GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents/Guardians of 8th Grade Students:

Presently, our teachers are in the process of making course recommendations for High School placement. These recommendations were made for the first time at the end of January but will be reevaluated at the end of third quarter, and lastly, at the end of the year.

In an effort to better inform you of this process, I am outlining below the requirements for Honors Placement in the High School.

**Math**: Placement in Geometry Honors requires a minimum course grade of 90% in Algebra, a minimum of 85% on the Common Core Algebra Regents, and teacher recommendation.

**Science**: There are two opportunities for students entering into 9th grade to excel in science at North High School.

1 – Physics 9 Honors – This course presents an opportunity for ninth graders to take an advanced physics course.  This class is intended for those who rank at the very top of their middle school science and math classes, and who are committed to making science their major academic area of pursuit.  Eighth grade teachers will recommend students for placement in this course based on their performance on a placement exam and in Math and Earth Science.

2 – Science Research Project Seminar – Students must apply for admittance to this 9th grade elective.  Admission is competitive and a limited number of students are selected for this opportunity.  Students who apply must write a short essay describing their desire to enter the program.  Taking 8th grade Science Research is not a prerequisite to enter this course.

**English:** English 9 Honors is not offered as a separate course. Ninth grade students enrolled in an English 9 Regents class have the opportunity to pursue honors level study and credit by achievement. English 9 Regents teachers will explain the criteria for an English Honors designation early in the year.

**Social Studies**: Social Studies 9 Honors is not offered as a separate course. Ninth grade students enrolled in a Social Studies 9 Regents class will be given the opportunity to earn honors credit within their Social Studies class. Social Studies 9 Regents teachers will explain the criteria for a Social Studies Honors designation early in the year.

I have also provided descriptions below of some of the high school academic support programs.

**Math:** Students designated by their Math 8 teachers as needing additional instruction to master the concepts and skills of Algebra 1 will take Algebra 1with a Lab, a course that provides an extra period of math on alternate days for support.

**Study Skills:** The Study Skills Center offers students help in any subject with which they are struggling with an emphasis on reading comprehension of materials in all curriculum areas. Mini-lessons will be presented on a wide variety of instructional skills and strategies. The study skills course is designed to improve students' reading comprehension, vocabulary, organization, test-taking, time management and study skills as well as to present those skills that are necessary for success in science, social studies and math classes. Eighth grade teachers will recommend students for placement in study skills based on their performance in eighth grade.

**FOCUS:** The FOCUS Academy is a program designed to provide academic support to 9th grade students for whom learning in larger classroom settings is often more challenging. Students in the FOCUS program meet for two consecutive periods each day and receive support from content area teachers. A Study Skills teacher will also present mini-lessons on a wide variety of instructional skills and strategies. FOCUS Academy teachers employ pre-teaching and re-teaching strategies, as well as provide smaller group instruction. Eighth grade teachers will designate students for placement in FOCUS based on their performance in eighth grade. Parents of these students will receive a letter informing them of this designation.

If you have any questions, please contact either the subject area teachers or your child’s counselor, Mr. Brendan Nelson. As always, you can certainly contact me as well.

We hope that you find this information useful.

Best,



Gerald Cozine

Principal

Docs:Regis/HS Placement 2017/Rev 02/07/17