

# LA PLATA HIGH SCHOOL

*La Plata, Maryland*



**ELECTIVE COURSE SELECTION FOR  
INCOMING 9TH GRADE STUDENTS**

**2023-2024**

TO: 8th Grade Students

FROM: Dr. Tamantha Golden, School Counselor for the Class of 2027

SUBJECT: 9th Grade Elective Course Selection

The staff at La Plata High School want you to experience a smooth transition from middle to high school. The most important aspect about you entering 9th grade is your schedule. Your academic courses (English, Math, Social Studies, and Science) have already been selected by your middle school staff. The following slides will help you accurately complete your course request by choosing your elective courses.

We want you to have a great experience at La Plata High School, so please choose your electives carefully. Schedule changes will not be made next school year because you are unhappy with a course you selected. Descriptions of all high school courses offered in Charles County Public Schools can be found in the [High School Program of Studies](#). Please be sure to review the LPHS Course Selection Sheet (on the next slide) and course descriptions (in the Program of Studies) before you select an elective course.

Before completing your course selection, please make sure you are familiar with the graduation requirements for Charles County Public Schools.



## CHARLES COUNTY REQUIREMENTS FOR A MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

To be awarded a diploma, a student shall be enrolled in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) and have earned a minimum of **23** credits that include the following:

Subject Area	Specific Credit Requirement
English (See pages 43-46)	<b>4 credits</b>
Mathematics (See pages 61-63)	<b>4 credits</b> 2 in Algebra 1 in Geometry 1 additional course with Algebra I as the prerequisite. COMAR 13.A.03.02.03 Each student shall enroll in a mathematics course in each year of high school that the student attends, up to a maximum of 4 years of attendance, unless in the 5th or 6th year a mathematics course is needed to meet a graduation requirement. A student must earn four math credits, including one with instruction in algebra aligned with the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment for algebra or one or more credits in subsequent mathematics courses for which Algebra I is a prerequisite, and one with instruction in geometry aligned with the content standards for geometry.
Science (See pages 67-70)	<b>Students in PLTW programs/North Point Academy of Health Professionals-CNA, Biotechnology, and Engineering programs ONLY</b> <b>3 credits</b> <b>1 Earth science, 1 Life science, and 1 Physical science</b> <b>Recommended sequence:</b> Biology Chemistry Honors Earth Systems or AP Environmental Science
Social Studies (See pages 71-75)	<b>3 credits</b> <b>Recommended sequence:</b> U.S. History LSN Government World History
Fine Arts (See pages 49-58)	<b>1 credit</b>
Physical Education (See pages 64-66)	<b>½ credit Fitness for Life</b>
Health (See page 59)	<b>1 credit</b> <b>Recommended sequence:</b> ½ credit in 9 <sup>th</sup> grade ½ credit in 11 <sup>th</sup> grade
Technology Education (See page 75)	<b>1 credit</b>
Financial Literacy (See page 49)	<b>½ credit</b>
Graduation Pathways (choose one)	<b>2 credits of the same World Language</b> <b>and any remaining credits in electives OR</b> <b>3-5 credits through the completion of state-approved career and technical education program and any remaining credits in electives</b>

### THE MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS (MHSA)

Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Curriculum, Assessment & Accountability

Course	Assessment	Requirements
Algebra I	MCAP Algebra I	Participate only and pass Algebra I course
English II	MCAP English II	Participate only and pass English II course
Biology	MCAP LS MISA	Participate only and pass Biology course MCAP will count as 20% of student's final grade
LSN Government	HSA Government	Participate only and pass LSN Government course MCAP will count as 20% of student's final grade

12/8/2022 C&I/Miesowicz\_Cheaves/sml  
These codes appear with course descriptions where appropriate: ATE = Advanced Technology Credit; CC = may be eligible for college credit; CTP = Maryland State Dept. of Education Approved Career Technical Program; CTC = CTP Concentrator Course; EOC = End-of-Course Assessment; FA = Fine Arts; TE = Technology Education; W = Weighted (HONORS); W = Weighted (AP).  
Please note that not all courses are available at each school due to staffing/student enrollment

Need/want more info?



High School Program of Studies

Your current teachers will give their recommendation for placements in A-level, honors, or AP courses.

If your parent/guardian disagrees with the teacher's recommendation, they should contact the teacher to discuss their concerns.

After discussing it with the teacher, a parent/guardian can override the recommendation by attaching a written request to your Course Selection Sheet.

Parent/guardian requests will be honored when the schedule is prepared for next year.

## COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS

# COURSE SELECTION MATERIALS

To properly complete course selection for next year, you should use:

- 9th Grade Course Selection Instructions
- 9th Grade Course Selection Sheet
- Graduation Pathway Options
- High School Program of Studies (for students who entered 9th grade in SY 2023-24)

<https://www.ccboe.com/departments/student-services/student-support/high-school-program-of-studies> -



# WHAT CLASSES SHOULD YOU SIGN UP FOR?

When completing your Course Selection Sheet, you must sign up for seven classes and three alternate elective courses.

You will need to sign up for the following courses:

- English I (A-level, honors, or AP Language)
- US History (A-level, honors, or AP World History)
- Math (whatever your teacher recommends)
- Science (A-level or honors)
- 3 additional courses (Tech Ed, Fine Art, Fitness for Life and Health, graduation pathway and/or desired electives),
- 3 alternate electives

# Please keep in mind the following...

- It is a good idea to get either your required **Fine Art** or **Technology Education** credit out of the way now, if possible. The courses available to you that meet these requirements are:

Fine & Performing Arts		Technology Education
Art I Concert Band I Symphonic Band I * Concert Orchestra I Symphonic Orchestra I * Women's Choir I	Men's Choir I Chamber Choir I * Show Choir I * Theatre Arts  (* Audition required)	Foundations of Technology Exploring Computer Science Intro to Engineering Design (IED) *  (* IED is the first course in the PLTW Engineering Program and should only be taken by those students who wish to enter that program.)

- Fit for Life** and **Health** are required. PE is a half-credit elective and Health is taken in two 1/2 credit classes during high school. PE and Health must be taken together in consecutive semesters and then Health and Financial Literacy in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. These may be taken in a later school year if needed. However, it is advised to take it sooner than later.

**LA PLATA HIGH SCHOOL  
2023-24 COURSE SELECTION SHEET  
GRADE 9**

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
MIDDLE SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_  
ID NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember that all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students must provide two current proofs of their home address to their Middle School Counselor. In order to keep the student's move to La Plata High School from being disrupted, these proofs must be provided before the end of this school year.

THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT WILL SELECT CLASSES FOR ANY STUDENT WHO DOES NOT RETURN A COURSE SELECTION SHEET. THESE COURSE SELECTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED FINAL.

TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS: Consult the [High School Program of Studies](https://www.cboe.com/departments/student-services/student-support/high-school-program-of-studies) for information regarding course descriptions, levels, graduation requirements and course prerequisites. This document is posted online at <https://www.cboe.com/departments/student-services/student-support/high-school-program-of-studies>.

TO STUDENTS: Take this sheet to your current teachers. After consulting with them, carefully circle the course number of the courses you plan to take next school year and have your teachers initial (in ink) their approval.

COURSE NUMBER	TEACHER APPROVAL	COURSE TITLE
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**ENGLISH**

011010	_____	English I (Honors) * <b>Summer Reading Assignment</b>
011011	_____	English I (A Level)
01981V	_____	English I (Individualized)
019998	_____	Literacy
018514	_____	Supplemental Reading

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

027020	_____	AP U.S. History * <b>Summer Assignment</b>
021010	_____	U.S. History (Honors)
021011	_____	U.S. History (A Level)
02983V	_____	U.S. History (Individualized)

**MATHEMATICS**

03051T/03151U	_____	Foundations of Algebra/Algebra 1
0395TV/0395UV	_____	Foundations of Algebra/Algebra 1 (Individualized)
031514	_____	Algebra 1
033010	_____	Geometry (Honors)
032010	_____	Algebra II (Honors)

Foundations of Algebra/Algebra 1 counts as 2 courses/credits.

**SCIENCE**

041520	_____	Earth Systems (Honors)
041521	_____	Earth Systems (A Level)
04152V	_____	Earth Systems (Individualized)

PLTW Engineering and Biomedical Sciences students should choose their science course on the back of this form.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**

070514	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	Fitness for Life (1 Semester)
070574	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	Health I (1 Semester)

**TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

130414	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	Foundations of Technology (Technology Education Credit)
179040	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	Exploring Computer Science (Technology Education Credit)

**WORLD LANGUAGE**

051514	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	Spanish I
051524	_____	Spanish II
051614	_____	Heritage & Native Spanish I
051624	_____	Heritage & Native Spanish II
051634	_____	Heritage & Native Spanish III
052014	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	Latin I
050514	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	French I
050524	_____	French II

World Language students must take 2 years of the same language in order to graduate.

# COURSE SELECTION SHEET: Courses Available to 9th grade students

COURSE NUMBER	TEACHER APPROVAL	COURSE TITLE
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**CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) COMPLETER PROGRAMS**

**BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE**

175084	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	Principles of Business Management and Entrepreneurship
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**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

179000	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	Introduction to Computer Programming (Honors)
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*This course does **NOT** meet Technology Education requirements. It is intended for students entering the Computer Science program.*

**NJROTC**

188011	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	NJROTC I
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**PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW) BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

130840	_____	Principles of Biomedical Sciences ( <i>Prerequisite: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in Algebra I. This is <b>not</b> for students enrolling in Foundations of Algebra.</i> )
042510	_____	Biology (Honors) ( <b>REQUIRED</b> in place of Earth Systems for 9th grade PLTW Biomed students. <i>These students will complete an earth science later in high school.</i> )

**PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW) PATHWAY TO ENGINEERING\***

130740	_____	Introduction to Engineering Design (Technology Education Credit) ( <i>Prerequisite: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in Algebra I. This is <b>not</b> for students enrolling in Foundations of Algebra.</i> )
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\* Students enrolling in the PLTW Pathway to Engineering may choose to take Biology (Honors) in 9<sup>th</sup> grade instead of Earth Systems. Please indicate the choice for a science course below:

_____ 041521 Earth Systems (A Level)	_____ 041520 Earth Systems (Honors)	_____ 042510 Biology (Honors)
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**ELECTIVES**

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

143064/74	_____ TALK WITH SCHOOL COUNSELOR	AP Seminar I/II ( <i>AP Seminar I and II are ½ credit A level courses that are designed to support students who are taking their first AP class. They are optional courses that should be taken in the same year.</i> )
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**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

120514	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	Foods and Nutrition Science ( <i>Prerequisite for ProStart Food and Beverage Mgmt</i> )
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**FINE & PERFORMING ARTS - VISUAL**

060514	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	Art I (Fine Art Credit)
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**FINE & PERFORMING ARTS – INSTRUMENTAL**

087034	_____	Concert Band I (Fine Art Credit)
087144	_____	Symphonic Band I - Honors ( <b>Audition Required</b> ) (Fine Art Credit)
088314	_____	Symphonic Orchestra I - Honors ( <b>Audition Required</b> ) (Fine Art Credit)

Instrument played: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINE & PERFORMING ARTS - VOCAL**

081016	_____	Treble Chorus I (Fine Art Credit)
081015	_____	Bass Chorus I (Fine Art Credit)
087124	_____	Chamber Choir I – Honors ( <b>Audition Required</b> ) (Fine Art Credit)
089914	_____	Show Choir I – H ( <b>Audition Required</b> ) (Fine Art Credit)

**FINE & PERFORMING ARTS - THEATRE**

014024	_____ NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED	Introduction to Theatre (Fine Art Credit)
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# GRADUATION PATHWAYS

All students must choose one of the following pathways to graduation:

2 credits of World Language **OR** Career and Technology Education (CTE) Completer program

## LPHS Career and Technology Education (CTE)

### Completer Programs:

- Apprenticeship Maryland
- Business Management and Finance
- Career Research and Development (CRD)
- Computer Science
- NJROTC
- PLTW Biomedical Sciences
- PLTW Pathway to Engineering
- ProStart Food & Beverage Management
- Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM)

## Off-Site CTE Programs:

- Academy of Health Professions: Pharmacy Technician\*\*
- Academy of Health Professions: Physical Rehabilitation\*\*
- Automotive Technology\*\*
- Barbering\*\*
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)\*\*
- Interactive Media Production\*\*
- Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI)^^^

**\*\* You must apply for these programs in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**^^ This application is due in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.**

All students must complete at least one graduation pathway – 2 years of World Language or a Career & Technology Education Completer Program. More information about the Completer programs can be found on pages 16-40 in the [High School Program of Studies](#).

- If you are interested in the **Business Management and Finance** program, please sign up to take [Principles of Business Management and Entrepreneurship](#). This 4-year program is intended for students who are seriously considering a career in business administration and management (accounting, financial analyst, management analyst, investment banking, etc.)
- If you are interested in the **Computer Science** program, please sign up to take [Introduction to Computer Programming](#). This 4-year program is intended for students who are seriously considering a career in computer science (software engineer, app developer, web developer, data analyst, etc.)
- If you are interested in the **NJROTC** program, please sign up to take [NJROTC I](#). This 3-year program instills the values of citizenship and service to the community; develops a high degree of personal honor, self-reliance, individual discipline and leadership; promotes an understanding of the basic elements and requirements for national security; promotes habits of orderliness and precision; and develops respect for constituted authority. There are weekly dress code and personal appearance standards for this program. Students who complete the program and enlist in the military may enter the service at a higher pay grade.
- If you are interested in the **ProStart Food & Beverage Management** program, please sign up to take [Foods & Nutrition Science](#) (in the [Electives](#) section under “Family & Consumer Science”). This course is a pre-requisite to begin the program. After that course, the 2-year program introduces students to a wide variety of careers within the restaurant, food service, and hospitality industry.
- If you are interested in the **PLTW Biomedical Sciences** program, please sign up to take [Principles of the Biomedical Sciences](#). This 4-year program is intended for students who are seriously considering a career in the health field (medicine, research, etc.). You must have already passed or be currently enrolled in Algebra I. If you choose this program, you must sign up for Biology (Honors) for your science course.
- If you are interested in the **PLTW Pathway to Engineering** program, please sign up to take [Introduction to Engineering Design](#). This 4-year program is intended for students who are seriously considering a career in science, technology or engineering. The first course in this program will meet the technology education credit requirement if you complete the entire 4-year program. You must have already passed or be currently enrolled in Algebra I. Students enrolling in this program are **encouraged** to sign up for Biology (Honors) for their science course, but may choose to take Earth Systems (A-Level) or (Honors) instead.

# PLANNING TO ATTEND COLLEGE?

- It is important to take challenging courses throughout high school.
- If you are not already in honors classes, you should seriously consider selecting at least one honors level course each year.
- Most college admissions officers tell us that taking challenging courses is more important than earning straight A's in high school.
- For admission to any public college or university in Maryland, you will be required to take a math class at the Algebra II or higher level in your senior year of high school.
- Although CCPS only requires two, many colleges either require or prefer students to have 3 credits of the same foreign language. A full year of world language taken in middle school does count for high school credit. If you have good grades and a strong background in your middle school world language class, sign up for the next level. If you are earning a low C or below in world language, it is recommended that you retake this course in high school.

# ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Students who wish to pursue a Charles County Certificate of Merit or receive Scholar's recognition at graduation should review the requirements for these programs on page 5 of the “Program of Studies”.



# BE VERY CAREFUL CHOOSING CLASSES!

Schedule changes each year are only made in extreme circumstances, such as errors in academic placement.

You must be very careful with course selection.

Select the correct course levels with the help of your parents/guardians and your current teachers.

Choose only electives and alternates that you will be happy with.

You should review the "[High School Program of Studies](#)" for a description of the course before signing up for the class.

If you're still unsure about a course, please speak with the current course teacher or Dr. Golden before selecting the class.

## Options for 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Interested in a trade and going straight to work after high school?

Click [here](#) for more information

Interested in graduating early during junior year?

Click [here](#) for more information

Interested in CSM Early College during junior or senior year?

Click [here](#) for more information

Interested in Dual Enrollment during junior or senior year?

Click [here](#) for more information

## Options for 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Interested in CSM Early College during junior or senior year?

Click [here](#) for more information

Interested in Dual Enrollment during junior or senior year?

Click [here](#) for more information

Interested in Full Time College Waiver at CSM during senior year?

Click [here](#) for more information

If you are interested in graduating early or starting college courses early, these are some things you need to plan for starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade due to the requirements when you get to that point.

Alternative Programs  
During High School

**Thank you for completing your course selection. If you have any questions, please contact your Middle School Counselor.**

***We look forward to welcoming you and the entire Class of 2027 to La Plata High School next year!***

