

2011-12 Registration information for Ninth Grade Parents

1. **P.E.** Incoming ninth graders will be required to take one and half credits of physical education to include one half credit of personal fitness. No more than one p. e. class can be taken per semester. Freshmen can **waive ½ credit of PE**, if they are in marching band or color guard for a semester and earn a grade of “C” or better. They must complete the intention form in the fall for this waiver.
2. **Science** Due to the increased level of rigor required of students in science over the next few years, freshmen will take physical science in the ninth grade. Students in the Health Science and Marine Science Academies will continue to take biology honors. All students will be expected to take two more rigorous lab-based science courses for graduation which will include biology and chemistry or physics. Integrated science taken in the 8th grade will count as an elective credit only. Students will complete biology in the tenth grade and must pass the state biology end-of-course exam to earn science credit toward graduation. (Ninth grade students in biology will take the EOC in the spring with tenth graders)
3. **Reading** FCAT Level I and II students will be in two periods of reading. That means they will have less elective classes in their schedule. We use seventh grade FCAT scores for placement until the spring scores arrive. We will then check 8th grade scores, and make changes during June where necessary. All ninth graders have reading whether a year, semester, one period or two periods. For students without FCAT scores, any nationally norm-referenced test scores available will be used.
4. **Math placement:** Students with a developmental scale score (DSS) of 1750 or less, and level I on FCAT will be placed in algebra IA and Intensive math. If a level II and a DSS of 1750 – 1850 placement will be algebra IA, students with a DSS of 1850 or more will be placed in algebra I, students at or above the 85 percentile or level 4 or 5 FCAT will be allowed to take geometry or geometry honors with a teacher recommendation. Parents can not sign a waiver regarding math placement. Students must take and pass the state end-of-course algebra and geometry exams to earn credit in geometry and algebra toward graduation.
5. **Rules for placement in honors.** Students must score at the 85th percentile on norm-referenced tests or higher, or score at level 4 or 5 on FCAT (or EOC exams) to qualify for honors courses. Teacher recommendations should be based on that as well as academic performance. The Escambia County School District does not allow waivers for math placement.

PLEASE NOTE:

Registration is conducted on site at the public middle schools. Students coming from private or home school must register at the high school anytime between February 4 and April 2. Parents who have not completed registration by April 2nd will forfeit opportunities for selection of electives, honors, and gifted level courses due to limited seat caps in those courses. The ninth grade counselor for 2011-12 school year is Ms. Renee Willis.