Going into 9th grade? 8th to 9th Grade– Issaquah High School

We are excited to welcome our next batch of Eagles to the nest. Transitioning to high school can be both exciting and a bit nerve wracking for students and parents, especially if this is the first student in your family to enter high school.

Below is the flyer about the first of a few events we have to help 8th graders transition to the high school. The first event is an evening program for both parents and students to learn about courses and make appropriate course requests for 9th grade year. Please see the details in the flyer as the date and time depend on the students’ first letter of their last name. The dates are February 4, 5 or 6 depending on last name. If you cannot make your designated time, it is ok to attend any of the other sessions listed.

After reading the flyer, you may feel you need to prepare. We assure you, you do not need to prepare anything prior to your arrival. After leaving the evening program, you will have plenty of time to dig into all of the resources, ask questions and finalize decisions.

Knowing that, some parents want to start digging in early. We have compiled a list of questions we typically get this time of year from families of 8th graders. We are looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible during our alphabetical sessions in the Library at IHS – but between now and then please consider some of the following information.

“Registration” for 9th grade is actually called Course Selection at the high school. It is a time where we encourage conversations between students and their support networks, related to personal strengths and limitations, considering both academic ability and performance in addition to extracurricular activities and the demands on a student’s time. We very much support a balanced approach to high school and beyond planning and encourage students to participate in self-reflection prior to course selection each year. These conversations might include feedback from your student’s current grades, grade trends, information from instructors past and present and advice you might solicit regarding challenge or rigor for your student in a certain subject moving forward. High School offers grade level and honors level coursework in many subject areas, however not every student is suited for honors level work across the board. Conversations about what might be the best approach for your 9th grader would be helpful to have sooner rather than later.

Additional sources for information include:

IHS Counseling Website – updated regularly with information related to the navigation of high school graduation planning and preparing for what your student intends to do after earning their diploma.

Course Selection - location of information that relates specifically to the selection of courses for each school year. This site is updated often, with a bulk of our updates
occurring during this phase of the school year. This is where we house the course guide for each school year. Currently only the guide for last school year is posted, however until the 2020-21 guide is posted (on or before February 1) this will serve as a wonderful start for looking into the specifics related to courses your student can choose from. The class of 2024 requirements will be nearly exactly the same as the class of 2023 so the course guide information there may answer some questions you have.

**High School Graduation Requirements** – Members of the class of 2024 will need to meet the 24 credit requirement outlined by the state of Washington and the Issaquah School District. These are requirements that you will hear about during your evening presentation, and that your students will continue to hear about during their 4 years at high school.

**9th Grade Classes** – as a 9th grader your student will choose courses for 7 full periods day. Some courses will yearlong classes (meaning they won’t change at semester) and some will be only 1 semester so you’d take 2 semester long classes in the same period. For 9th grade year, one thing to start thinking about is whether you will choose grade level or honors in humanities offerings and what your current feelings are about your math and science levels.

**Math** – your 9th grade math level should be determined by your performance in your 8th grade math class. This is where some teacher feedback might be useful in making a selection for next year. High School graduation requirements include: 3.0 credits of math. Four year college admissions advisors will recommend those 3.0 credits include at minimum through Algebra 2. Most four year institutions also list a senior year quantitative course as an admissions requirement. This fourth credit of math would be an elective for high school graduation purposes, but an elective they are choosing to be prepared for their pathway after high school graduation. The course guide will offer a flow chart of choices with recommendations for pattern and sequence.

**Science** – typically our 9th graders will take Biology. The exception to that would be students already in Biology in grade 8. If that is you – please consider the information in the course guide carefully as it relates to recommendations for science courses beyond biology. Please also consider the recommendations as they relate to the math level related to certain courses. There are times where we see students struggle in Chemistry (for example) because they are yet being instructed in content covered in Algebra 2. Additionally – the high school graduation requirement is 3.0 credits of science. Any student taking a fourth credit of science is ‘electing’ to take this course for their post high school pathway. The fourth credit would count toward the high school graduation requirement area ‘elective’. The course guide will offer a flow chart of choices with recommendations for pattern and sequence.

**PE and Health** – The stated graduation requirement for health is .5 credit (one semester), and for PE is 1.5 credits (3 semesters). There are a few options for the completion of both health and PE – however those options will not have much relevance as it relates to course selection for grade 9. A majority of our students take health at IHS
as part of the seven period day in grades 10-12. PE is a topic of many questions related to four year planning. Here is a helpful visual reference related to the PE credit options for ISD Students

**Acceleration** – The question often comes up regarding how a student can accelerate through material to access courses at a higher level of rigor. There are some options related to approved online learning coursework through the school district, district summer school programming as well as dual credit opportunities available in the higher grades.

**Additional FAQs** – linked at the bottom of the course selection page are FAQs we have collected over time as it relates to course selection and four year planning that might help those with more intricate questions as they relate to course planning.

We look forward to seeing everyone in February for Course Selection Nights!

Andrea McCormick
Issaquah High School
Principal
# COURSE SELECTION FOR IHS

**Calling all 8th grade students & parents**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*By last name alpha*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-G</td>
<td>February 4th</td>
<td>IHS Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-B @ 5:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-D @ 6:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E-G @ 7:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H-M</td>
<td>February 5th</td>
<td>IHS Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H-J@ 5:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>K @ 6:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L @ 7:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M @ 8:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-Z</td>
<td>February 6th</td>
<td>IHS Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N-Q @ 5:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R-Si @ 6:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Si-T @ 7:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U-Z @ 8:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Details:**

**Who:** 8th graders & their parent/guardian TOGETHER

**What:** Plan your course selection for high school courses & begin an ongoing conversation about whole child education and post high school goals

**Where:** Issaquah High Library

**When:** Date/time depends on student’s last name alpha

**Why:** Small group registration info in order to:

- Make Q/A more accessible
- Introduce high school and beyond planning as a collaborative effort
- Be transparent about how course selection is one piece of a greater conversation about stress, self-awareness, goal setting and much more!

---

**Presented in Spanish or Chinese?**

**February 5th @ 7:30am**

**Already have a student @ IHS and want the quick version?**

**February 4th @ 8:00pm**

---

**Here are some resources for you to access to guide these conversations...**

- Issaquah Main website
- Issaquah Counseling website

---

**Mission:** Issaquah High School prepares students to fly when they leave the nest by inspiring students to reach their full potential and become lifelong learners who positively impact the world and community in which they find themselves.