



The Public Schools of Brookline

Brookline Town Hall
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Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

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*Deputy Superintendent
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February 2, 2024

Dear School Committee Members,

The 8th to 9th-grade transition study committee has completed its work and made some recommendations. Team members look forward to conversing with the school committee on February 8th regarding these changes; however, we are informing you of them now because transition activities will begin at BHS next week.

We are making a small but significant change to the guidance for 9th-grade course recommendations. The goal is to make this short-term adjustment while we continue to undertake longer-term work to reimagine 9th grade and level the playing field for the transition from 8th to 9th grade.

New Guidance:

8th-grade students earning grades of B or better in the 1st and 2nd marking periods for Math or Science courses must be recommended for at least Honors level courses in 9th grade - except in circumstances where a team has decided that placement in Standard/ or College Prep is required to meet a student's documented needs.

Please see the linked document below for a complete description of the change and some of the rationale behind it.

[9th Grade Course Selection Guidelines Jan 2024](#)

We discussed these changes on Monday, January 29th, with school leaders and impacted staff members to preview this change and answer some questions. You can watch a recording of that presentation, linked below, to hear some of the additional context and thinking that went into it.

[9th Grade Recommendations Guidance Meeting Jan 2024.mp4](#)

As previously written, we look forward to having a more in-depth conversation with the committee about these changes on Thursday. If you have any questions before Thursday, please contact me.

Warm Regards,

Jodi