



**Mahomet-Seymour High School**

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January 9, 2023

Greetings from the Mahomet-Seymour High School Counseling Department!

First and foremost, please accept our apologies for the length of this message; however, you will want to familiarize yourself with the information below.

Believe it or not, it is already time for students to sign up for their 2023-24 high school courses. Here is a general overview/timeline of the process:

- 1) Between Tuesday, January 10th - Friday, January 13th, counselors meet with all current 8th-11th grade students in their English/ELA classes. We will provide students information that will help them select appropriate courses.
- 2) Between January 13th and January 23rd: Students/families are encouraged to have discussions at home regarding course offerings and selections. All of the information that is needed to make informed decisions is available on the MSHS counseling website:

[http://www.mshscounselors.com/course\\_selection](http://www.mshscounselors.com/course_selection)

The information that can be found here is particularly helpful. This includes the electronic version of the handouts that we are providing to all students during the grade-level meetings as well as various videos we have used to detail grade-specific information. Another useful resource in this section is the course guide which provides a description of each course that is offered at MSHS.

- 3) A meeting for parents of current 8th graders will be held on Wednesday, January 18th (6pm in the high school auditorium) to provide information about high school graduation requirements, ninth grade course selection, planning a four-year program, athletic/activity eligibility, college and career/technical school admission requirements, and NCAA eligibility. The information presented at this meeting will be nearly identical to what is shared with students on Friday, January 13th. Students do not need to attend.

- 4) By Monday, January 23rd at 8:00AM: Students should have entered their selections directly into Skyward. Here is a brief video demonstrating how students enter their course selections into Skyward:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvnZka15haE>

\*Note - Students will not be able to alter their selections in Skyward themselves after 8:00AM on 1/23. However, adjustments can be made during students' one-on-one meetings with their counselors (see next step).

5) Counselors will follow up with each individual student (dates below) during a brief one-on-one meeting that will occur during English class (for current 9-11th graders) or Math class (for current 8th graders). While the one-on-one meetings will be brief, this will allow students the opportunity to review their selections with their counselor, to make any final selections or adjustments, and to ask any individual questions.

Dates for one-on-one counselor meetings:

English 1: Monday, January 23

English 1 Honors: Tuesday, January 24

English 2: Wednesday, January 25

English 2 Honors: Thursday, January 26

English 3 & English 3 Honors (Carolan & Adkins): Friday, January 27

English 3 & English 3 Honors (Blanchette, Colbert, & East): Monday, January 30

High School Individualized English: Tuesday, January 31

8th Grade Math (Ramirez): Wednesday, February 1

8th Grade Math (Smith & Patrick): Thursday, February 2

8th Grade Math (Snodgrass): Friday, February 3

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One final note regarding placement into advanced-level courses. A new Illinois law requires districts to auto-place students into the next most rigorous course when they meet the benchmark on an identified state assessment. Parents have the option to bypass auto-placement and instead select the course(s) for their child.

If your child met the benchmark on their most recent PSAT/SAT in math and/or ELA, he/she is eligible for placement into the next most rigorous course. This includes, but isn't limited to, placement in honors, AP, and dual credit courses. If you do not want your child auto-placed into a class, please make your preferred course choices in Skyward during the registration period.

Students can access their College Board account to determine if they meet/exceed the benchmark in math and/or ELA for their grade level. For details on accessing your scores, please feel free to use this resource provided by College Board:

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Student-Access.pdf>

Note that auto-placement under this law is not the only avenue to advanced courses. Students can still qualify for courses based on teacher recommendations and past academic performance.

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Please reach out with any questions. We thank you for your patience during this extremely busy time!

Best regards,  
MSHS Counselors

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