

October, 2026

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 exam scores, we consider multiple factors to determine 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-credit college-level 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 who show advanced understanding will earn honors credit and a 0.5-point increase to their GPA. 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 in eighth grade, 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: Some students need extra instruction in reading or math, while others need help staying organized and completing work across their classes. A support class gives them dedicated time with a teacher to build those skills and keep up with their coursework.

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. This class is strongly encouraged but not required.	This class provides targeted intervention, similar to a more intensive study hall, to help students manage their academic workload. This class is for students who need additional academic assistance, guided by 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
Middle school Spanish class or can understand spoken Spanish	Heritage Learner Spanish Levels 1 or 2
Middle school Spanish class or can read, write, and speak in Spanish	Honors Heritage Learner Spanish Level 3
Middle School Dual Language Program	Honors Spanish Language Arts Level 3 or 4

****Note: Students who select to take Heritage Learner Spanish will take a placement exam during the school day at their middle school in January.***

We will provide an overview of our ninth-grade courses at Mundelein High School on **Thursday, November 12, at our Class of 2031 Night**. Both parents and students are invited to attend. The program will include an overview of our academic programs, elective course options, a day in the life of a ninth grader, and extracurricular opportunities at MHS. Incoming ninth-graders will meet with high school students to learn what to expect as they transition to MHS.

After each presentation, you can visit the Activities and Athletics Fair to learn about our clubs and sports. Club sponsors, coaches, and current students will be there to answer your questions and recruit future members. In addition, division 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 40-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.

For more information, please visit the D120 web page under [Incoming 9th Grade Parents](#). We encourage you to reach out with any questions you may have. Our division chairs' contact information is located below.

- Stacey Gorman, Assistant Principal of Teaching and Learning (sgorman@d120.org)
- Tom Buenik, Division Chair of Counseling and Careers (tbuenik@d120.org)
- Kim Goldberg, Director of Special Education (kgoldberg@d120.org)
- Autumn Graef, Division Chair of Multilingual Education (agraef@d120.org)
- Ben Horwitz, Division Chair of English and Media (bhorwitz@d120.org)
- Jennifer Kazimer, Division Chair of Business and Social Studies (jkazimer@d120.org)
- Dan Lindahl, Division Chair of Math and Computer Science (dlindahl@d120.org)
- Joey Philipp, Division Chair of Science, Engineering, and Industrial Technology (jphilipp@d120.org)
- Rich Stiles, Division Chair of Fine Arts and Wellness (rstiles@d120.org)
- Kandance Tyrrell, Assistant Director of Special Education (ktyrrell@d120.org)

Warmest Regards,

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