



December 2023

Dear Parents or Guardians of “Future Mustangs,”

We are so 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 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.

**Placements beyond English, World Studies, and Biology:**

- ❖ Math placements will be determined by the math course students took during their eighth-grade year. For example:
  - **General 8th-grade math course** - Student will be placed into Algebra 1 or Geometry Seminar
  - **Algebra 1 in 8th grade** - Student will be placed into Honors Geometry or Geometry
  - **Geometry in 8th grade** - Student will be placed into Honors Algebra 2/Trig
- ❖ Some students will be placed in Academic Support Math or Reading.
  - **Academic Support Math** is an intervention course taken concurrently with students’ ninth-grade math course. Students will receive academic assistance with complex math topics, homework completion, note-taking, and other executive functioning skills.
  - **Academic Support Reading** is a ninth-grade intervention course that provides targeted literacy instruction to improve students’ reading, writing, vocabulary, and executive functioning skills. The literacy skills that students master in this class transfer to their other academic courses, such as social studies and science.
- ❖ Other students may be placed in **Guided Study**, which is a targeted intervention similar to a more intensive study hall to assist students in managing their academic workload. Guided Study offers support for students requiring more academic assistance, in addition to time within the school day to complete their class work.
- ❖ For **Spanish placement**, students who took Spanish in middle school should enroll in Spanish 2 during their ninth-grade year. Eighth-grade students who desire to begin learning a language for the first time can choose from Spanish 1 and French 1. Incoming 8th-grade students who have been enrolled in a Spanish dual language program and are not native Spanish speakers may request to take a placement test to determine if Honors Spanish 3 is the best placement for their continued Spanish language studies. Dual language families wanting to test into Honors Spanish 3 should contact Chris Lagioia, our World



Language Department Chair, at [clagioia@d120.org](mailto:clagioia@d120.org).

- ❖ **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 18th, 2024, at our Class of 2028 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. Topics such as classes, 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 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 Phillipp: Science Department Chair
- Rich Stiles: Fine & Applied Arts Department Chair
- Kandace Tyrrell: Department Chair of Special Education

Warmest Regards,

Ms. Stacey Gorman  
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