January, 2020

Dear Class of 2021, 2022 and 2023 Parent/Guardian:

Student course selection for the 2020-21 school year is about to begin. I am excited about the opportunities our International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses offer in addition to a great variety of elective courses. As students make course selections during the next few weeks, I encourage everyone to challenge themselves to take rigorous academic coursework preparing for education beyond high school and select electives which help develop their creative and artistic interests.

During the school day, on Tuesday, January 28th, we will hold our annual Curriculum Fair. The purpose of the fair is to inform students of course offerings, assist them in making selections for their 2020-2021 classes and obtain general information about the scheduling process. Following an abbreviated, six-period class schedule, students will have the opportunity to select, and visit, three individual course presentations. On the same day, 6th hour teachers will provide each student with a Course Selection Card to be completed, signed by a parent/guardian and returned to their math teacher by Monday, February 3rd.

On Friday, January 31st, please make sure your student brings their Course Selection Card to school as teachers will dedicate class time to make course recommendations and sign the card.

Family Access is our online course selection system. Students must input all of their courses by utilizing Family Access, independently, beginning Tuesday afternoon, January 28th. They should select and input all of their courses, online, by end of day, Sunday, February 2nd. Detailed, written and video instruction will be posted to Western’s web page, http://www.wlcisd.org/Western - follow the quick-link entitled “2020/21 Course Selection”. Course descriptions are available in the Program of Studies also found at the Pre-Course Selection quick-link on both the school and district websites. Be sure your student completes the Course Selection Card, reflecting their online course selections, obtains your signature, and returns the card to their math teacher on Monday, February 3rd.

Counselors will meet individually with each student on a scheduled date beginning late February-the end of March, during their English/Language Arts classes, to review and finalize course selections. In order to be prepared for the meeting with their counselor, please be sure your son/daughter has completed their course selection, online, by Sunday, February 2nd, through Family Access.

The graduation requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum are attached to this letter. These courses include: English, 4 years; Mathematics, 4 years; Science, 3 years; Social Studies, 3 years; World Language, 2 years; Fine, Performing, Visual Arts or Career Tech Education, 1 year and eliminate a semester each of Physical Education and Health. A typical college-bound student takes courses from each of the four (4) core areas, both semesters, in their junior and senior years. Students must earn a minimum of 22.0 credits to graduate and earn a diploma from a comprehensive Walled Lake Consolidated High School

Below is a summary of the events planned for the coming weeks:

**January 28th**
- Curriculum Fair
- Elective course offering videos broadcast in ten minute intervals throughout the abbreviated 6-period day
- 4th hour teachers provide students with 2020-21 Course Scheduling Packets and Curriculum Fair Session Selection Form
- 6th hour teachers provide students with Course Selection Cards
- Students select and visit three individual course presentations

**January 28th-February 2nd**
- Students complete course selections online, with parental support, via Family Access
- Teachers make recommendations and sign Course Selection Cards

**February 3rd**
- Course Selection Card, with parent/guardian’s signature, submitted to math teacher

**Late-February- end of March**
- Counselors begin individual student meetings during school to review and finalize course selections.

*Academic Excellence for a Global Society*
Opportunities for Enrichment and Enhanced Learning

- **International Baccalaureate Programme (“IB”)** - IB Diploma courses are open to all 11th and 12th grade students at Western High School. Students can select one or more of these courses as part of their schedule, or a student can elect to be part of the full Diploma Programme. IB courses are widely recognized by universities as rigorous college level experiences and many of them are awarded college credit. To find out more about IB opportunities at Western High School, please visit our IB webpage: [Western IB Programme](#) and review the attached IB Classes flyer.

- **Oakland Schools Technical Center (OSTC)** provides a variety of programs in several career and technical fields. If your son/daughter is interested in taking advantage of the programs available at OSTC, please see the OSTC website for more information [www.ostconline.com](http://www.ostconline.com) and contact your counselor to find out which programs remain available. Students must apply online for OSTC by February 12th.

- **Advanced Placement (“AP”), Dual Enrollment** - Students may be able to earn college credit through either of these options. Students interested in these enrichment opportunities may obtain applications and registration information from their counselor. Also see the attached flyer describing AP course opportunities.

**Online Course Work and Flex Scheduling**

- **Online Edgenuity classes** offer credit recovery or self-paced learning during school, after school, and in the summer.

- **FLEX Scheduling** permits students to take one or two Edgenuity online courses instead of one or two classes at school. This requires a high degree of self-discipline, but offers students a flexible schedule in a rigorous academic program. Flex scheduling is not intended for credit recovery.

**Testing Out**

- The *State School Code* (MCL, 380.1279b - Credit Awarded to Pupil Not Enrolled in Course) mandates that if a high school student can exhibit mastery of course content, then he/she has a right to accelerate through a sequence of courses by TESTING-OUT. Upon approval of the application, the student will be provided with a course description, course syllabus, and a description of the TESTING-OUT requirements. Applications are available at [2020-21 Course Selection](#) and must be submitted to our Counseling Office by the deadline of May 1st. Additional details are available from your student’s counselor.

For more information, or assistance with any of these options, please feel free to contact your student’s counselor listed below. We look forward to another year of Academic Excellence working with you to make the most of your son’s or daughter’s 2020-2021 school year.

Sincerely,

Ali H. Hamka
Principal

### COUNSELOR | PHONE | EMAIL | GRADES 9 – 12 LAST NAMES BEGINNING
---|---|---|---
Amanda Swanson | 248-956-4442 | amandaswanson@wlcsd.org | A-Dun (Grades 9-11)
David Walczyk | 248-956-4446 | davidwalczyk@wlcsd.org | Dun-Kohn (Grades 9-11)
Pamela Wesley | 248-956-4445 | pamelawesley@wlcsd.org | K Koho-Roe (Grades 9-11)
Lisa Kurowski | 248-956-4441 | lisakurowski@wlcsd.org | Rof-Z (Grades 9-11)

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