For Freshmen & Families:

Navigating & Planning for High School

LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT
DECEMBER 2021
This evening’s program

In the presentation, we’ll cover:

- Website
- Academics
- Testing
- Personal development
- Counselors’ role
- Other school staff
- Evening programs

... and conclude with Q&A
Academics

- Course selection:
  - Notification goes home in January
  - Student conversations with parents, teachers, counselor
  - Final selections due in February
    - Confirmation of schedule by May
    - All changes due in June – no changes after that!

- Consider:
  - Balance and breadth of subject areas
  - Total workload, along with other time demands
    - Be challenged - but be aware of stress, need for sleep
  - Central Montgomery Technical High School
Academics

- Transcript:
  - Record of courses and grades for all 4 years
  - GPA on a max scale of 5.0
    - Grading system = A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-
    - C+, C, C-
    - D+, D, D-
    - F
  - Honors, APs & IB weighted 5.0
  - College Prep & Electives 4.0
  - How colleges calculate GPAs
• Graduation requirements:

21 credits:

4 English
4 Social Studies
3 Science
3 Math
2 Arts & Humanities
4.5 Electives
4 years of PE,
1 year of Health
Graduation Project

Recommended:

4 years of each core academic class &
at least 3 years of a world language
Testing

ALL STUDENTS

Midterms & Finals:
The District eliminated midterms and finals as stand-alone events on the calendar (half days) and exchanged the midterm and final exam weeks for additional instructional time.

Instead of having a separate midterm and final, these assessments will be woven into the fabric of the year in appropriate places and for appropriate weights within the scope of the grade for that course.

BY GRADE

KEYSTONE EXAMS : End of Course Exams (EOC)
- Algebra EOC of Integrated Math II – in May
- Biology 9th - in May
- Literature 10th - in May
- Retest in December

PSAT:
- 10th – Practice only in October
- 11th – NMSQT in October

Outside of school - college applications - students also take the ACT & SAT usually in 11th and 12th grades. Test Optional polices are expanding.
“SCATE” classroom lessons 9\textsuperscript{th}-12\textsuperscript{th}

School Counseling And Transition Experience (SCATE)
- Self-discovery through Naviance using the Career Interest Inventories
- Understanding standardized testing, importance of transcript and GPA
- \textit{College and career readiness} skills like budgeting time and adjusting to more independence

9th – Goal Setting – Getting Involved; Consent
10\textsuperscript{th} – Career Exploration
11\textsuperscript{th} – College and Career Preparedness; More on consent
12\textsuperscript{th} – Transition from high school and stepping up to stop sexual assault
In the 2021-22 school year, all programs will be virtual via Zoom.

**10th:**
- PSAT Overview
- Career Symposium (*daytime)

**11th/12th:**
- The College Process
- Virtual Colleges (*daytime)
- College Admission Roundtable
- Financial Aid Overview & FAFSA Completion Nights
- Special Interests Select A Session

*Coffee & Conversation—Day and evening*
Personal Development

- **Character**
  - Understanding self, empathizing with others
  - Working hard, striving to meet potential
  - Acting with integrity in and out of class

- **Leadership**
  - Opportunities increase: Peer leaders, club officers, athletic captains
  - Time management skills, self-advocacy, organization, group dynamics

- **Service**
  - Volunteerism, gratitude, perspective - in school and/or the community
## Counselors’ Role

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<td>College counseling</td>
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<td>College planning</td>
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<td>Testing information, tips</td>
<td>Transitioning from high school to life beyond</td>
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<td>SCATE Lessons</td>
<td>Other Duties as Assigned</td>
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Other School Staff

Registrar
- manages transcript, grade reports

Teachers
- academic instruction; course recommendations

Counselor
- course selection & academic advising; college advising; social/emotional support

Counseling Secretary
- arrange appointments, help with forms, paperwork

College Access Counselor
- college advising

Mental Health Specialist
- emotional/mental health concerns

School Psychologist
- psychological testing, mental health concerns

STUDENT & parent/guardian(s)
What we covered this evening:

- Website
- Academics
- Testing
- Personal development
- Counselors’ role
- Other school staff
- Evening programs

We are here to help!