Middle School: *Course Planner Communication Plan*

What is Course Planner & January Information Session

Greetings, Yeti Nation,

LCPS is continuing its partnership with SchooLinks, our college and career readiness platform, with the use of the Course Planner feature. The Office of School Counseling Services will offer a second virtual **Course Planner Learning Session for Parents/Guardians** on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**.

This session will focus on supporting families on how to review their student's course plan for the next school year. The information session will be held from **6:00-7:00 pm.** Here is the **webinar link** if you are able to attend.

WHAT IS COURSE PLANNER?

Course Planner is an interactive tool, a part of the SchooLinks platform, that easily allows students to select courses and indicate their interest in academic pathways. Students will also clearly be able to see what course requirements have been met to support short and long-term planning for graduation. Plus, Course Planner's interactive interface makes it engaging to use.

Course Planner will be accessible to students in grades 5 through 11 in early January 2026. Middle school students will begin accessing Course Planner in January during School Counseling lessons. Communication will be sent out once these lessons occur. When a student has completed their course plan with their School Counselor, communication will be sent home to the parents/guardians to review the plan and provide any comments.

Course Planner will also support a public-facing course catalog and an internal component describing each course, its prerequisites, and other course details. The Program of Studies for the 2026-2027 school year has been seamlessly integrated into Course Planner.

Parents/guardians will have access to review students' course requests and multi-year plans to actively engage in academic advising with their student. During the 6th grade year, students will plan for the upcoming 7th grade year. During the 7th grade year, students will begin planning through graduation. Finally, during the 8th grade year, students will be modifying their course plans created the previous school year.

Similarly, School Counselors will be able to easily see which students are not meeting course plan requirements. Course Planner will also enable counselors to digitally review and approve student courses. Once approved by School Counselors, parents and guardians will be notified to review and approve their student's course plan.

Check out this SchooLinks **video** for an overview of Course Planner. Please consider attending the Course Planner Learning Session to see more features of this new course selection tool.

WHAT WILL 6TH GRADERS PLAN FOR?

Sixth grade students will plan for their 7th grade year. They will be able to select their four content classes (Math, English, Science, and Social Studies) as well as their fine arts electives (Art, Band, Chorus, Guitar, Strings) and a full block elective (French, German, Latin, Spanish, Introduction to Computer Science, Computer Science Foundations, Communications Studies or Exploratory Dramatics).

WHAT WILL 7TH & 8TH GRADERS PLAN FOR?
Seventh and eighth grade students will plan for their next year's courses as well as begin mapping out or editing their plan for graduation requirements.

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Middle school students will start utilizing the platform after winter break. Communication will be shared the week it is starting with students.

If you have any questions, please reach out to **your School Counselor**. We look forward to an exciting time of planning for the thrilling future ahead!