

**GUILDERLAND HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2020**

PARENT HANDBOOK



**FARNSWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT
456-6010**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It must seem like yesterday that you were nervously sending your child off to the middle school and now they are in 8th grade. The amount of growth that occurs during those three years is astounding. And now it is time to start the transition to high school.

This handbook is the first in a series of resources that will be provided to aid parents and students as they prepare for the move from middle school to high school. The purpose of the handbook is to:

- Provide information about course selection and the transition process.
- Make you aware of the evening programs for parents.

We hope the information provided proves useful to you. If at any point you have questions that are not addressed by the handbook, please feel free to contact your child's counselor.

Sincerely,

Anna Bartlett

Hiawatha House Counselor

Ext. 3054

bartletta@guilderlandschools.net

Maureen Pokal

Seneca House Counselor

Ext. 3038

pokalm@guilderlandschools.net

Maceo Dubose, Jr.

Mohawk House Counselor

Ext. 3036

dubosem@guilderlandschools.net

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Classroom activity with goal to help students make connection between choices they make now and their educational and career choices in the future.

DECEMBER-JANUARY

Parents can begin accessing their child's actual course request information on our School Tool Parent Portal starting 12/18/2015.

Annual Reviews-counselors meet with small groups (4-5) of students. Students and counselors discuss the high school program, the importance of setting goals for the future and making choices related to those goals.

JANUARY

Counselors Meet with 8th Grade Classes-counselors are in classrooms to give students information about graduation requirements, course offerings, and making informed decisions about their high school programs.

January 14, 2016 -Transition Meeting for 8th Graders and Parents@ GHS, LGI at 7 pm- A program for parents and students presented by High School Counselors and Instructional Administrators to provide **parents and students** with information about graduation requirements and course selection.

January 26, 2016 -Transition Night for Parents of Students with Special Needs Moving from Grade 8 to 9 @ GHS, 6:30 pm.

Counselors are available for individual advisement. Parents and students who would like individual advisement can:

- schedule an appointment,
- speak by phone
- contact by email

Students and parents review course information and make choices. The course request sheet listing course choices and alternates is completed and submitted to the counselor **no later than January 29, 2016**. **Override forms are also due on 1/29/2016.**

MARCH

March 9 - Visitation Day-all eighth graders spend the day at GHS, participate in transition activities and attend the high school musical.

MAY-JUNE

Counselors speak with and/or meet with individual students and parents to resolve any schedule conflicts.

JULY-AUGUST

Schedules are available to view at the end of August.

GHS Counseling Department is open to answer any questions parents and students may have.

SEPTEMBER

Ninth Grade Orientation is held the day before school starts.

High School Graduation Requirements

Regents Diploma	Subject Area	Advanced Regents Diploma
4.0	English	4.0
4.0	Social Studies	4.0
3.0	Math	3.0
3.0	Science	3.0
1.0	World Languages/Cultures	1-4.0*
1.0	Arts	1.0
0.5	Health	0.5
2.0	Phys. Ed.	2.0
4.5	Electives	1.5+
23	Total	23

***Students who earn five units in occupational studies or the arts may be exempted from this requirement in second language. However, they would have to earn at least one unit either by passing a high school foreign language course or passing a local final exam.**

Testing Required for Graduation

Regents Diploma:

Minimum score of 65 required on all exams.

1 Math Regents

1 Science Regents

1 Social Studies Regents

English Regents

AND at least one of the following:

Humanities Pathway:

A minimum score of 65 on a second Social Studies Regents or state-approved alternative

STEM Pathway:

A minimum score of 65 on a second Science Regents or a minimum score of 65 on a second Math Regents or a state-approved alternative

Bi-literacy (Language other than English) Pathway:

Completion of a foreign language sequence and state-approved foreign language assessment (This assessment has yet to be determined at this time)

CTE Pathway:

Completion of a state-approved CTE program and assessment (approved assessments may be found

at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/multiple-pathways/docs/multiple-pathways-approved-technical-assessments-2015-04-08.pdf>)

Arts Pathway:

Completion of an arts sequence and state-approved arts assessment (This assessment has yet to be determined at this time)

Regents with Advanced Designation Diploma:

All of the above exams plus additional tests listed below, with minimum score of 65 required

2 additional Math Regents exams

1 additional Science Regents exam

**3-4 credits in World Languages & Cultures and a minimum score of 65 on Checkpoint B
OR**

a five unit sequence in art, music, business, technology, or career and technical education (CTE)

PLANNING THE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

ANNUAL REVIEWS

In the 7th and 8th grades, all students meet with their counselor in small groups for an annual review. The annual review seeks to start students thinking about their futures and how their education is connected to their choices in the future.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Prior to course selection, the counselors will visit the classroom and provide detailed information about graduation requirements, course offerings and levels of study.

COURSE LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The 8th grade core teachers will be making course level recommendations for each student. Students will review the recommendations with their parents before selecting courses.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

It is important for parents to be involved every step of the way as students begin to prepare for the transition to high school. Parents can be involved right from the start by having conversations with their child about future goals and aspirations.

If you have any questions regarding your child's level of study you are encouraged to contact your child's team of teachers and counselor in order to discuss the most appropriate level. You may also call, e-mail, and/or schedule an appointment with your child's counselor at any time to ask questions or obtain more information.

Individual questions may also be answered at the **Transition Meeting for Parent and Students held at the high school on January 14, 2016 at 7:00pm.**

-students are welcome but do not need to attend since they will receive the same information in class.

-will cover basic information such as understanding high school graduation requirements and the selection of a level of study.

SELECTION OF COURSES

After making their selections on the course selection sheet, students must return the signed form to their counselor no later than **January 29, 2016**. Failure to return this sheet in a timely manner may affect the availability of certain courses.

Please Note: Course offerings are often dependent upon enrollment. It is essential that students list alternate courses on the course selection sheet. There are ***no guarantees that students will receive their first choice of courses.*** By listing alternate courses, students are more likely to get a course they have chosen.

DECIDING ON A LEVEL OF STUDY

High School diploma requirements have evolved over the years as new standards have been implemented. Thus, as ninth graders, students do not have a great deal of choices when it comes to course selection. Most students will enroll in Math, Science, Social Studies, English and Physical Education. Many will continue with the study of a world language and will generally have room for one full credit or two half credit electives.

The eighth grade teachers work collaboratively with parents and students to choose the level of study most appropriate for each student in each subject area. The goal is to select a level at which the student is comfortable yet adequately challenged.

Parents may override the level recommendations by submitting a signed form which can be obtained from their child's school counselor.

IMPORTANT

Changes in level cannot be accommodated after the 1/29/2016 deadline. Students may not change levels during the school year and must remain in the level selected until the following school year. When a course has limited seats, priority will be based upon teacher recommendation first and the remaining students will be placed on a wait list.

FINE ARTS REQUIREMENT

Students enrolling in the ninth grade are encouraged to fulfill their Fine Arts Requirement towards graduation. This will provide students more options for advanced electives through their remaining years in high school.

This can be done by choosing one class from the four special area subjects:

ART

Studio Art (1)

MUSIC

Music Technology (1)

Music in Our Lives (1)

Band (.5)

Chorus (.5)

Orchestra (.5)

MISCELLANEOUS

Dance Styles (.5)

Choreography (.5)

TECHNOLOGY

Design and Drawing for Production-Project Lead the Way (1)

Design and Drawing for Production-Non-Project Lead the Way (1)

UNDERSTANDING THE BLOCK SCHEDULE

Understanding how all of the courses selected come together to form a schedule can be a bit confusing. Each student's schedule is based on their individual course selections and needs.

The structure of the high school schedule is very different from the middle school schedule.. The day begins at 7:30 and ends at 2:21. The high school uses a block schedule which consists of four blocks (periods) lasting 86 minutes each with nine minutes allowed between each block for students to get to their next class. Students also have thirty minutes for lunch. Block 5 (Activity Period), is an extension of the school day and lasts until 3:10.

Students earn credit for all coursework. A course that meets every other day for a full block for the entire year is worth one credit and a course which meets for one half of the year for a full block is worth one half of a credit.

The high school follows the same day cycle as the middle school- A, B, C and D. Most courses meet on days A and C or on days B and D. Science courses meet on three days of the four-day cycle in order to accommodate labs. Physical Education meets on one day of each cycle.

Performing music at the high school is a credit bearing class and is scheduled during a split block so students can participate in two performing music courses (instrumental and vocal). Students may choose to participate in only one music course and spend the other forty minutes in music study hall or the other only option is Health.

***Some students with special needs have scheduling options that differ slightly from those listed above. Please speak to your child's counselor or special education teacher to discuss his/her options.**

For more information on course offerings and the high school program visit the
Guilderland Central School District website at

<http://www.guilderlandschools.net>



Farnsworth Middle School
Guilderland Central School District
6072 State Farm Road
Guilderland, NY 12084