

Dear 8th Grade Parents, Guardians, and Students:

8th grade students are about to embark on the next big step of their educational career. "Course Selection" will take place over the next several weeks in which students will select their courses for 9th grade. Selecting the right courses will help start a solid foundation while building transcripts and resumes for their futures. The New York State graduation requirements are that all 9th grade students take English, Social Studies, Math, Science, and Physical Education. Other courses students are likely to take include World Language, Art, Music, and an Elective.

There is a course selection planning worksheet included for you to look over and discuss before students meet with me. Extra copies of information and handouts are on the district website as well as my school counseling website. For enriched courses, there is a process and criteria. Please see the separate handout for more information. Course descriptions, graduation requirements, and high school 4 year plans are located in the current "Program of Studies" booklet on the district website (www.erschools.org, Departments, Counseling, Sr High School Counseling, Related Files).

I will be giving a presentation to all 8th graders on Friday, January 27th during their ELA class. Each student will then meet with me about their specific course selections on Friday, February 3rd during ELA class. All parents, guardians, and students will also have an opportunity to learn more about the course selection process at the following session:

Course Selection Informational Event for Parents, Guardians, and Students:
Wednesday, January 18th, 6pm, Auditorium

Please discuss this important process with your child and contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Adam M. Laycock
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8th Grade Course Selection

Planning Worksheet



Name: _____

English - English 9 9 - Enriched _____

Soc St - Global 9 9 - Enriched _____

Science - Earth Science Living Environment

Math - Algebra Geometry

World Language -

World Language - Level 1

Spanish II _____

Italian II _____

This sheet due:
Friday, February
3rd

OVER

Art or Music → 1 credit

- Art Appreciation (.5) and Music Appreciation (.5)
- Design & Drawing for Production _____
- Studio in Art (high interest in Art) _____
- Ensembles (.5 each): Wind Percussion Jazz
- Chorus (.5)

PE/Lab/PE/Skills

Study Hall or Elective

- Career and Financial Management (.5) and Intro to Business (.5)
- Design & Drawing for Production _____
- Studio in Art _____

Lunch

Signatures

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

This Sheet Due
Friday, February 3rd

East Rochester 8th Grade **Enriched ELA & Global 9 Process & Criteria: 2023-2024**

Dear 8th Grade MLA Parents, Guardians, and Students:

In this handout you will find this wonderful opportunity for our students to take Enriched ELA 9 and/or Global 9 during their 9th grade academic career. Benefits and background information include:

- Courses are designed to challenge and prepare students for higher level coursework
- These courses are rigorous with high levels of reading, writing, and critical thinking
- To challenge, but not overwhelm students

Process:

1. Course Selection Planning Worksheet → If a student is requesting Enriched ELA 9 and/or Global 9, they must circle that on the course selection planning worksheet **and** get the signature from their current ELA and/or Social Studies teacher

NOTE: This signature does **not** represent a recommendation either way, it only means the student had a conversation with the teacher to learn more about that specific course and expectations

2. Staff will meet in late March regarding the students who requested those courses and the criteria
3. Families will be informed by mid April
4. If a student is not recommended, but the parent/guardian wishes to appeal the decision, the student and parent/guardian will submit a statement to the counselor, to be reviewed by staff, including:
 - Which enriched course(s) they would like to take
 - Reasoning and why they should be considered

OVER

- Date and signature
 - Statements are due by Friday, May 26th, 2023
 - The parent/guardian, student, principal, and counselor will meet to discuss the statement and criteria to determine the most appropriate placement. A decision will then be made and appropriate documentation will need to be completed and signed.
 - Meetings will occur through June
5. Enrollment in enriched courses will be reviewed on a consistent basis. If a student is not meeting course expectations, a meeting will be held to determine the next best steps.

Criteria:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>8 → 9</u>
Enriched ELA 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Class average 93% ● I-Ready diagnostic scores at or above grade level ● Summative assessment average 90% ● Writing assessment at or above grade level ● Other factors that may be considered include attendance, attitude, participation, leadership, and respect
Enriched Global 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Class average 93% ● I-Ready diagnostic scores at or above grade level ● Summative assessment average 90% ● Writing assessment at or above grade level ● Other factors that may be considered include attendance, attitude, participation, leadership, and respect <p>*Global 9 Enriched is a two year program leading to a 10th grade Advanced Placement course*</p>

****All accelerated course availabilities are dependent upon student need, budget, and staffing constraints****

Welcome!

8th Grade Course Selection
Informational Night

CLASS OF 2027

Important Terms

- **Transcript** - a 'report card' of your high school classes, shows what classes you took, regents exam scores, final grades, attendance, grade point average, etc.
- **1 Credit** - what you earn from successfully completing a course every day for a full year
- **1/2 Credit** - take a course every day for half a year or every other day for a full year
- **Semester** - 1/2 a school year, 2 marking periods, Fall Semester, Spring Semester
- **Prerequisite** - a class that you need to take and pass before taking the next level class

Graduation Requirements – 22 Credits

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credits</u>
ELA	4
Social Studies	4
Math	3
Science	3
Language Other than English (LOTE) *3 credits LOTE or 5 credit sequence for Advanced Regents*	1
Art/Music	1
Health	.5
Life 101	.5
Physical Education	2
Electives	3

Graduation Requirements – Regents Exams

- **Regents Diploma → 5 Regents Exams**
- **Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation → 8 Regents Exams**

Diplomas

- Can earn – With Honors, Mastery in Math, Mastery in Science, or Career and Technical Endorsement
- Safety nets are available for students struggling to earn a 65 on the required regents exams – for students with an IEP or 504 as stated in their plan
- Certificates for students in Special Education are available based on individual IEP

Graduation type depends on the needs of each student and how they progress through their high school courses

4 Year Plans are reviewed annually with school counselors towards graduation goals

Enriched / AP / Dual Credit Courses

- These courses are designed to challenge and prepare students for a college environment
- Rigorous coursework with high levels of reading, writing, and critical thinking skills
- A number of studies show that students who take AP Courses are more likely to earn a bachelor's degree. AP Courses are a valuable introduction to college level work.
- 9th Grade Offerings – Global 9 AP Prep & English 9 Enriched
- Geometry and/or Earth Science – for those 8th grade students currently in Algebra they will go to Geometry, most students in 8th grade will go to Earth Science in 9th grade
- Process & Criteria → See separate handout for information

8th Grade Course Selection Process

- Course Selection Planning Worksheet → Bring Worksheet
- Timeline
 - Course Selection Event for Parents, Guardians, and Students → Wednesday, January 18th, 6pm, Auditorium
 - Presentation to all 8th graders → Friday, January 27th during ELA classes
 - Students will meet with Mr. Laycock to pick 9th grade courses → Friday, February 3rd during ELA classes

Typical 9th Grade Schedule – 6.5+ credits

Sets a great foundation for the rest of high school and any diploma type

- **English 9** or 9 Enriched
- **Math** – Algebra 1 or Geometry
- **Global 9** or 9 Enriched/AP Prep
- **Science** – Earth Science or Living Environment (Biology)
- **World Language** – Level 1 World Language, Spanish II, Italian II
- **Art or Music** – Studio in Art, DDP, Art/Music Appreciation, Band, Chorus
- **PE/Lab/PE/Skills** – Lab 1 out of 4 cycle days (1200 lab minutes), PE required every other day all 4 years (2 credits)
- **Study Hall or Elective** (support classes prioritized over electives)
- **Lunch**