

Dear 7th Grade Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

RE: Followup to 7th to 8th Grade Zoom Course Selection Presentation on Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Thank you for joining us for our Zoom 7th to 8th Grade Course Selection Presentation on Tuesday, March 16. Below are the questions from the chat and responses to the questions for your review. Also, the link to review the presentation is below. Contact school counselors Ms. Jen Toby at jtoby@soudertonsd.org and Mr. Colin Leach at cleach@soudertonsd.org with any questions moving forward.

Link to Presentation

https://indianvalley.soudertonsd.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_95700/File/Announcements/IV-7th-to-8thSchedulePresentation2021.pdf

Chat Questions and Responses

If the child does not take chorus/band/orchestra, the slide says the child should take Art and FCS in 8th grade. What happens if the student has not yet taken Innovations or Entrepreneurship?

If students do not take Band, Chorus, or Orchestra, they will take Family Consumer Science and Art. Students will not be able to take previous grade-level Related Arts Courses.

Is entry into the honors classes competitive? Or if they elect it and meet requirements they get in?

There are few instances where a student would not be able to take their requested Honors Course when meeting all requirements. It is possible though that due to scheduling (particularly driven by a student's Math Course), additional Honors Courses may need to be added, or a specific requested combination of Honors Courses is not possible. Parents are contacted if a child's specific requests cannot be fulfilled.

How does a student participate in the Science Fair and the History Project?

The Science Fair and National History Day Projects are facilitated by Science and Social Studies teachers. The projects are worked on both inside and outside of the classroom.

If a child chooses band and/or orchestra, that means they can't take art?

Yes, unfortunately, there is not enough time in the 8th Grade Schedule for both. They will have the opportunity to participate in both at the High School!

Will the Preview Video be done again for students that were absent?

Dr. Pammer sent the preview video link to parents along with the scheduling worksheet and Zoom presentation link.

Is my child's Home Access username and password the same as mine (the parent)?

No, they are not the same. If either you or your child needs to reset their log-in credentials for Home Access Center, please contact the Main Office.

Can you go over the related arts double block on A/B days that was mentioned?

Please see the example schedule below:

Block 1: Math 8

Block 2: Social Studies 8

Lunch

Block 3 A Day: Spanish I

Block 4 A Day: Spanish I

Block 3 B Day: Art 8

Block 4 B Day: Physical Education 8

Block 5: Science 8

Block 6: English Language Arts 8

If a student is on the 6 person team, do they have the same teacher for ELA and Social Studies and then the same teacher for Math/Science? Like they did in 6th grade.

No, schedules are randomly generated, so it would not be guaranteed that they would have the same teachers for ELA/SS and Math/Science.

Can you please repeat Honors Social Studies course selection? Especially for kids who did not participate in National History Day?

The distinguishing factor between Honors Social Studies and Academic Social Studies is the National History Day Project (this project is specific to 8th Grade Students). This includes a research project and presentation.

So we do not know about PSSA testing at this point, correct?

That is correct.

When will the final decision of enrollment be received? I imagine some courses will have high demand. How will it be decided if the child was chosen to the class they selected?

Schedules are randomly generated through our scheduling system. Parents will be contacted over the summer if your child's course requests cannot be fulfilled.

I saw that in person students will be able to register the day before SAOA students. Will this impact the availability for them to register in they're preferred class?

This will not impact availability of courses, as the scheduling system will be run once all requests have been received.

Can they take STEM even though they may not want to pursue STEM in HS?

Yes! This may be a great option, as this would fulfill the Technology credit graduation requirement upon entering the High School.

For Honors SS and Science the "History Day Project" and "Science Fair" are additional requirements for the class correct?

Yes, they are the distinguishing factors of the Honors Courses.

Can you please explain how the Science Honors selection affects the high school science track?

If students are interested in taking Honors Biology in 9th Grade, they need to have taken Honors Science 8 in 8th Grade and earn a cumulative grade of a C+ or better in the Honors Science 8 Course. If they do not take Honors Science 8 in 8th Grade, students will still have the opportunity to advance in their Science Studies by "doubling-up" in 10th-12th Grade, if they choose.

How do we determine what the cumulative grade is?

Cumulative grades are calculated by taking the average of all four Marking Period Grades earned.

If a child signs up for honors and sees it's too much work can they drop down to academic?

Yes, this change can be requested within the month of September. Please note that this will change your child's schedule, as Academic Courses are not offered during the same blocks of time as Honors Courses.

Does their performance in STEM or Language (A, B etc.) count towards their high school GPA or they just get a credit?

Students earn a credit towards graduation by taking STEM and World Language. Their grade earned is not accounted for in their High School GPA.

Would you equate the STEM course to an honors level course in terms of workload/difficulty?

Not exactly, STEM and World Language are High School Level courses being taught at the Middle Level.

If my child selects a non honors course and wishes to advance, can they switch to an honors class during the year?

No, unfortunately, this would not be an option.

Jeff Pammer, Ed.D.

Principal

Indian Valley Middle School