Lake Oswego High School
Placement Options

2026-2027

English 9 Honors:

- Each year in high school, students will choose whether to enroll in regular English 9 or English 9 Honors, both of which are college-prep courses. For most students at LOHS, the rigorous curriculum and the balance of direct instruction, guided practice, and personal exploration in regular English 9 provide a strong foundation for academic success in high school.
- Honors English is offered for students who have an extensive interest in English and love books, who welcome a more rigorous course of study, and who have sophisticated abilities in reading and writing.
- The honors course moves at an accelerated pace, with less direct instruction, and demands greater student responsibility and depth of thinking than the regular course. In addition to the increased amount and level of work during the school year, honors students are required to complete reading and writing assignments over the summer and during school breaks.
- We ask students to consider the rigor of their other courses during the ninth grade, their extracurricular demands, and their social lives when making the decision whether or not they have the time and energy to commit to Honors.
- The process includes writing a Letter of Intent (current LOSD students), asking the student to consider how a more rigorous English class will provide an opportunity to utilize strengths while still maintaining balance during the 9th-grade year.
- Students who are new to LOSD and wish to be placed in English 9 Honors will complete a placement recommendation process that includes completing an on-demand writing sample.
- Students/parents who would like additional information regarding the appropriate English placement for their child are welcome to contact Jami Wray, English Department Chair, at wrayj@loswego.k12.or.us.
- 9th grade Honors English is not a prerequisite for taking future Honors and AP English classes. Students may decide to enroll in future years, even if they make the decision not to enroll during their 9th grade year.

Math:

- Placing students in the correct level of math is one of the most important decisions we make. It is imperative that we work together to place your students where they have the opportunity to be successful yet appropriately challenged.
- Eighth-grade math teachers, under the guidance of the high school math department, will determine students' recommended placement based on their current performance.
- Students transferring into Lake Oswego High School who have completed Algebra I are required to take a placement exam before school starts. We will also review students' current grades and progress to help determine placement. Math placement testing opportunities are in June and August.
- In May, all math teachers will recheck their recommendations and communicate appropriate changes based on the student's academic progress at that time.
- Concerns/questions about initial math placement recommendations should be first communicated with the student's current math teacher.
- Parents should not change their child's math placement without consultation with the administration/math department chair at Lake Oswego High School.

- Placement is based on each student's success/potential in the Lake Oswego curriculum.
- We do not necessarily recommend or support students taking a summer math class to accelerate in the math curriculum. Students wanting more information about our rationale should contact Kelly Bohne, Math Instructional Team Leader, and/or Jason Hohnbaum, Assistant Principal.

Science:

- Geoscience is the recommended course of study in ninth grade. Students who do not complete Geoscience will need to complete AP Environmental Science later during their time in high school to fulfill the Lake Oswego School District diploma requirements.
- Some students may elect to take Geoscience and Biology in ninth grade.
- If you would like to discuss science placement, you may contact Jason Hohnbaum, Assistant Principal.

World Language:

- Lake Oswego High School currently offers Spanish 1-4, AP Spanish Language, AP Spanish Literature, French 1-4, AP French, Chinese 1-4, AP Chinese and American Sign Language (ASL) 1-3.
- Lake Oswego High School requires two years of world language for graduation. Some universities require or strongly recommend more than two years of language, and students should check out those requirements prior to forecasting.
- Students who took high school level Spanish or French courses while in middle school will receive world language credit on their Lake Oswego High School transcript.
- Students transferring into Lake Oswego High School who plan to take a World Language level 3 or higher should plan on taking the STAMP placement test. We are offering the test in June and August.
- If your student took first-year Spanish or French at the middle school and successfully passed with an A, B, or C, they should register for second-year language at Lake Oswego High School. **Students who received a C or better should NOT repeat first-year language unless there are extenuating circumstances and it is cleared through the high school administration.**
- Students wishing to begin World Language in ninth grade may select year 1 of any language they prefer.
- If you have concerns about your student's transition to high school, we suggest you consider waiting until tenth grade to begin World Language, allowing them to be more successful after they have adjusted to the demands of high school.