

LA PLATA HIGH SCHOOL
December 2022

TO: 9th Grade Students
FROM: Mrs. Gladden
SUBJECT: 10th Grade Course Selection Instruction Sheets

1. In addition to these instructions, you should have received a Course Selection sheet and a Graduation Pathway Options sheet. The Course Selection sheet lists all classes offered to you as an 10th grader at La Plata High School and the Graduation Pathway Options sheet describes all the pathway options available. You will use all these sheets to choose your classes for next year.
2. The Charles County Public Schools “High School Program of Studies” is posted on the CCPS website at [High School Program of Studies - Charles County Public Schools \(ccboe.com\)](https://www.ccboe.com/High-School-Program-of-Studies) This document provides information on graduation requirements, grading policies and other general information. More importantly, there are descriptions of all the courses listed on your Course Selection Sheet. Please refer to the Program of Studies descriptions for any courses you are considering **before** completing your Course Selection Sheet.
3. Maryland high school graduation requirements are listed on page 3 in the Program of Studies. There is also a credit checklist on page 80. Your graduation requirements are listed under the “Entered 9th grade in SY22-23 and beyond” section of the chart. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU REVIEW THESE REQUIREMENTS CAREFULLY. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE ASK MRS. GLADDEN.**
4. **Please review the course history tab found in your Student VUE to determine what classes you still need for graduation.** If you need assistance with choosing your classes, please reach out to Mrs. Gladden.
5. All students must complete one of the graduation pathways listed on the Graduation Pathway Options Recommendations for 10th graders in 2023-2024 sheet you received. Please review that document to help you in selecting your sophomore year electives. More information about the Career Cluster options and completion programs can be found on pages 19-21 of the Program of Studies.
6. **Schedule changes next year will be made only in extreme circumstances, such as errors in academic placement.** For this reason, you must be very careful in course selection. Please wisely select the correct levels with the help of your parent/guardian and your current teachers. Carefully select your electives and alternates and make sure these are classes you will be happy with. Please review the Program of Studies for a course description **before** signing up for the course. A request for a schedule change must follow the county policy, so please review ahead of time pg. 12 in the Program of Studies for the county “Procedures & Guidelines for Schedule Changes” before signing up for any course.
7. **Teachers are asked to give their recommendation for placements in A-level, honors or AP courses.** If a parent/guardian disagrees with the teacher recommendation, the parent/guardian should contact the teacher to discuss their concerns. After discussing it with a teacher, if the parent/guardian wishes to override the recommendation, a written request must be attached to your Course Selection Sheet when it is submitted. Parent/guardian requests will be honored when schedule is prepared for next year.
8. When completing your course selection sheet, you must sign up for **seven classes and three alternate elective courses.** **IF YOU DO NOT SELECT ALTERNATE COURSES, MRS. GLADDEN WILL SELECT THEM FOR YOU.** Unless otherwise told by your teacher or Mrs. Gladden, most 10th graders will need to sign up for the following courses: English II, U.S. History, Math, Biology and 3 additional courses (Tech Ed, Fine Art, Fitness for Life and Health, graduation pathway and/or desired elective) **AND** 3 alternate electives.
9. Remember you will be required to take a ½ credit of PE and **two** ½ credits of Health before graduation.
10. If you are interested in Navy Junior ROTC, see GySgt. Bailey. **REMEMBER: THERE IS A STRICT DRESS CODE FOR NJROTC. ASK ABOUT THIS BEFORE SIGNING UP.**
11. Remember you will be **required to take a math course each year and earn 4 high school math credits while you are in high school** in order to graduate. For 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, even if you earned a math credit while still in middle school. In addition, most colleges require two credits in the **same** foreign language. Many colleges prefer 3 credits of foreign language.

12. If you are planning to go to 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. Most college admissions officers tell us that taking challenging courses is more important than earning straight A's in high school!
13. Some students may wish to pursue a Charles County Certificate of Merit or receive Scholars recognitions. If so, there are additional requirements for these programs that you can find listed on pages 5 of the Program of Studies.
14. If you are a student athlete who wishes to pursue playing a collegiate level sport in college, please refer to the following link for information about NCAA eligibility, course, GPA, and testing requirements needed in high school. Please see Mrs. Gladden for more information. <http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/CBSA19.pdf>
15. Your Course Selection Sheet must be completely filled out, including teachers' initials for Core and PLTW courses, **circled course numbers**, parent telephone number, student cell phone number, your signature, and your parent's signature. **IF YOU DO NOT TURN IN A COURSE SELECTION SHEET WITH TEACHER SIGNATURES, MRS. GLADDEN WILL HAVE TO SELECT COURSES FOR YOU.**
16. Mrs. Gladden will be meeting with each student individually to discuss course selection for 10th grade during the months of January and February. At that time, you will be able to ask any questions you have about courses and your graduation plan. Parents/guardians can contact Mrs. Gladden at (301) 753-1754 or cgladden@ccboe.com.