



## MERRIMACK HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Student and Parents/Guardians:

One factor leading to high school students' success is appropriate course placement. With that in mind, specific procedures are used when recommending students for honors level and world language courses.

The honors option for ninth grade English and social studies is the interdisciplinary course World Civilization and Literature. Because of the rigorous nature and accelerated pace of this course, students must have excellent expository writing skills, strong reading comprehension skills, and developing analysis skills. Students who feel they meet these criteria can petition for placement. The high school English and social studies departments work closely with the middle school to evaluate petitions and suggest proper placement for all students. More information about the specific petition process will be mailed out in the coming weeks. In the meantime, questions about this interdisciplinary course can be directed to the MHS social studies department head, [trevor.knight@sau26.org](mailto:trevor.knight@sau26.org), or the MHS English department head, [jessica.gott@sau26.org](mailto:jessica.gott@sau26.org).

Eighth grade students who are currently taking either Spanish or French will receive a recommendation for high school language placement from their current language teacher. To make a recommendation, middle and high school teachers consider assessments of students' reading, writing, speaking and listening competencies in world language, as well as knowledge of culture and grammar, and overall performance in the world language class. If they have passed French or Spanish at the middle school, they will be recommended for level 2 of that language at the high school. We do not recommend repeating level 1 as the middle and high school teachers work closely to deliver curriculum, and students are often bored and disengaged re-taking the class. Students may also elect to begin a new language at the high school and may sign up for level 1 of any new language. If a student is not currently enrolled in a world language class at the middle school or did not participate in the placement process, please contact the MHS world language department head at [angela.maslanka@sau26.org](mailto:angela.maslanka@sau26.org) for a placement test.

Placement in the honors Geometry and honors Physical Science classes is determined using a combination of factors. Students currently enrolled in Algebra 1 will be assessed based on their average in Algebra 1, their winter Star Math assessment, and teacher recommendation. Students will then be invited to enroll in Geometry and Physical Science at the honors level. Students who have passed Algebra 1 but do not qualify for the honors level will take Geometry and Physical Science. Questions about these high school courses can be directed to the MHS math department head, [ronald.delude@sau26.org](mailto:ronald.delude@sau26.org), or the MHS science department head, [adam.french@sau26.org](mailto:adam.french@sau26.org).

We will create enough sections of honors level classes to accommodate all qualified students. We will monitor students' progress throughout the year to make sure that their placement is appropriate. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
The Honors Evaluation Team



NEW ENGLAND  
ASSOCIATION  
OF SCHOOLS  
AND COLLEGES  
ACCREDITED MEMBER

*“Believe, go forward, and inspire . . .”*