



# O'FALLON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 203



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SUPERINTENDENT

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October 6, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The course selection process for current 9th grade students will begin next week starting on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and will conclude on/before December 10<sup>th</sup>. Students will be called down during their advisory class to meet individually with a school counselor from the Guidance Office.

In advance of this meeting, we encourage you to view the Sophomore Course Selection sheet as well as the OTHS Curriculum Guide located on the Guidance Department [website](#) or by clicking [HERE](#). Course selection sheets contain a full listing of sophomore courses available to students for the 2022-2023 school year. A description of courses along with pre-requisite requirements may be found in the OTHS Curriculum Guide. It is important to go over the course selection options with your child and make sure that they are taking courses that suit their interests and abilities. Successful course selection includes completing graduation requirements and taking those courses that match student interests and ability levels along with trying new courses or electives.

Recommendations for courses will be made based upon several factors including current grades, pre-requisite completion and teacher recommendations. However, it is ultimately up to the student and parent to decide on a student's course selections. We encourage you to have an open discussion with your child's teachers, school counselor, and to look at past grades and habits. Then choose courses that will stretch your child a bit, but remember we want kids to feel challenged, not overwhelmed and drowning.

### How are students placed into courses?

Student placement into courses may depend upon successful completion of pre-requisite coursework and/or grades in classes. A complete description of courses along with pre-requisite requirements may be found in the OTHS Curriculum Guide. A student's confirmed placement into a course will not be determined until semester grades are finalized and posted.

### What are the requirements for graduation from OTHS?

A student must complete at least seven (7) semesters of course work, earn 21 units of credit, pass the Illinois and Federal Constitution tests and specific subject area requirements as listed below and outlined on page 4 of the OTHS Curriculum Guide.

**English Language Arts- 8 semesters**

- 4 semesters of writing-intensive coursework required

**Math- 6 semesters**

- 2 semesters of Algebra
- 2 semesters of Geometry content
- 2 semesters beyond Algebra and Geometry

**Science- 4 semesters**

- 2 semesters of Life Science
- 2 semesters of Physical Science

**Social Studies- 5 semesters**

- 1 semester of Civics or Government
- 2 semesters of United States History
- 2 semesters of S.S. elective course

**Consumer Education- 1 semester**

- 1 semester of Personal Finance

**Health- 1 semester**

**Physical Education- 4 semesters**

- Exemptions may be given for successful completion of AFJROTC, Marching Band.
- A junior or senior that participates in and completes an inter-scholastic sport will be exempt from one semester of PE per year. Only two semesters of exemption can be earned.

**Electives- 2 semesters** (*Art, Music, World Language, CTE*)



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## What happens if my child fails a course?

If a student fails a course which is required to graduate, students will be re-enrolled in that course for the next year, if available. Starting second semester of a student's sophomore year, they may enroll in the District Credit Recovery program, PACE. Summer school may also be an option to recover failed coursework. Summer school and/or credit recovery must be discussed with the student's school counselor.

## What kinds of programs will be available to my student his/her 10th or 11th grade year?

- **Advanced Placement®**- students have the opportunity to potentially earn college credit by enrolling in the Advanced Placement® courses at OTHS. Students must meet academic criteria to enroll and are responsible for any fees associated with the class and exam.
- **Dual Credit**- available through Southwestern Illinois College and SLU 1818 Advanced College Credit Program, dual credit courses provide students the potential to earn both high school credit and college credit. A full listing of dual credit coursework may be found on the OTHS Guidance Department Webpage. Students may be required to meet academic criteria to enroll in specific dual credit courses and are responsible for any fees associated with the class.
- **Essential Study Skills**- ESS is offered to a select number of students who would benefit from additional support with their classes. Instruction focuses on basic study skills that students need for academic success. Students must be recommended by their school counselor and/or ESS instructors.
- **Running Start** -the criteria for student selection is high, including the completion of Honors Geometry with an A or a B by the end of one's sophomore year, a GPA of 3.5 or higher, be in good standing with their high school institution, in compliance with the OTHS Code of Conduct, and be on track to graduate. The maximum number of participants is capped at 20.

## Can students make changes to their course selections?

Yes, students may make changes to their course selections anytime during the school year and summer leading up to the first day of school in August 2022. During the school year, students may make an appointment to meet with Mrs. Keller or Mr. Hattan in order to make changes to their course selections. Requests to change a course will be dependent upon course availability at the time of the request.

We hope that you have found this information to be helpful. Should you have any questions related to the course selection process, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

OTHS Milburn Guidance Department

Mrs. Tera Keller, last names A-O [kellert@oths.us](mailto:kellert@oths.us)

Mrs. Travis Hattan, last names P-Z [hattant@oths.us](mailto:hattant@oths.us)