



An Innovative District Delivering Educational Excellence

January 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This is an exciting time of the year for your son or daughter's K-12 school experience. It is time to begin the planning for their 8th grade year and arrival at the high school. We look forward to having your student join us at MWHS and we will do everything we can to make the transition smooth for them academically and socially.

Attached is the course registration form for 8th grade. Required courses are located at the top of the form.

- For **English/Social:**
 - Advanced English 8 and Advanced Global Studies are interdisciplinary courses. Therefore, students will be enrolled in both Advanced English 8 and Advanced Global Studies or English 8/Co-taught English 8 and Global Studies. If teachers have recommended placement in the advanced courses for your student, you will see an '**X**' in front of those advanced course titles. Placement recommendations are based on current performance in similar content areas, NWEA/FAST scores and work habits.
 - If your student is being recommended for Co-taught English 8, you will see an '**X**' in front of that title. Students in Co-taught English 8 should also register for Global Studies. Placement recommendations are based on current performance in similar content areas, NWEA/FAST scores and work habits.
 - If your student is being recommended for English 8, you will see an '**X**' in front of English 8. Students in English 8 should also register for Global Studies.
- **Math:** Teachers have indicated the appropriate placement for your child. You will see an '**X**' in front of the recommended course title. Placement recommendations are based on current performance in similar content areas, NWEA/FAST scores and work habits. Students in self paced math should work with their school counselor to identify the appropriate placement for next year.
- All students will also take **Earth Science, 21st Century Technology, Physical Education, Health 8 and 8th Grade Seminar.**

These required courses account for 11 of 14 semesters in 8th grade. It leaves 3 semester openings to participate in electives and/or Student Prep Period.

If Student Prep has been indicated on your child's form (with an '**X**' in front of the course title), this recommendation is **strongly** encouraged. Student Prep Period (SPP) can be taken for one or two semesters. It is available and encouraged for all students as they transition to the high school schedule. However, it will be most beneficial to students who are enrolled in numerous rigorous courses, who participate in multiple extracurricular activities, or who have struggled in regards to work completion and organization. By taking the SPP, students are given more time to transition and develop organizational skills early in high school, which better prepares them for more rigorous courses the following years.

The middle section of the registration form lists elective options for your child to choose from. Full Year (two semesters) elective options include: Concert Band, Cantabile Chorus, Bel Canto Chorus, Spanish I, American Sign Language I and PLTW Intro to Engineering. When considering a world language, it is highly recommended that students who choose to take a world language in 8th grade have strong reading and



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English skills, as well as good work habits. *Special note: Students enrolling in both music and world language courses will have their Health 8 and 8th Grade Seminar requirements waived.

Single semester elective options include: Theater I, Theater II, Intro to Business, STEM Tech & Engineering, Drawing I, Painting I and Ceramics I. For more detail on any of the elective courses, please refer to the course catalog located on the MWHS Guidance website under the REGISTRATION AND COURSE INFORMATION TAB: <http://www.westonka.k12.mn.us/Page/404>.

Special Education case managers have indicated specific course selections for students on their caseload.

8th GRADE REGISTRATION INFORMATION NIGHT GOING DIGITAL

We have had to change the delivery format for our 8th Grade Registration Session. We will no longer be hosting an in-person event. Instead, information will be pushed out electronically to all 7th (going into 8th) grade families early the week of January 24th. Please watch your email for that information.

Mrs. Thayer and Mrs. Larson will be visiting your child's classroom to go over the registration form, process and course selection on Thursday, January 20th. Your child will receive their registration materials to bring home on Friday the 21st. The registration form is due back to your child's morning meeting teacher on Thursday, January 27th. Students will register online during Morning Meeting, that day. You do not need to register online at home.

Please complete the enclosed registration form and have your child return it to his/her morning meeting teacher on or before Thursday, January 27th. Please feel free to connect with Jean Ann Thayer (Last names L-Z) at 952-491-8302 or thayerj@westonka.k12.mn.us or Jessica Larson (Last names A-K) 952-491-8358 or larsonj2@westonka.k12.mn.us at GMS, or Tiffany Simon in the MWHS Guidance Office 952-491-8118 or simont@westonka.k12.mn.us if you have any questions about the registration process.

We look forward to your student attending MWHS next year and having you partner in your student's education. We will do everything we can to make his/her 8th grade year, the best one yet!

Sincerely,
Mark McIlmoyle
MWHS Principal

"MWHS: A place where EACH & EVERY person is encouraged & supported to become the BEST VERSION of themselves!"

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Real Life Success Stories www.westonka.k12.mn.us**