



September 2025

Dear Parents or Guardians of our “Future Mustangs,”

We are excited to welcome your student to Mundelein High School next year! We are committed to providing every student with a high-quality, meaningful education. We put careful thought and intention into our decisions about academic courses and levels to support this goal. Rather than basing placements solely on an exam score, we consider multiple factors to find the most appropriate classes for each student. We will review recommendations from your student’s middle school teachers and administrators. We also look at your student’s scores from their eighth-grade MAP or STAR standardized tests. By taking a holistic approach, we can make placement decisions tailored to each student's needs and strengths.

### **Biology, English, and World Studies Placement:**

Because we believe all students are capable of meeting rigorous academic standards, all ninth graders will be enrolled in Earned Honors World Studies, Biology, and English 1. These earned honors courses provide the academic building blocks necessary for success in the Advanced Placement, honors, and dual college credit courses they may take in high school. All students will take common assessments that measure mastery of key concepts and skills in each course. Students demonstrating advanced-level proficiency will receive honors credit, which will increase their GPA by .5 points. The honors designation will be noted on their high school transcript for each course in which they achieve honors credit.

### **Math Placement:**

Math placements are determined by the math course students took during their eighth-grade year, STAR or MAP middle school scores, and eighth-grade teacher recommendations.

8th Grade Math Class	9th Grade Math Class
8th Grade Math with additional support (math intervention or math resource)	Geometry Seminar (Provides extra math support, covering essential pre-algebra concepts within a geometric framework. This prepares them for success in Algebra 1 in 10th grade and Algebra 2 in 11th grade.)
8th Grade Math	Algebra 1
Algebra 1	Geometry or Honors Geometry (Placement is determined by STAR or MAP middle school test scores and 8th-grade teacher recommendations)
Geometry	Honors Algebra 2



### Support Classes:

Academic Support Reading	Academic Support Math	Guided Study
This class provides targeted literacy instruction to improve students' reading, writing, and executive functioning skills. These fundamental skills will better prepare students to succeed across all their academic classes.	This class provides academic assistance with complex math topics, homework, and executive functioning skills. <b>This class is strongly encouraged but not required.</b>	This class provides targeted intervention similar to a more intensive study hall to assist students in managing their academic workload. This class is for students who need additional academic assistance with the guidance of a teacher to complete their classwork.

### World Language Placement:

Placement is based on the Spanish class students took in 8th grade, language assessment scores, and middle school teacher recommendations.

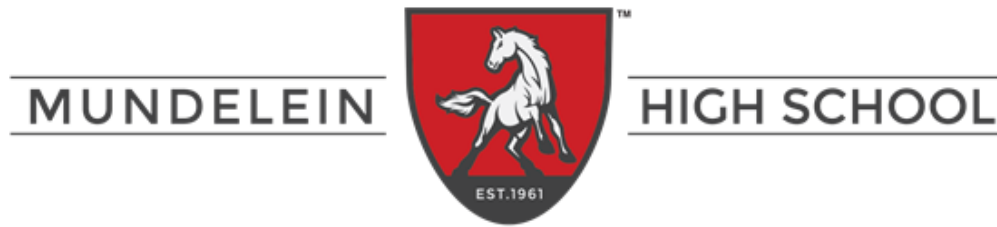
Middle School	9th Grade
No language courses	Spanish 1 or French 1
Middle school Spanish class	Spanish 2
Spanish-speaking home and understands spoken Spanish	Heritage Learner Spanish Level 2
Spanish-speaking home and can speak, read, and write in Spanish	Heritage Learner Spanish Level 3
Middle School Dual Language Program	Spanish Language Arts Level 3

***\*Note: Students in a middle school dual language program who do not meet the academic benchmark to qualify for Spanish Language Arts Level 3 will be placed in Spanish 2 or Heritage Learner Spanish Level 2.***

**We will mail individual placement documents to all incoming eighth-grade families following winter break.**

We will provide an overview of our ninth-grade courses on **Thursday, January 15th, 2025, at our Class of 2029 Night** at Mundelein High School. Both parents and students are invited to attend. The program will include an overview of our academic programs, course placements, information on the day-in-the-life of a ninth grader, and extracurricular opportunities at MHS.

Incoming ninth graders will meet with high school students to learn more about what they will experience as they transition to MHS. Class, activities, athletics, and special events will be discussed. Students will also have an opportunity to ask questions about the transition to high school.



Following the presentations, we will host our **Activities/Athletics Fair**, where sponsors, coaches, and students will be available to speak about their respective clubs or sports, answer questions, and enlist future members. In addition, department chairs and other administrators will be available to answer any questions you may have about the transition to high school.

**We ask that parents/guardians and students with last names A-L arrive at the MHS auditorium by 6:00 PM for a 45-minute presentation. Parents/guardians and students with last names M-Z should attend the 7:15 PM session in the auditorium. The presentation will be offered in Spanish in the cafeteria during both sessions. Spanish-speaking families can also use translation headphones for the presentation in the auditorium.**

For more information about the transition to MHS, please visit the D120 web page under [Incoming 9th Grade Parents](#). At MHS, it is very important to us that every student experiences a meaningful, rigorous, and enriching experience. We encourage you to reach out with any questions you may have. Our department chairs' contact information is located below.

- Tom Buenik: Counseling Department Chair
- Diane Covert: English and EL/Bilingual Department Chair
- Kim Goldberg: Director of Special Education
- Justin Hart: Physical Wellness Department Chair
- Chris Lagioia: Social Studies and World Language Department Chair
- Randy Lerner: Math Department Chair
- Joey Philipp: Science Department Chair
- Rich Stiles: Fine Arts and Career Technical Education Department Chair
- Kandace Tyrrell: Department Chair of Special Education

Warmest Regards,

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