

8th GRADERS | FAQ

Q: How much *PASSING TIME* do I have between classes?

There are 6 minutes available for passing between each class.

Q: How do I know when I have *LUNCH*?

Where, and when, you have lunch is dictated by who your 4th Period teacher is. A schedule is distributed in the week before each semester that will indicate your assignment.

Q: Does every student get a *LOCKER*?

Students can request a locker by talking to or emailing Mrs. Weis at weis@calschools.org. Do note, backpacks are allowed in classrooms and are often carried by students all day.

Q: How many *CLASSES* are taken in 1 year?

12 classes per year, divided into 2 semesters. Each class is worth 1/2 credit.
22 credits are required to graduate.

Q: I took *ALGEBRA* in Middle School - now what?

- If you passed, you have 1 math credit. MMC requires you to complete 4 credits of math, including 1 math experience in your final year of high school.
- The grade you received in 8th grade will not count toward your cumulative GPA.
- You should choose Geometry when you schedule.

Q: I took *SPANISH* in Middle School - now what?

- If you passed, you have 1 world language credit.
- MMC requires you to complete 2 credits, but some colleges require 4 (or more).
- The grade you received in 8th grade will not count toward your cumulative GPA.
- It is recommended that you take Spanish 2A & 2B next.

Q: I took *HEALTH* in Middle School - now what?

- If you passed, you met the graduation requirement for health.
- The grade you received in 8th grade will not count toward your cumulative GPA.

Q: Do I have to take a *MUSIC* class as a Freshman?

No. However, if you do, the options are listed below:

- **Band:** Choice of Marching or Concert Band for 1st semester | Freshman Band for 2nd semester (must take both semesters). NOTE: If you participate in Marching Band for 4 years, it also fulfills your P.E. requirement.
- **Orchestra:** 9th graders are only allowed to participate in Freshman Orchestra.
- **Choir:** Choice of Tenor/Bass Ensemble or Treble Chorus
- **0 Hour:** Students may opt to participate in a "0 Hour" Jazz Band that meets twice a week, before school. Grades are optional.

Q: If I need a *PERSONAL CURRICULUM*, what should I do?

- The **PC** process can take place at any time before high school graduation. See your counselor to talk about a long-term plan.
- A PC for a student involved in special education will also include their case manager.
- When scheduling, do not select the course you're hoping to PC out of.

Q: How can I participate in STUDENT COUNCIL?

An application is required and is **due February 16**. It can be found on the CHS website → Student Life → [CHS Student Council](#). Do note, only 30 students are accepted per semester.

Q: Can I be a LINK as a Freshman?

- Freshman can, and are encouraged, to be a LINK.
- The number of students chosen varies every semester.

Q: How can I earn COLLEGE CREDIT in high school?

- **AP Exam** - Students earning a qualifying score on an AP Exam can earn them college credit. More information can be found under Student Services → Academics → [AP](#)
- **CLEP Exam** - CLEP exams allow students to earn credit for what they already know. More info can be found under Student Services → Academics → [CLEP](#)
- **Dual Enrollment** - For those who have exhausted the offerings available at CHS, Dual Enrollment could be an option. Visit Student Services → Academics → [Dual Enrollment](#)
- **Articulation** - College credit for work completed in high school is available for various CTE programs. Learn more at Student Services → Academics → [Articulation](#)
- **AG** - AG courses provide students the opportunity to earn 6 credits at MSU. More info can be found on the [Natural Resources Pathway document](#).

Q: Can I TEST OUT of a course?

- Yes. We offer 2 Testing Out sessions, one in the summer and one in the fall.
- Request forms for the summer session will be due on **April 26**.
- Learn more on the CHS website → Academics → [Testing Out](#)

Q: How do I get involved in EXTRACURRICULARS?

- Check out the Student Life page of the CHS website for a list of clubs and activities, CHS website → [Student Life](#)
- Find a list of CHS Athletics on the CCS website → Students → [HS Athletics](#)

Q: I was in NJHS in Middle School - how do I participate in High School?

- You can begin to acquire service hours the summer before your freshman year, but can not apply until the spring of your sophomore year. Visit CHS website → Student Life → [NHS](#) for more info.

Q: What if I need to ENROLL in Caledonia Community Schools?

Visit the Caledonia Community Schools website → [Enrollment](#) for more info.

Q: What is the 8th grade CLASS REGISTRATION DEADLINE?

Class registration for incoming Freshmen will remain open **through February 9**. Registration is NOT on a first-come first-served basis.

Q: Are parents responsible for class registration or will it be done at school?

Students and/or parents will be able to request classes via PowerSchool. It is recommended that this is completed at home together. DLMS counselors will be available to assist students during Social Studies. CHS counselors will visit Cross Creek on **February 14** to assist as well.

Q: Who is my counselor?

(A-E) RietKerk | (F-Le) Hilaski | (Lf-R) Burk | (S-Z) Hoffman

Q: Is PE a required class?

A student is required to have ½ credit of Physical Education to graduate. A list of qualifying courses can be found in our [Curriculum Guide here](#). Per CCS policy, credit can be exchanged for 4 years of marching band.

Q: If a student is involved in sports, can they get credit for the sport in lieu of PE credit?

No.

Q: Is health and PE a separate class?

Yes. A student is required to have ½ credit of Physical Education AND ½ credit of Health to graduate.

Q: If students are taking health this year at the MS, does that cover their HS requirement?

Yes. Students who passed health at DLMS in 8th grade have met that graduation requirement.

Q: What is the max amount of gym classes a student can have in one year?

This depends on the individual's schedule and 4-year plan. We do not typically recommend more than one PE course per semester.

Q: Who coaches speed and agility?

Speed and Strength is currently being taught by Brayden Smith, but next year's teachers have not yet been assigned.

Q: How competitive is it to get into band and choir?

It is not difficult to participate or 'get into' music programs. That being said, there are advanced opportunities available to students in grades 10-12 that require auditions. You can find the entire list in our [Curriculum Guide here](#).

Q: If you have never played a marching band instrument before, can you start one?

I have deferred this question to the music department and will add the answer once it's received.

Q: How do you enroll in colorguard?

Color guard is part of Marching Band, so you would request Marching Band.

Q: Can you do marching band and choir at the same time?

With the exception of Choralairs, it is possible if you have room. We would recommend completing a [4-year plan](#) to ensure all graduation requirements can be met by the end of 12th grade.

Q: What does Compass do?

Compass is an academic support class for students who do not have an IEP but still have to meet specific criteria. You can find the course description in our [Curriculum Guide here](#).

Q: Can you do links if you have an IEP?

Yes, you can be a LINK even if you have an IEP.

Q: Where can we find the full list of languages offered, including online?

Spanish and German are offered in person at CHS. Online options are available via Michigan Virtual. Their course list is subject to change, but [can be found here](#). You can also find these courses listed in our [Arts & Communication Pathways guide](#).

Q: If we are interested in Launch U does it make a difference what courses are chosen this year?

If you are interested in Launch U, there is a benefit to loading requirements in the freshman year such as foreign language, PE, Health. I recommend reaching out to the high school counselor for advice via email.

Q: What do A and B mean?

"A" means first semester, "B" is second semester

Q: Can we schedule classes for both semesters at the beginning of the year?

Class registration for the 2024-25 school year is taking place now and will cover the entire school year. It is important to note that schedule changes are NOT permitted in the fall. Students should request classes they would like and provide alternatives that they would be happy taking.

Q: What's the deadline for deciding where you are enrolling in high school? My child is a 7th grader and we're still exploring options. Also, if we live in district, do we have to complete an application?

- Students who live outside of the Caledonia Community School District, but inside the Kent Intermediate School District, can [request enrollment for the 2024-25 school year here](#) via 'School of Choice' from April 10 through May 12.
- Those living in the CCS district attending a CCS school, do not need to complete an application and are automatically advanced to CHS.
- Those living in the CCS district who are not currently attending a CCS school (ie. Dutton Christian) [can request enrollment here](#).

Q: What if we don't have Powerschool with being at a charter but live in district?

Students living in the district, but attending a charter school, should [request enrollment via our webpage here](#) now. Once enrollment is complete, our staff will reach out to you to schedule classes. If your student is attending Cross Creek, they will complete course requests on paper with our counselors. These requests will not be entered into PowerSchool until enrollment is complete.

Q: How do we add a student into Powerschool when their sibling is already in high school?

Powerschool support is provided on our [Technology page here](#).

Q: If you submit a schedule today will you still have the option to change up until that deadline of February 9th?

Yes. Changes can be up through Feb 9, even after you hit 'submit'.

Q: Do we have to do this right now?

You must request your schedule by February 9. Requests are not first come, first serve – there is no benefit to being "early".

Q: What if I have all green checks for each category under requests in PowerSchool, but it won't save?

Be sure you have at least 6 credits and 5 alternative classes or it will not let you submit.