

Green Level HS Course Selection & Recommendation "Cheat Sheet" for Rising 9th Graders

This handout was developed to assist rising 9th graders planning to attend Green Level HS (and their parents/guardians) along with current 8th grade teachers in selecting and/or recommending courses for 9th grade. The guidance below has been adapted from existing guidance from WCPSS HS Programs.

English – English I (Academic or Honors)

- **A or B** in 8th Grade English/Language Arts → **Honors English I**
- **C or lower** in 8th Grade English/Language Arts → **English I**

Mathematics – Various Options (see below)

For students taking 8th Grade Math in 2020-21

- **A or B** in 8th Grade Math → **NC Math 1**
- **C or D** in 8th Grade Math → **Foundations of NC Math 1 AND NC Math 1B**
- **F** in 8th Grade Math or **(or other indicator)** → **Fundamental Math AND Introductory Mathematics**

For students taking NC Math 1 in 2020-21

- **A or B** in NC Math 1 → **NC Math 2 Honors**
- **C or D** in NC Math 1 → **Math Plus Honors AND NC Math 2 Honors**
 - *Students who earned a **D** in NC Math 1 during 8th Grade may wish to repeat NC Math 1 to build a stronger foundation before proceeding to their next math course**

For students taking NC Math 2 or NC Math 3 in 2020-21

- NC Math 2 (8th Grade) → **NC Math 3 Honors (see note below for students who struggled in NC Math 2)**
- NC Math 3 (8th Grade) → **Pre-Calculus Honors (see note below for students who struggled in NC Math 3)**

Students who struggled in NC Math 1, NC Math 2 or NC Math 3 during 8th Grade may wish to repeat the course as a 9th grader to build a stronger foundation before proceeding to their next high school math courses. Students wishing to do this should make a written request to their principal or principal's designee. In addition, when students choose this option, they should be aware of the following:

- Students will receive a numerical grade and both grades will appear on the high school transcript.
- Only grades earned in high school are included in a student's high school GPA.
- Students retaking a course that they previously passed to build a stronger foundation will not receive elective credit for the second attempt with the course.
- Students repeating a course for credit will take any associated End-of-Course (EOC) assessment. Those students who have already scored at Level 3, 4, or 5 on the associated EOC assessment may elect to retake the EOC or use the previous passing score as 20% of their final grade. If the student retakes the EOC, the higher of the two scores will be used in the calculation of the final grade.

Science – Earth Science (Academic or Honors) or Biology

- **A or B** in 8th Grade Science → **Biology Honors OR Earth/Environmental Science Honors**
 - Students intending to take AP Environmental Science as a junior for their earth/environmental credit are strongly encouraged to take Biology as a 9th grader as shown in sequence 1 below in the table provided on the next page.
- **C or lower** in 8th Grade Science → **Earth/Environmental Science**

Most Common Course Sequences in Science				
	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
1	Biology Honors	Chemistry Honors	AP Environmental Science	Science Electives
2	Earth/Environmental Science (Academic or Honors)	Biology (Academic or Honors)	Physical Science OR Chemistry (Honors)	Science Electives

Social Studies – World History (Academic, Honors, or AP)

- **A or B** in 8th Grade Social Studies **AND** an **A or B** in 8th Grade Language Arts → **AP World History**
- **A or B** in 8th Grade Social Studies **BUT** a **C or lower** in 8th Grade English/Language Arts → **World History Honors** (AP World History might still be a good fit for students in this scenario; however, students should be advised that AP courses do generally require more reading and writing than other courses.)
- Grade of **C or lower** in 8th Grade Social Studies → **World History**

Fine & Performing Arts

- The first level arts course that rising 9th graders should register for is the “Beginning” level.
- Freshmen requesting to be placed in an arts course other than Level 1 (Beginning) due to advanced training/study should contact the appropriate GLHS arts teacher for information regarding potential placement auditions or portfolio reviews that take place in Spring 2021.
 - **Band:** Mr. Myers (bmyers@wcpss.net)
 - **Chorus:** Mr. Olson (smolson@wcpss.net)
 - **Modern Dance:** Ms. Pope (kwpoppe@wcpss.net)
 - **Theatre Arts:** Ms. Craig (rcraig@wcpss.net)
 - **Visual Art:** Mr. Mapp (smapp2@wcpss.net)
- Students who wish to participate in a full year of band or chorus should request those courses two times when choosing courses since our courses are taught by semester and not the whole year. When requesting one course, that would only result in having a course for half of the year.

World Languages

- Rising 9th graders who are currently taking a world languages course for high-school credit in middle school should register for the next level of their foreign language for 9th grade to maintain continuity of world language instruction.
 - As a reminder, our courses are semester courses, not yearlong. As such, if a student wishes to request a world language for an entire year, they would need to request two levels.
- Rising 9th graders who have NOT taken a world language course for high school credit in middle school are advised to delay starting a language course until later in their high school career unless they're wishing to pursue 4-6 levels of language study leading to AP.