# **Smithtown Central School District**



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**Kevin Colon**Administrator for Guidance and Related Student Services (631) 382-2014

Mark Secaur, Ed.D Superintendent of Schools

Daniel Helmes Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services

Dear Parent/Guardian of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students,

January 2025

It is time to schedule our students for the 2025-2026 school year. We encourage you to participate in the planning of your child's instructional program for the new school year by becoming familiar with the online MS Course Selection Guide. Additionally, we encourage you to discuss educational options with your child and the professional staff throughout the scheduling process.

## **Teacher/Departmental Recommendations**

• Teachers have been busy throughout December and January making course recommendations for your child. Once the portal opens on January 27th, you will be able to view these teacher/departmental recommendations. Please contact your child's classroom teacher(s) directly if you have any questions about the recommendation.

#### Online Course Request on the Parent Portal

Parents will have access to view departmental recommendations and have the ability to make course selections via the parent portal (<a href="https://smithtown.powerschool.com/public/home.html">https://smithtown.powerschool.com/public/home.html</a> ) from January 30th – February 14th. February 14th will be the last day for parents to make any changes online. Please refer to this "Scheduling Help Document" in order to assist you and your child with the scheduling process.

#### **Course Selections with Counselors**

While students and families are able to make course selections at home through the parent portal
during the scheduling window, counselors will be meeting with students to assist them with
making appropriate course selections. In addition to your ability to call and email the counselors
directly, counselors will be pushing into classes to assist students with the scheduling process.

### **Challenge by Choice**

• 7th Graders interested in challenging their placement by enrolling in honors and/or accelerated courses should choose the course from the drop-down. As part of this process, students should discuss their interest in taking more challenging coursework with their current classroom teacher, parents/guardians, and counselor. Please be advised that the final grade of any high school level courses (Algebra 1 and/or Life Science: Biology) will transfer to the high school transcript and be calculated into the high school GPA. Once a student has made his/her course selection(s), there is no guarantee that a future request for a course change can be accommodated. For additional information regarding "challenge by choice" please refer to the 2025-2026 MS Course Selection Guide.

Projected enrollments are determined by the number of selections that are made by the students. Therefore, requests must be well-planned and suitable to accommodate the learning needs of your child. Please remember that the availability of the program is subject to fiscal constraints affecting the K-12 operations of the district.

Respectfully,

Kevin Colon

Administrator for Guidance and Related Student Services