

LHS Website Blurb

Parents,

It is hard to believe, but we will be starting the process of transitioning our 8th grade students to Leander High School in the upcoming months. To help in your planning, I wanted to provide you with a schedule and description of events so you can begin marking your calendars:

Event: LHS Parent Night/ PRIDE Night

Date: January 27th

Description: See LHS website for times and description

Event: LHS Counselor Classroom Info Sessions

Date: LMS January 29th and 30th/ RBMS February 5th and 6th

Description: LHS counselors will come to MS to assist students with completing course choice sheets for their 9th grade year through current social studies classes. By the end of their time together, students will leave the sessions understanding high school concepts as well as the choices they have in their electives.

Students will bring their choice sheets home to you where changes can be made and your approval can be gained for elective decisions. Once parents have approved choice sheets, students will return their choice sheet to the MS Counselor.

Note: As part of a new initiative meant to help guide students and parents in determining placement in pre-AP/AP or regular courses, LISD will be providing parents and students with data-based suggestions for Geometry, Biology, History, Spanish II (if applicable), and English I. Using multiple data, students will be placed in either the Pre-AP or regular version of these courses during their ninth grade year. Parents will receive both the data points behind the suggestions, as well as their child's placement when LHS sends course verification letters home at a later date.

Please know this does **NOT** mean that your child is *required* to take the courses that have been suggested. With data-points and suggested courses in hand, the expectation is that you can sit with your child, have a dialogue, and make appropriate changes if necessary. Some families will choose to enroll their child in more Pre-AP courses than suggested; while others may opt their child out of Pre-AP courses. This is fully understood and accepted. Things you should consider when making the final decision for your child's course selections are: 1. What are his/her future plans? 2. What are your child's academic talents and strengths? 3. What are your child's study skills and work habits? 4. What are your family and extra-curricular commitments outside of the school day?

You will receive a course verification sheet after electives are chosen and processed, that will provide you with the opportunity and steps needed to change your child's placement in any course.

Event: Choice Sheets Due to MS Counselor

Date: February 13th

Event: LHS Advanced Programs Night

Date: April 14th

Description: See LHS website for times and description

Event: Four Year Planning Days

Date: Late May

Description: As a new legislative requirement from House Bill 5, MS counselors will conduct classroom sessions to help your child create a “Four Year Plan” at the end of his/her eighth grade year. In this plan, your student will choose the courses he/she would like to take all the way through his/her senior year at LHS. Students will explore the endorsements that exist and mark the classes that will help them achieve an endorsement. As part of the lesson, counselors will conduct large group classroom guidance lessons and then review student’s individual plans with them.

Of course, we fully expect your child’s four year plan to change throughout their four years in high school; as this document is fluid and will be ever-changing. The goal of this task is to begin the process of helping your child look forward (with an end in mind) and generate their academic goals. This is only the first step in the process and is not meant to worry you or your child! In fact, during your student’s ninth grade year, he/she will take either the Professional Communications or AVID class where students will spend a large amount of time investigating college/ careers and adjusting their 4 year plan and/or endorsement areas as necessary. An additional requirement of this class is to have a student-led parent meeting, where parents are involved closely in their child’s planning. Since parents will already be involved in this process in ninth grade, MS counselors will not hold parent meetings for this same purpose.

In the end, the four year plans will be passed up to LHS so that your students can have a starting point for their Professional Communications class in ninth grade.