



# Avon High School

February 2019

## *Counseling Department Newsletter*

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### AVON HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

- The importance of family involvement
- Thoughtful course selection
- Keeping a balanced schedule
- Typical course selection at Avon High School

Dear Avon Families,

One of the School Counseling Department goals is to provide pertinent information to students and families. To that end, we will be publishing a monthly newsletter. For the February edition, we decided to focus on the **course selection process**. We believe that you will find this step-by-step guide helpful as our students embark on a thoughtful course selection process that will best prepare them for college and careers.

-Avon School Counseling Department

#### School Counseling Department

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# SCHOOL COUNSELING

## Course Scheduling Newsletter

### *Family Involvement Key to a Successful Course Selection Experience*

#### **Initiate family conversations.**

Avon students are preparing for the course selection process. Families play an integral part in this process. This newsletter offers helpful tips to making the process an informed and successful one.

#### **Review and plan for thoughtful course selection.**

Now is the time for families to begin discussing short and long term goals and how courses selected in high school can help promote preparation for college and career choices. Schedule a time to sit down with your child and review the Avon [Course of Studies](#) together. What courses are required? What courses are of interest? What courses make the most sense when planning for postsecondary experiences? Is there an interest your student might like to explore or a passion they would like to delve deeply into with electives? Having these discussions in advance helps lay the foundation for the detailed conversation that will take place with their counselor as students plan out their courses.

Below you will find links to course planning documents for 2019-2020. The purpose of these forms is to facilitate a conversation between students, teachers, parents, and school counselors about courses for next year. The course planning worksheets do not represent final course registration; students will enter their courses in PowerSchool. When selecting courses for next year, students should consult the Course of Studies for direction on course availability, graduation requirements, and course prerequisites.

#### **Course Planning Sheets:**

[Grade 9](#)

[Grade 10](#)

[Grade 11](#)

[Grade 12](#)

[Four-year Course Planning Sheet](#)

**□ Recognize the importance of balance.**

One of the challenges that students face is finding a *balance* between the rigor of their course load and co-curricular commitments. Avon High School provides multiple options for students to access accelerated learning through honors, Advanced Placement (AP), or Early College Experience (ECE) courses. It is important for students and families to consider the additional commitment of time and energy that accelerated courses require when building their course of studies. While there is value in pursuing an accelerated course load, the impact to a student's academic performance and stress level requires thoughtful reflection. Sometimes the whole profile of a student's activities require a balanced approach to the academic component. Many colleges are looking for students to challenge themselves appropriately. For many students, this means taking a balanced course load, which allows them to embrace extracurricular pursuits as well as academic challenge.

**□ Review the final schedule.**

Two weeks before the school year ends, your child's schedule will be available on PowerSchool. Take the time to review this schedule with your child. Counselors will be in the office two days after the end of school to address any concerns before the next school year begins.

## What does a typical student course selection include?

The table below represents a general course selection for students in Grades 9 and 10 at Avon High School. Grades 11 and 12 have a great deal of variety due to the course pathways available and are therefore not included. Every student is an individual, so participation in the selection process by families is essential to plan a successful high school experience.

<b>A-Day SEM 1</b>	<b>B-Day SEM 1</b>	<b>A-Day SEM 2</b>	<b>B-Day SEM 2</b>
English	Math	English	Math
Science	STEM	Science	Wellness
Social Studies	World Language	Social Studies	World Language
Study Hall	Art	Study Hall	Music

*Students have many options for elective courses in Music, Art, Technology, and Business that are personalized by interest. Refer to the Avon Course of Studies for specific graduation and credit requirements, or to speak with a counselor to make a more informed decision.*

The course selection process is most successful when a collaborative effort between families, students, and school counselors occurs. Please make every effort to be a part of the process with the steps outlined above.

Questions? Contact the counseling office at 860-404-4740 ext. 1180 to speak with your child's counselor.