Transitioning to High School and Beyond

Los Alamitos Unified School District
Presented by Gregg Stone, Ed.D.

An Evening for Middle School Parents
The Griffin Legacy

- California Distinguished School
- College Board Honor Roll
- Highest college enrollment rate in OC
- Highest level of CSU/UC a-g completion rate in district history
- Top 1% of high schools in the country
- Number three in the State for closing the achievement gap
- Award winning athletic and performing arts teams
Parents of Middle School Students

• Keep your student’s interests going both academically and co-curricular.
• Well rounded students are viewed favorably by colleges and universities.
• Let your kid be a kid. Their interests and abilities may change before they get to high school.
• Get involved in high school – sports, arts, ASB, clubs, academic teams (i.e., MUN, Academic Decathlon, Science Olympiad)
Parents of Middle School Students

- Some things parents might want to consider for summer programs:
- Los Alamitos Educational Foundation Summer Enrichment Institute
- College and/or university enrichment programs (i.e., Young Writer’s Camp @ CSULB; UCI Writing Project)
- Summer reading programs offered through the local public libraries.
- Summer children’s theater if this is an area of the student’s giftedness and interest.
- Community Service
Parents of 8th Graders

- Maintain a rigorous course of study, but one which your student can manage with success.
- The student’s eighth grade course of study along with their academic grades tests will be major factors in placing the student in proper classes as a freshman in high school.
Parents of 8th Graders

• Your student will meet with the LAHS counselors in spring of the 8th grade year to discuss high school course selection.

• Parents will be invited to an “8th Grade Parent Night” at the high school (April 23rd). This evening is at Los Alamitos High School in the PAC. The meeting is scheduled prior to your child meeting with his/her high school counselor.
Honors / GATE Program at the High School

• It is not limited to just students identified as GATE.

• It is inclusive of students who have the ability and determination to succeed in honors and/or Advanced Placement courses.

• 8th grade teachers will give input to placements

• It does not prescribe a specific course of study for the GATE or non-GATE student.
# THE GRIFFIN PLAN:
High School ——> College

This worksheet is for planning and recording academic courses in preparation for college and career. Individual student plans may vary.

**Student Name:** ____________________________  **Graduation Year:** ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSU/ UC Requirements</th>
<th>9th Grade</th>
<th>10th Grade</th>
<th>11th Grade</th>
<th>12th Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History/Social Science (2 years)</td>
<td>*Elective</td>
<td>*World History</td>
<td>*US History</td>
<td>*Am. Pol. Trad. / *Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English (4 years)</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>* English</td>
<td>* English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (3 years/ 4 rec.)</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>*Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Science (2 years/ 3 rec.)</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>*Science</td>
<td>*Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language (2 years/ 3 rec.)</td>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>*Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual/Performing Arts (1 year)</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>*Elective</td>
<td>*Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Prep Elective (1 year)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*Elective</td>
<td>*Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Grad Requirements</td>
<td>P.E</td>
<td>P.E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay Connected Through Activities!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Entrance Exams</td>
<td></td>
<td>PLAN / PSAT</td>
<td>PSAT / SAT, ACT</td>
<td>SAT, ACT (by December)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My AP Career Starts Here</td>
<td>✣ check here</td>
<td>✣ check here</td>
<td>✣ check here</td>
<td>✣ check here</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Indicates option to take an AP level course which provides rigor and preparation for college.

- Students enrolled in AP courses should plan to take an AP Exam in May.
- Successfully complete the ‘A-G’ requirements with a grade of “C” or better.
- Participate in the 4 A’s – Academics, Athletics, Activities, the Arts!
THE GRIFFIN PLAN:
College & Career

It is important to have a plan for life after high school. Use the chart below to explore possible careers and colleges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Careers that Interest me...</th>
<th>What will I do this year to prepare for the careers that interest me?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Visit losa.kuder.com for Career Interest Inventories and other in-depth ways to explore careers.

**Keep your Naviance Profile updated with current courses and Letters Of Recommendation.

College and Postsecondary Education Plan
There are many options for education after high school: four-year Colleges and Universities, two-year Community Colleges, Certificate Programs, Military, and Internships. Use the space below to explore your interests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What do I want to study after high school?</th>
<th>What college options do I want to learn more about?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Visit losa.kuder.com for more ways to explore college options and specific schools that interest you.

**Keep your Naviance Profile updated with current courses and Letters Of Recommendation.

Testing Plan
Check off the tests you plan to take (the CAHSEE is required to graduate high school).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Name</th>
<th>Testing Date</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ PLAN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ PSAT</td>
<td>10th/11th Grade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ SAT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ SAT Subject Test</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ ACT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ ASVAB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ AP________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Visit losa.kuder.com for further information about the different types of tests and testing options.

**Keep your Naviance Profile updated with current courses and Letters Of Recommendation.
**Typical 9th Grade Courses**

- English I or English I Honors
  - Both are college prep. There may be recommended readings for the summer for Honors English.
- Math
  - If the student meets the prerequisites in this area, he/she would most likely be in Algebra II / Trigonometry, Algebra II, Honors Geometry or Geometry. Some students may be placed at a higher level of math.
  - Students not taking Algebra II / Trigonometry, Algebra II, Honors Geometry or Geometry will typically be enrolled in college prep Algebra I.
- 8th grade teachers will work with each student to make appropriate recommendations for core courses.
**9th Grade Courses**

- **Science**
  - Biology is the most common science placement for the college bound freshman. However, students enrolled in Honors Geometry or a higher level math may select Chemistry (Recommended for student who plans to take AP Chemistry, AP Biology and AP Physics).
  - Math placement plays a major role in determining science course placement.

- **World Language**
  - Many students who have met the prerequisites will take level 2 or 2 Honors of a language. Some will take level 3 Honors.

**NOTE:** Some freshmen may select AP Human Geography as an elective choice.
10th Grade Courses

- English II or English II Honors
  - Both are college prep. There may be recommended readings for the summer for Honors English.

- Math
  - Pre-Calculus for students who successfully completed Algebra II / Trigonometry in grade 9.
  - Advanced Math / Trig. for students who successfully completed Algebra II in grade 9.
  - Algebra II / Trigonometry for students who successfully completed Geometry Honors in grade 9.
  - Geometry Honors for students who successfully completed Algebra I in grade 9 with a grade of “A” and teacher recommendation.
  - Geometry CP for students who successfully completed Algebra I, but opt for college prep rather than Honors.
10th Grade Courses

• Science
  • Most college prep sophomores will take chemistry if they are concurrently enrolled in Algebra II or Algebra II / Trig. Students who took Chemistry as a freshman and did well (Grade of A) are encouraged to take AP Chemistry.

• World Language
  • Many gifted students will take level 3 or 3 Honors of a language. Some may take level 4 or 4 Honors.

• AP World History
  • This is a challenging course academically. Students will need strong reading and writing skills.
11th Grade Courses

• English
  • AP English Language and Composition  There may be recommended readings for the summer.

• Math
  • AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC for students who successfully completed Pre-Calculus in grade 10.
  • Pre-Calculus for students who successfully completed Algebra II / Trigonometry or Advanced Math / Trig.
  • Advanced Math / Trigonometry for students who successfully completed Algebra II CP in grade 10.
  • Algebra II for students who successfully completed Geometry CP in grade 10.
11th Grade Courses

• Science
  • Some will take AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Biology, or AP Environmental Science

• Social Science
  • Many will take Advanced Placement U.S. History

• World Language
  • Many will continue with language and may take Advanced Placement in a target language.
  • Many will take level four of a target language.
Be Kind to Your Junior

• The junior year for a student wishing to enter a 4-year college or university is very difficult, even for the brightest of kids.
• Advanced Placement classes and exams begin (for some students it might begin earlier).
• Junior year is a key year for colleges to view your transcript.
12th Grade Courses

- **English**
  - Many will take AP English Literature and Composition
    There may be recommended readings for the summer.

- **Math**
  - College Level Math Course
  - Advanced Placement Calculus AB or
  - Advanced Placement Calculus BC
  - If AP Calculus is completed as a junior, student should still enroll in a math course as a senior.

*Do not discontinue with math!*
12th Grade Courses

- Science
  - Some students may take another Advanced Placement science course (i.e., Biology or Physics, Environmental Science)
  - Some students may take another college prep science course which is not Advanced Placement (i.e., Marine Biology; Anatomy and Physiology)
12th Grade Courses

• Social Science
  • Some students take Advanced Placement European History
  • Some students take AP Macroeconomics and AP U.S. Government
  • Some students take Advanced Placement Human Geography

• World Language
  • Some take Advanced Placement in a target language.
  • Some may take a 5th year of a language.
Additional Advanced Placement Courses

- AP Statistics
- AP Computer Science A and Principles
- AP Music Theory
- AP Studio Art (Drawing & Painting / Photography / Ceramics / Media Art)
- AP Psychology

Students may elect to take one or more of these courses based on interest and ability.
What is an AP Course?

• “AP” Stands for Advanced Placement.
• The AP Program is regulated nationally by The College Board (east coast).
• AP courses help prepare students to take a national exam in the particular content area. If the student scores well (usually 3 or higher on a 5 point scale) on this exam, he/she can earn college credits while in high school.
• An extra grade point is awarded in these courses for students who earn a grade of “C,” “B,” or “A.” (weighted grade)
**Tips for Parents of a Gifted Student**

- Be encouraging and supportive. The AP Program is rigorous, but prepares students well.

- Be aware of what your child can handle academically. It is a very rare student who is gifted in all areas of the Advanced Placement Program.

- Do not compare your child with an older sibling or friend in determining his/her academic course of study at the high school.
**Tips for Parents and Students**

- Allow your student to take a class just for “fun.”
- Encourage your student not to focus solely on the academic side. As mentioned earlier, colleges and universities look for academics along with other activities where the student has been involved.
**ACT and Redesigned SAT**

Colleges and Universities will accept either the SAT or ACT exam. The maximum score for the ACT is 36.

This redesigned SAT began in March 2016. The essay is no longer required. The maximum score is 1600.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current SAT</th>
<th>Redesigned SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading and writing sections do not require students to cite evidence.</td>
<td>Evidence-based reading and writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay is required.</td>
<td>Essay is optional.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculator permitted for full math section.</td>
<td>Calculator permitted on certain portions of the math section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score scale of 2400.</td>
<td>Score scale of 1600 with separate score for Essay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT available on paper only.</td>
<td>SAT available in paper and digital forms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SAT Subjects Exam
(Usually taken at end of course)

• This exam is subject specific.
  ○ Literature
  ○ U.S. History; World History
  ○ Mathematics (Level 1 and 2)
  ○ Biology; Chemistry; Physics
  ○ Foreign Language
    ✷ French, German, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Korean, Chinese, Spanish and Latin

NOTE: Many colleges/universities no longer require these exams.