



COMMACK HIGH SCHOOL

Carrie Lipenholtz, *Principal*



Matthew P. Keltos, *Vice Principal*

Eric P. Biagi, *Assistant Principal*

Andrea M. Allen, *Assistant Principal*

Nicole Kregler, *Director of Counseling*

December 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians of Eighth Grade Students:

It is our pleasure to invite you to the 8th to 9th Grade Curriculum Night, on Thursday, January 5th, at 7:00pm at Commack High School. The purpose of this evening is to familiarize you with the scheduling process and the curriculum offerings available to ninth grade students. Parents/guardians will be welcomed in the auditorium and then proceed to rotate through a series of presentations, facilitated by district Directors, Lead Teachers, School Counselors and Mental Health Professionals.

The Infinite Campus Parent Portal will open for course selection on January 17th and will remain open through January 27th. Parents should access the Parent Portal with their children to choose their Fine Arts course as well as their Social Studies course. Descriptions on the courses students can select are available on the following page. All other core academic courses and requirements (English Language Arts, Science, Mathematics, World Language, Physical Education, Career and Financial Management) will be automatically scheduled for students. Further information for each of the courses mentioned above can be accessed via the [High School Curriculum Guide](#).

Beginning on January 30th and happening through February 17th, the middle school counselors will meet individually with 8th grade students to finalize their course requests for 9th grade. During these meetings, students will discuss all academic courses and have the ability to make changes to courses previously selected or recommended by their teacher. If space allows in your child's schedule for an additional elective, they will have the opportunity to select this when meeting with their middle school counselor. Following the February break, a copy of your child's course requests will be posted to the Parent Portal Campus Backpack for your review.

If you have questions regarding the scheduling process or your child's course selections for the 2023-2024 school year, please do not hesitate to contact your child's current school counselor.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, January 5th!

Sincerely,

Nicole Kregler
Director of Counseling

A National Blue Ribbon Exemplary School • An International Baccalaureate World School

One Scholar Lane • Commack, NY • 11725 • (631) 912-2100

Counselors: Gabrielle Cardinale, Alyson Catinella, Jacqueline Clark, James Del Giudice, Donald Graham, Ann Iacopelli, Courtney Meyer, Jon Miale, Julie Russo, Heather Tadmor

BOCES Career/Internship Teacher: Diane Nelson

Fax No: (631) 912-2226

Web Address: <http://www.commack.k12.ny.us/CounselingCenter.aspx>

Social Studies Course Options (CHOOSE 1)

Global History 1R	This Regents level course exposes students to the major historical events and achievements in world history from 8000 BCE – 1750 CE. In this course, students will investigate and analyze the significant events, individuals, achievements, and developments of world history to hone their critical thinking and literacy skills. The historical content and skills learned in Global History 1R will prepare students to register for Global History 2R as their 10th grade social studies course.
Global History 1 Enriched	This higher level course includes the first half of the AP World History Modern course which students can take in 10th grade. Global History 1 Enriched requires more reading, writing, and research than is required in Global History 1R. Students will develop critical and historical thinking skills by investigating historical content from 8000 BCE – 1750 CE. At the conclusion of 9th grade, students in Global History 1 Enriched will be prepared to continue their study of history by enrolling in AP World History Modern for their 10th grade social studies course and potentially earn college credit as sophomores. AP World History Modern provides a solid foundation for IB History 1 and 2 (Grades 11 and 12).

Fine Arts Course Options (CHOOSE 1)

Studio in Digital Media Art	In this class, students will be introduced to a variety of programs that are currently being used in the professions of Game Design, Graphic Design, Computer Illustration, Advertising and Photography. After completing the Studio in Digital Art class, students can further their instruction by focusing on a variety of Digital classes that further their interest. In these classes students will delve into new media and new environments that challenge student intellect and help develop creative thinking skills to assist in visual communication.
Studio in Fine Art	This foundation course introduces the fundamentals of artistic expression. The course includes experiences in drawing, painting, and mixed media. The course emphasizes observation and interpretation of the visual environment, visual communication, imagination, and symbolism through an introduction to various visual arts media. The focus of this comprehensive course is the study of how artists convey ideas through application of a variety of media, and the study of historical and contemporary art and artists from a worldwide perspective.
Studio in Applied Art	This foundation course applies form and structure to the materials and accompanying aesthetics of crafts through a survey of a wide range of forms; some possibilities include fibers, sculpture, ceramic work, silk-screening, fashion design & marketing, papermaking, and jewelry work. The focus of this comprehensive course is on communication of ideas and application of form and structure through diverse media, and the study of historical and contemporary art and artists from a worldwide perspective.
Band 9/10	This ensemble is comprised of students who wish to continue in the band program. Members are required to perform at the Mid-Winter and Spring Concerts as well as Graduation. Members are encouraged to participate in NYSSMA and SCMEA events. Members are required to attend instrumental lessons on a rotating schedule, as they are an integral part of the program. Marching band is mandatory for all band members, grades 9-12, with the exception of those students participating in a school fall sport. Only students in the music program can participate in the Marching Band.
Chorus 9/10	This ensemble is comprised of students who wish to continue in the choral program. Members are required to perform at the Mid-Winter and Spring Concerts. Members are encouraged to participate in NYSSMA and SCMEA events. Members are required to attend vocal lessons on a rotating schedule, as they are an integral part of the program.
Orchestra 9/10	This ensemble is comprised of students who wish to continue in the orchestral program. Members are expected to attend all performances including the Winter and Spring Concerts. Members are required to attend instructional lessons on a rotating basis, as they are an integral part of the program.
PLTW Design and Drawing for Production	This introduction to engineering course is part of the Project Lead the Way Program and is suited for all students. It is an excellent opportunity for students to explore various aspects of engineering. Students will use the industry standard 3D solid modeling software to design and document their solutions to design problems. As the course progresses and the complexity of the design problems increase, students will learn more advanced computer modeling skills, and realize their designs with the use of 3D printers. Students will work individually and in teams to design solutions to a variety of problems, develop research and analysis skills, learn technical writing, and create engineering graphics. It also provides students the opportunity to receive three credits from Rochester Institute of Technology after taking the end-of-course exam. (Purchasing the credits from RIT is optional).