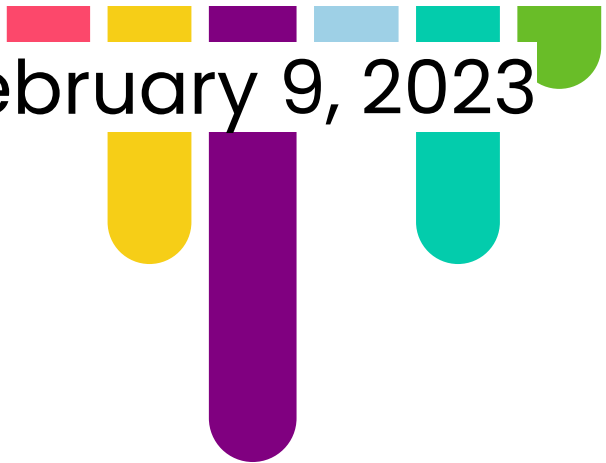




# Moving on from Middle School to High School

February 9, 2023



OFFICE OF  
SPECIAL EDUCATION  
LOUDOUN COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS






# Agenda



**OFFICE OF  
SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
LOUDOUN COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- 
- Welcome/Connection
  - How is high school different from middle school?
  - Which classes will my child take? What special education services are available for my child?
  - What are the diploma options?
  - What are participation requirements for statewide assessments and college boards?
  - What clubs and sports are available to my child?
  - How can my child have a smooth transition to high school?



# Connection





# Connection

Talk with someone nearby . . .

As I think about my child in high school, I'm most excited about . . .

As I think about my child in high school, I'm most worried about . . .



# How is high school different from middle school?



# How is High School Similar to Middle School?

- **Homeroom and/or advisory continue** (frequency varies from school to school)
- **Block scheduling continues, but high schools start later** (slight variation in bell schedules)
- **Certain required classes each year** (service level options are IEP team determinations)

# How is High School Different from Middle School?

- In high school,
  - students earn credits toward a diploma
  - there are no “houses”
  - there is a wider variety of
    - clubs
    - organizations
    - sports opportunities

# More Differences

MIDDLE SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL
<b>Classrooms grouped by grade level houses</b>	<b>Classrooms grouped by content departments</b>
<b>No credits for grade level classification</b>	<b>Number of credits determine grade level classification (i.e., freshman, sophomore, junior, senior)</b>
<b>Lunch by grade level</b>	<b>Lunch by class block (mixed grades)</b>
<b>Designated area for students before first block</b>	<b>Students are free to move about the building before first block</b>
<b>School counselor assigned by grade level</b>	<b>School counselor assigned by student last name</b>
<b>Administrator assigned by grade level</b>	<b>Administrator assigned by student last name</b>





**Which classes will my child take?  
What special education services  
are available for my child?**



# Examples of Rising 9th Grade Information



Potomac Falls High  
School



John Champe High  
School



J. Michael Lunsford  
Middle School



Farmwell Station Middle  
School

# Factors to Consider When Choosing Your Coursework

- Teacher Input
- Interests
- Academic Motivation
- Available Time
- Future Plans - Goals!
- Mental Health



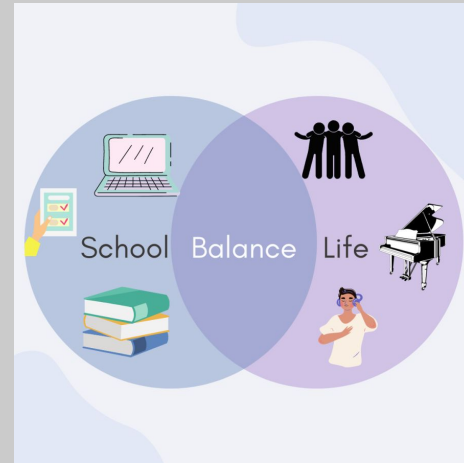
# TYPICAL 9th GRADE SCHEDULE

Every core subject is offered at two levels (Academic or Honors/Pre-AP/AP). Strongly consider teacher and counselor recommendations as reading level, work ethic and intrinsic motivation are key factors for success.

- English 9
- World History/Geography to 1500
- Earth Science
- Math
- Health/PE 9
- World Language/Elective
- English 9 Honors
- Intro to AP World History
- Research or Earth/Research Biology
- Math
- Health/PE 9
- World Language/Elective

# DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR ME IN CHOOSING MY COURSES?

**Strive for balance; take classes that are as challenging as you can handle, but also show good judgment by not overwhelming yourself.**





**The IEP team determines the  
least restrictive setting for  
students with disabilities.**

# Special Education Continuum





**The IEP team meeting during which the goals, accommodations, and special education services for 9th grade are determined occurs during a student's 8th grade year.**

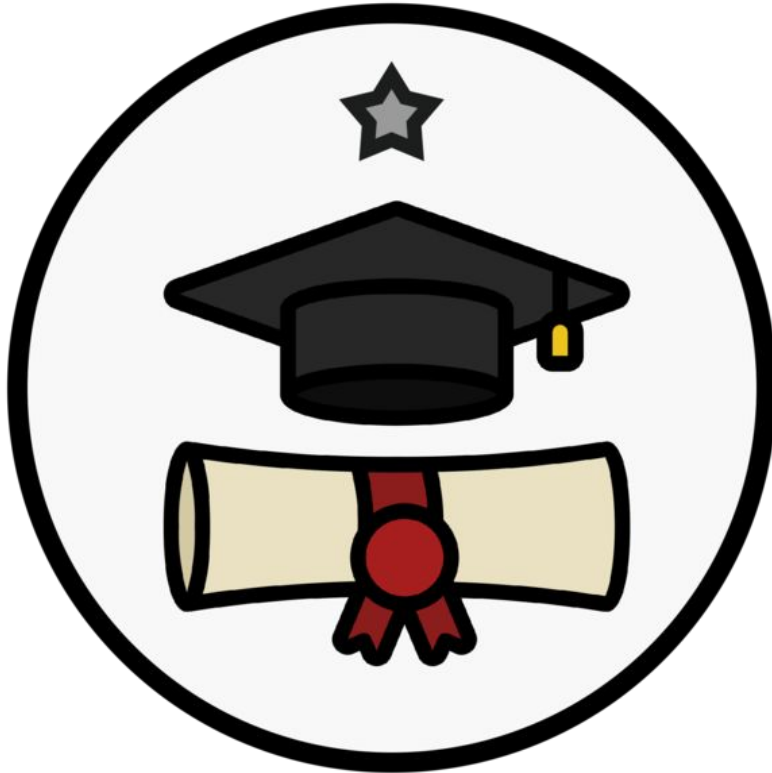
**Typically, parents, students, and a representative from the high school are part of that team.**





# What are the diploma options?

# VDOE Diploma Types



Applied Studies

Standard

Advanced

Studies

# Applied Studies Diploma

- ❑ Available only for students with disabilities
- ❑ Awarded through completion of IEP goals
- ❑ Available for students with a modified curriculum
- ❑ Not equivalent to a Standard Diploma
- ❑ Difficult to change to other diploma options once pursued
- ❑ May not qualify a child for higher education, financial aid, and some employment opportunities



# Standard Diploma

- 22 Standard Unit of Credits
- Five Verified Units of Credits
- Economics and Personal Finance
- Two World Language, Fine Arts, or CTE
- Four additional electives (at least two must be sequential)



# Advanced Studies Diploma

- ❑ 26 Standard Unit of Credits
- ❑ Five Verified Units of Credits
- ❑ Three years of one foreign language or two years of two foreign languages
- ❑ One credit in Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education Electives
- ❑ Economics and Personal Finance
- ❑ Three additional electives (*at least two must be sequential*)

Subject Area	Standard Diploma	Adv Diploma	Verified Credits (only one LAVC allowed)
English	4	4	2
Mathematics	3	4	1
Laboratory Science	3	4	1
History and Social Sciences	3	4	1
World Language, Fine Arts or CTE	2	3 – WL 1 – FA or CTE	
Health and Physical Education	2	2	
Economic and Personal Finance	1	1	
Electives (TWO MUST BE SEQUENTIAL)	4	3	
CPR Certification	required	required	required
CTE Credential	Must have one AP, Honors OR a CTE Credential		
Honors or AP			
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>

# HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OPTIONS

## STANDARD VS. ADVANCED



# **What are the participation requirements for statewide assessments and college boards?**





# The Assessment – Diploma Option Connection

## Applied Studies

Standards of Learning (SOL/VESOL)

Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)

## Standard

Standards of Learning (SOL)

## Advanced Studies

Standards of Learning (SOL)





VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

Teaching, Learning & Assessment » Student Assessment » Virginia SOL Assessment Program »

# Participation & Inclusion

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# Accommodations and Supports Handbook

SAT Suite of Assessments and  
Other College Board Assessments



# **What clubs and sports are available to my child?**

# Examples of High School Clubs and Organizations



Freedom High School



Rock Ridge High School

# Unified Sports



Loudoun County High  
School



Stone Bridge High School



# **How can my child have a smooth transition to high school?**



# 10 Steps for Creating a Smooth Transition to High School

1. Meet with the school.
2. Discuss class selection.
3. Explore extracurricular activities.
4. Brush up on social skills.
5. Go to the orientation and tour the school.
6. Review the student handbook.
7. Meet with teachers early.
8. Encourage self-advocacy.
9. Provide summer structure.
10. Support summer reading.

# High School Supports for Students

## Case Manager

- Primary contact for special education services
- Works closely with your child's instructional team and school counselor

## Special Education Department Chair

- Focuses on instructional needs and teacher support
- Can be a resource for families and students



# High School Supports for Students

## Special Education Dean

- Primary contact for compliance and IEP process
- Designee for LCPS policies within the high school
- Can be a resource for families and students

## Assistant Principal

- Oversees the special education department (and, likely, other departments)
- Designee for LCPS policies within the high school
- Supports the discipline process
- Can be a resource for families and students



If you have questions, please contact the Parent Resource Center at 571-252-6540.