



MERRIMACK HIGH SCHOOL

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February 2, 2023,

Dear Student and Parents/Guardians:

One factor leading to high school students' success is appropriate course placement. With that in mind, specific procedures are used when recommending students for honors level and World Language courses.

The English and Social Studies departments share a common honors placement procedure for incoming freshmen. Because of the rigorous nature and accelerated pace of the honors courses offered in these departments, students must have excellent expository writing skills, strong reading comprehension skills, and developing analysis skills. Students who feel they meet these criteria can apply for placement. The application consists of a form to complete and a timed writing sample. The high school English and Social Studies departments then work closely with the middle school to suggest proper placement for all interested students. Students recommended for the honors program will be eligible to request enrollment in the following course options: English 9 Honors and/or World Studies Honors. More information about the specific application process and these course offerings will be provided during Parent Information Night and the Student Information Meeting. In the meantime, questions about these courses can be directed to the MHS English Department Head, william.maniotis@sau26.org, or the MHS Social Studies Department Head, trevor.knight@sau26.org.

Eighth grade students who are currently taking either Spanish or French and have earned a C or better in all quarters are recommended for level 2 of that language at the high school. We do not recommend repeating level 1 as the middle and high school teachers work closely to deliver curriculum, and students are often bored and disengaged re-taking the class. If a student has passed level 1 of Spanish or French at the middle school but would like to re-take the same level at the high school, the student must fill out a petition for placement in level 1. Students may elect to begin a new language at the high school and may sign up for level 1 of any new language. If a student would like to enroll in a level 2 course or higher and is not currently enrolled in a world language class at the middle school, please contact the MHS World Language Department Head at angela.maslanka@sau26.org for a placement test.

Placement in the Honors Geometry and Honors Physical Science classes is determined using a combination of factors. Students currently taking Algebra 1 who achieve the minimum total of 6 points out of a possible 9 points, based on their yearly average in Algebra 1 at the end of third quarter, and their winter Star Math and Reading Assessments will be invited to take Honors Geometry and Honors Physical Science. Students will then be invited to enroll in Geometry and Physical Science at the honors level. Students who have passed Algebra 1 but do not qualify for the honors level will take Geometry and Physical Science. Questions about these high school courses can be directed to the MHS Math Department Head, ronald.delude@sau26.org, or the MHS Science Department Head, adam.french@sau26.org.

We will monitor students' progress throughout the year to make sure that their placement is appropriate. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The MHS Department Chairs



NEW ENGLAND
ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS
AND COLLEGES
ACCREDITED MEMBER