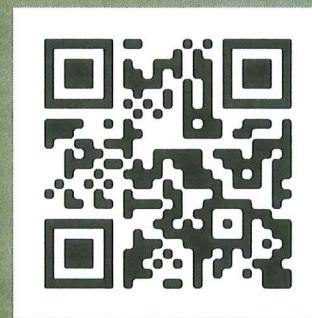
2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



GETTING STARTED

If you're new to the district, please go to link: **ONLINE REGISTRATION** to get started. Parents who already have students in our District can go directly to the [Aspen website*](#), log in using their current ID and password, then go to "Start a New Online Registration" in the middle of the page.

** Be sure to "Request Desktop Site" when viewing the Aspen website on a mobile device.*



Scan the QR code above using your smart phone or tablet to view all of the online registration information and instructions.

Online registration begins
DECEMBER 15th 2025

Online registration ends
FEBRUARY 2nd 2026

WHO NEEDS TO REGISTER?

Any 8th grader who lives in Denville, Rockaway Borough, Rockaway Township, or Wharton **AND**

- plans on attending Morris Hills or Morris Knolls **OR**
- plans on attending Morris County Vocational School District** **OR**
- plans on attending a private or parochial school**

*** for transportation purposes*

BEGIN YOUR REGISTRATION HERE <https://www.mhrd.org/curriculum/registration-information/overview>

If you require assistance at any point in the process or if you do not have internet access at home, please don't hesitate to contact Susan Andersen at 973-664-2295 or via e-mail at registrar@mhrd.org.



MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT IN-DISTRICT SCHOOL CHOICE LOTTERY PROGRAM

FOR 8TH-GRADE STUDENTS INTERESTED IN SWITCHING HIGH SCHOOLS

Fifteen years ago, the Morris Hills Regional District Board of Education approved the creation of a school choice lottery for students residing in Denville, Rockaway Borough, Rockaway Township, or Wharton who may wish to attend an MHRD high school other than the one designated by their residence. The lottery was created in response to community concerns over the social impact of having two high schools.

For most years of the lottery's existence, approximately half of the applicants have requested a switch from Knolls to Hills, and the other half from Hills to Knolls.

Please note that both of our high schools follow the same curriculum and are ranked among the top schools in New Jersey.

The district will make up to 15 "choice" seats available for the 2026-2027 school year. Students who apply for and are selected for the lottery may choose to attend either Morris Hills or Morris Knolls High Schools, regardless of their residence within the four sending communities.

The program is not available to students who are already enrolled in grades 9-12 or who live outside the district.

Families who are interested in participating in the lottery must do the following:

- 1) Register with the Morris Hills Regional District **at the school indicated by your address.**
- 2) Once your registration and proofs of residency have been accepted, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to the online lottery application. This year's application must be submitted by February 2, 2026.

Please review the [In-District Lottery](#) Procedures. Additional information and details about the In-District School Choice Lottery Program can be found on the [Morris Hills Regional District website](#).