

High School Scheduling Process

Hello Parents / Guardians:

It is hard to believe that it is time to start preparing our 8th grade students for their transition to Longmeadow High School! The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information about important dates/events that will be happening over the course of the next 2 months that will prepare your students for their 9th grade course selections.

November 30th

The gr. 8 students took a tour of CTEC in West Springfield. Students were able to walk through various shops to hear from instructors and observe students engaging in the learning process. This tour provided our students with another opportunity to assist in their decision making about vocational training being the right fit for them.

Here is a timeline of the important dates/events:

February 15th:

During their Civics block, your 8th graders will meet with Mr. Knowles to discuss the high school course selection process. They will be receiving the ***High School Planning*** packet and the ***Educational Opportunities*** (Ed Opps) booklet from Longmeadow High School.

They will be instructed to bring this information home to share with you. Please review this packet and assist your student with what they would like to select for their freshman classes. In the event the Ed Opps packet is delayed, we will provide this document promptly upon receipt.

February 28th: Academic Preview Hour and LHS Counselor meeting

All 8th grade students will be visiting the high school to receive information about the offerings available in 9th grade. We will depart Glenbrook via a school bus at approximately **8:45 AM** and return back around **10:45 AM**. The agenda for the *Academic Preview Hour* is as follows:

- Tom Landers (Principal) - Welcoming and introductions
- Presentation by LHS staff and students - They will speak about course requirements, academic rigor, curriculum, transition, and expectations.

For the 2nd half of their experience, the LHS School Counselors will talk to the 8th grade students about their future schedules, balancing their high school life, the course load, after-school opportunities, and mapping out courses during their time at LHS.

March 2nd: Parent Information Night (LHS @ 6:00 pm)

This information session and orientation meeting is for all parents and guardians of current 8th graders. They will cover much of the information that your student received on the 28th.

March 3rd: Course Selection Begins

At 3pm, in the comforts of your own home, students will be able to view their course recommendations and select electives for next year via their PowerSchool account. Through the Parent Portal, you will have the ability to view the recommendations and your student's selected electives through March 24th. Please contact Mitch Knowles, School Counselor, if you intend to waive up to a higher level course or make any changes to their selections. Parents/guardians will have until **March 24, 2022** to finalize these requests.

The subjects you will see recommendations for are as follows: English, Math, History, Science, Spanish (if applicable), and French (if applicable). For each core subject, there are three different levels:

- Honors Level
- College Prep 1 (CP1)
- College Prep 2 (CP2)
- CP2 only exists in the core subjects since the world languages do have CP1 and Honors.

If you have questions about your student's course recommendation, please contact your student's teacher.

March 6th - March 24th: Individual Meetings

I will be meeting with your child, individually, to discuss their course load, class selections, electives, and after-school commitments. I will guide your student in selecting a 9th grade course schedule that is best suited for them. If your student wishes to waive into a higher level course, they must request a course waiver form. **The waiver form must be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to Mr. Knowles by March 24th.**

March 24th: Waiver Deadline

All waiver forms are due at this time. Students can see Mr. Knowles to receive the form. *A form will be needed for each course they want to waive into. Students must have a parent signature and a conversation with the School Counselor in order to have the waiver approved. **There will be no waiver requests or schedule changes past this date.** LHS counselors will notify parents of dates in August to make changes. Changes will be based on course availability at that time.*

If at any point you have any questions/concerns, please feel free to contact me via phone (565-4250) or email (mknowles@longmeadow.k12.ma.us).

Thank you,
Mitchell Knowles
GMS School Counselor