

2022 Rising 10th Grade Parent Presentation Q & A

Are there any age restrictions for the Driver's Ed. course? My child has it on their suggested list but won't turn 16 until October.

Driver's Ed is taken sophomore year (10th gr) as part of the Physical Education curriculum. If you have an early birthday, we may be able to schedule your Driver's Ed quarter at the start of the year if possible.

What courses can my child take in 10th grade that are High Honors?

High Honors courses in 10th grade are only offered in Social Studies - specifically US History I.

Do we need to alert the school counselor if we intend to take a second language as an elective?

Yes, please contact your child's counselor if your child plans to take a second world language or change world languages next year.

Do the 10 graders take only 1 elective in 10th grade (full year) or only 2 electives (half year)? If they are fulfilling their art requirement in 10th grade, is that their elective?

All students have an elective period. If the elective is a full year, then the student will have the elective the entire year. If the elective is a half year elective, then the student will take two half year electives. This is also true if the student replaces their Study Hall period in order to have an extra elective period.

Electives fall into three different categories and there is no required order that they must be taken. Students can take electives from any category even after they have satisfied the requirement; however, the minimum requirement for electives must be met before graduating.

Will there be an IEP meeting before class request window?

Course requests will be finalized for students with IEPs at the annual review meeting (even those that take place after the scheduling window). Please contact your student's case manager regarding an annual review conference date.

When does the requests tab open? is it there now (do not see it) is it only available when you can make those selections in feb?

The request tab will be open in the parent portal February 18-25, 2022.

Do 10th graders get 3 elective periods? no more forced study hall?

Students are not required to have a study hall on their schedule in 10th grade.

Is Study Skills automatically scheduled if they have an IEP? Is Study Skills an elective?

No—not all students with IEPs have Study Skills. The program is individualized based on a student's needs. This is something that can be discussed at the annual review meeting or you can reach out to your child's case manager at any time.

Will Genesis indicate what requirements are met and not met? my son had music appreciation but teacher was not there for most of it, do we still get credit? is there an optimal time to take certain requirements (financial literacy) - meaning do you want to get these done by junior year? When can we take the interesting English courses we saw listed? Where are the elective offerings for people to look at?

Students and parents/caregivers can complete a four-year planning sheet based on courses taken and can reference the Program Planning Guide (Appendix A) to determine which courses satisfy particular requirements. Students and parents/caregivers can always reach out to their school counselor for assistance in completing the four-year planning sheet to determine individual needs of a student.

The English Patterns courses are available to students in Junior and Senior years.

Can the SAT/ACT/PSAT serve as a replacement test for the standardized test required for graduation? I believe this has been an option in the past.

Historically, the NJDOE has accepted alternate test scores in particular situations, but students must have already sat for the provided state assessment. Guidelines from the state on this matter are forthcoming. When in doubt, if your student does not meet minimum requirements for the graduation assessment requirement, your counselor will inform you of your options.

Are you scheduling study hall group meetings or 1:1 with students? When can parents schedule the 1:1s with a counselor and should the child be involved at this juncture?

We will not be scheduling 1:1 meetings with all students and/or parents/caregivers, however, please feel free to contact your student's counselor to address individual needs and questions pertaining to your child at any time.

What are the pluses and minuses of joining a small learning community? Does it limit your access to taking electives?

Students in SLCs are taking their classes with the same group of students, which allows for them to get to know their peers in a different capacity/depth. It is also an opportunity for students to further explore their interests in a particular subject area. Students are still able to take an additional elective.

When do the students typically take AP science (if they want that)? Do they take an AP science alongside either chemistry in 11th grade or physics in 12th grade?

Should a student be recommended for or request an AP Science course during high school, the first opportunity to do so would be in 11th or 12th grade. Most AP science courses have a prerequisite of Chemistry Honors.

Does a Varsity sport count as a PE class for that particular season?

Starting in 10th grade, students who participate in MHS athletics have the opportunity to opt out of PE for the quarter that coincides with that sports season. Students will speak with their coach to complete the form and initiate the process of opting out. Students will be placed into a designated study hall and will need to complete a written assignment for credit.

If my child has difficulty in a subject like math, can they take one of the required to graduate classes during the summer so they can just focus on that one subject. If so what is needed to be able to do that?

Any external coursework must be approved by MHS. All forms are available on the MHS website under the School Counseling tab. You should speak directly with your child's counselor to address specific programming questions for your child.

Is Algebra/Trig in Freshman year considered Honors or High Honors in terms of weighted GPA index?

This is an Honors level course.

If you are in a class and it feels way too difficult, can you switch out?

Students should consult with their teachers and school counselors regarding academic supports in classes. Scheduling deadlines will be provided to students and parents/caregivers at the start of the school year.

If a student wants to take a higher-level course than the recommendation, can they sign up? Do they talk to the counselor or teacher to discuss placement?

Students have the opportunity to override teacher course recommendations in Genesis. A conversation with your school counselor should take place before completing an override form.

Can we request a particular teacher for a given course?

No. If there are extenuating circumstances, please speak with your school counselor.

Can you please talk about study hall? Does that count for credit? If so, which category? This year they were required to have a period of study hall - is that true for all years?

Study hall is not a credit bearing course. Study hall is not required after 9th grade.

Is there any advantage of taking Chemistry H in 10th grade vs taking it in 11th grade?

For those AP Science courses that require Chemistry H, taking Chemistry H in 10th grade will allow for your student to take an AP Science course in 11th grade.

What AP classes can a sophomore take?

Most AP courses are available in the 11th grade. Some electives are available to 10th graders at the AP level include AP Computer Science, AP Art History, or AP Music Theory.

Regarding Honors Geoscience, do kids need to have a B or better in Bio AND also be taking Geometry and doing well? In other words, can they qualify for Honors Geoscience if they're in Algebra 1 Honors and getting As?

The prerequisites for Geoscience Honors are as follows: maintaining a B in Biology Honors, an A or better in Algebra I Honors or an A in Geometry Academic or a B or better in Geometry Honors and/or a C or better in Algebra II Honors.

What is the PSAT for? Does it count for college or other? What weight to they give PSAT and SAT? I heard not as much anymore?

The PSAT in 10th grade is for practice for students to gauge what their strengths are and areas that need improvement. The PSAT does not count for college. The PSAT taken in the 11th grade can qualify students for National Merit Scholarships.

Just confirming: do sophomores only have 2 elective slots outside of their PE requirement (so either 2 semester long electives or 1 yearlong)?

Students have room for a world language and one additional period (can take 2 semester courses or 1 full year course).

If students take an Academic-level course in 10th in Spanish, let's say, can they then upgrade to an Honors in 11th if they do well? Or do they then stay on the Academic track going forward?

Students who complete an academic level course but wish to proceed the following year in an honors level course should express that to the teacher making the recommendation. There may be some additional concepts/skills that should be reviewed or learned prior to moving into the higher level which the student can speak with their teacher about.

To clarify: If my daughter takes one year of Architecture, would that satisfy both the fine arts and the 21st Century life skills?

No—electives can only satisfy particular requirements for one year. For example, Architecture would only satisfy Fine Arts OR 21st Century Life Skills if taken for one year. If taken for TWO years, it could satisfy both credit requirements.

When will we have access to the Program Planning Guide online? Do students have a hard copy?

Program Planning Guides will be available on-line beginning Feb. 1 and prior to scheduling. Students that want a hard copy should see their school counselor.

Is there a difference btw Alg II H and Alg II/Trig H?

Per the Program Planning Guide, Alg II H is a briskly paced course designed to prepare students for Pre-Calculus Honors and college math. Alg II/Trig H is a fast-paced course that is highly rigorous and designed to prepare students for Trig-Calc Honors.

Why do students have to take Geoscience in 10th grade? Why is there no Chemistry option in the 10th grade? This prevents them from taking multiple Physics classes, especially if they are interested in that subject matter, and are interested in engineering.

There is an option for Chemistry Honors. Please reach out to your child's counselor for further information.

With so many students at MHS, how well do the teachers and guidance staff get to know the student and how thoughtful are they in making class recommendations?

Teachers and students have a set student list. Teachers see their students in class within the rotation and get to know their students very well. Teachers make course level recommendations. School Counselors can meet with students on their caseload and review teacher recommendations to provide assistance and guidance in choosing which courses to take to find success.

Are hard copies [of the program planning guide] available? (Entirely possible that my child received one and he never showed it to us!)

The Program Planning Guide has been posted and students may refer to the Counseling page website to review and print the document. Hard copies are no longer printed.

*****We ask that if you have any additional questions pertaining specifically to your student please direct those directly to your child's school counselor.***

Small Learning Communities

Is there an application process for the Small Learning Communities?

There is an "Interest Form" for students to fill out in Genesis. This allows all students access to the programs offered.

If you opt into a Small Learning Community are you committed for the next three (3) years?

No. If students can come out of their SLC after one or two years. There is an exit interview process if students decide to leave their SLC.

What are the class sizes of the SLC?

Class sizes range from 22-28 students depending on the class and any given year of requests.

What is the deadline for applying to CGI, CSJ, etc?

Interest forms should be completed by the course request deadline of February 25, 2022.

Please discuss the credits/requirements for SLC's and how that works.

Elective requirements for SLCs satisfy the 21st Century Life & Career Skills (Practical Arts); additionally, the financial literacy requirement is satisfied during Junior Year Electives for CSJ and CGI.

If in a small learning community does that elective take the place of all electives for that year? So for 10th grade, is there an opportunity to take more than just the small learning community elective?

Yes, students can take an additional elective while still being part of an SLC.

Can you explain how being in CGI fulfills the elective requirement? I see one counts for the finance requirement, the other for one of the arts?

CGI and CSJ fulfill the 21st century life and career skills requirement as well as the financial literacy requirement (in junior year).

So there are no study hall periods if you join an SLC?

There is space within schedules for a study hall for students in SLCs.

Which SLC has more of an English focus?

CSJ and CGI are humanities-based courses (they cover English and Social Studies classes).

What is the usual class size for CGI classes?

Class sizes within SLCs vary year to year, but are similar to class sizes outside of the SLCs (on average 24-28 students per class).

What is the value of the STEM small learning community? What classes are included besides the core Science classes? How may electives do you need to give up to be in that community? Do colleges see/value the STEM learning community differently than just the core science classes?

The value is that the student will be nurturing their interest and expanding their knowledge in an area that they enjoy. This can be looked upon favorably later if the student pursues the subject in college, giving them background knowledge. Science class and the Project Based Learning (PBL) are part of the STEM SLC. You do not need to give up electives to be in STEM since students can replace Study Hall for an elective outside of STEM.

What does the elective for STEM SLC fulfill?

21st Century Life and Career Skills (Practical Arts).

In the STEM SLC, are there experiments during the elective period? If so, in which subject since the students can be in different science classes?

Specific questions about what assignments are done in a class should be directed to the teacher.

Do SLCs have AP English options?

For CGI and CSJ, beginning in the 11th grade, students can take AP English provided they have met the prerequisite of successful completion of Eng 10 H. English is not a part of STEM; however, students in STEM can also choose to take AP English in 11th grade.

If you choose the STEM SLC do you schedule your Project Based Learning class or it is automatically scheduled for you?

Students that sign up for STEM will automatically be placed into a Project Based Learning course as an elective. The STEM teacher will discuss with students with respect to the projects that they want to individually complete.

Additional Note

Teachers can teach both within a small learning community and outside of a SLC. Examples of project-based learning activities can be best answered by a STEM teacher and/or current students who will be visiting Study Halls to speak with students in the upcoming weeks.