

Incoming Freshman Placement Guidelines 2012-2013



Lake Zurich High School

Lake Zurich High School meets the individual needs of students by providing ability grouping in the core academic areas of English, Mathematics, Social Studies, World Languages, and Science. To properly place a student, we consider information from standardized testing, and classroom performance. Parents are encouraged to discuss placement guidelines and subsequent placement recommendations with their child and respective middle school staff members.

There is an appeal process for changing the recommendation. Parents and students can meet with a Department Chair to discuss and appeal the recommended placement. Appointments are made directly with the Lake Zurich High School Department Chair for the specific content area placement being appealed.

English Department

The English Department provides broad coverage of the texts of American and world literature. Through these sequential course offerings, students develop extensive knowledge of literature, progressively develop academic and creative writing skills, and enhance their knowledge and use of grammar, vocabulary, and communication skills.

- Ninth grade placement will take into account the student's academic performance and the student's performance on standardized tests.
- All 9th graders, who are placed in **English I**, will also be required to take **Strategies I for the entire year, for 1 credit pass/fail.**
- **Outside of AP World history, English placements most often mirror a student's Social Studies placement.**

Course offering	Teacher Rec.	8 th Grade Performance	MAP Reading RIT SCORE	Explore Reading Score
English I & Strategies I	YES	▪ <u>C</u> or below for semester in 8 th Grade Language and Literature	100-216	1-14
College Prep English I	YES	▪ <u>A</u> , <u>B</u> , or <u>C</u> for semester in 8 th Grade Language and Literature	217-222	15-16
College Prep World Cultures	YES	▪ <u>A</u> or <u>B</u> for semester in 8 th Grade Language and Literature	223-227	17-18
Honors English I	YES	▪ <u>A</u> for semester in 8 th Grade Language and Literature	≥228	19-25

Social Studies Department

The Social Studies Department and its curriculum are designed to help each student become an intelligent and responsible citizen. The teachers in the department will provide classroom experiences which will help the students learn about the past, democratic ideals, other cultures, and an appreciation of human dignity, justice, and compassion for all people.

- Ninth grade placement will take into account the student's academic performance and the student's performance on standardized tests.
- **World History A.P. is open to all students.** It is designed to prepare students to take the A.P. exam in May. It is a very demanding and challenging course that requires students to be self-motivated.
- **Outside of AP World history, English placements most often mirror a student's Social Studies placement.**

Course offering	Teacher Rec.	8 th Grade Performance	MAP Reading RIT SCORE	Explore Reading Score
World History	YES	▪ <u>C</u> or below for semester in 8 th Grade Social Studies/US History	100-216	1-14
College Prep World History	YES	▪ <u>A</u> , <u>B</u> , or <u>C</u> for semester in 8 th Grade Social Studies/US History	217-222	15-16
College Prep World Cultures	YES	▪ <u>A</u> or <u>B</u> for semester in 8 th Grade Social Studies/US History	223-227	17-18
Honors World History	YES	▪ <u>A</u> for semester in 8 th Grade Language and Social Studies/US History	≥228	19-25
AP World History	Recommended but Not Required	▪ <u>A</u> for semester in 8 th Grade Language and Social Studies/US History (Recommended but not required)	Recommended ≥228 but Not Required	Recommended 19-25 but Not Required

Mathematics Department

The Mathematics Department program offers courses in pure and applied mathematics to assist the students in their pursuit of intellectual, academic, and career goals. The aim of the department is to provide the student with a sound mathematical foundation.

- Ninth grade placement will take into account the student's academic performance and the student's performance on standardized tests.

Course offering	Teacher Rec.	8 th Grade Performance	MAP Test RIT Minimum Score	Explore Test Minimum Score
Essentials of Algebra		▪ <u>D</u> or below for semester in Academic 8 th Grade Math		
Algebra I	YES	▪ <u>A</u> , <u>B</u> or <u>C</u> , for semester in Academic 8 th Grade Math ▪ <u>C</u> or below for semester in Intro to Algebra & Geometry	215	13
College Prep Algebra I Double Period	YES	▪ <u>A</u> / <u>B</u> for semester in Academic 8 th Grade Math ▪ <u>C</u> for semester in Intro to Algebra & Geometry	222	15
College Prep Algebra I	YES	▪ <u>A</u> for semester in Academic 8 th Grade Math ▪ <u>B</u> for semester in Intro to Algebra & Geometry	230	17
Honors Algebra I	YES	▪ <u>A</u> ($\geq 96\%$) for semester in Intro to Algebra & Geometry ▪ <u>C</u> / <u>D</u> for semester in 8 th Grade Algebra	240	19
Honors Geometry	YES	▪ <u>A</u> / <u>B</u> for semester in 8 th Grade Algebra	245	21
Honors Algebra II	YES	▪ <u>A</u> / <u>B</u> for both semesters in Algebra and <u>A</u> / <u>B</u> for semester in 8 th Grade Geometry	255	23

Science Department

The Science Department provides programs for earth/space science, biology, chemistry and physics. Programs consist of lecture, discussions, projects, and laboratory experiments. The Science Department also provides a number of opportunities outside the classroom for learning that take the form of projects, experiments, field trips and various science competitions offered throughout the year.

- Ninth grade placement will take into account the student's academic performance and the student's performance on standardized tests.

Course Offering	Teacher Rec.	8 th Grade Performance	MAP Reading RIT SCORE	Explore Reading/Science Combined Total Score
Biology	Yes	A grade of C or below for semester in 8th Grade Science	100-216	30 or below
College Prep Biology	Yes	Minimum grade of a C+ or higher for semester in 8th Grade Science	217-229	31-37
Honors Biology	Yes	A grade of B+ or higher for semester in 8th Grade Science	≥ 230	≥ 38

World Language Department

The World Language Department program is designed to provide students with a broad background in French, German, and Spanish. There are four skills developed in learning a language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These skills are stressed throughout the program as are the languages' individual development, culture, and history.

Course offering	Teacher Rec.	8 th Grade Performance
Academic Exploratory Spanish	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This class is designed for the student who would struggle with the pace or content of the traditional level I language course.• This course covers the level I curriculum over two years.• This course requires a two-year commitment
College Prep Level I French, German, or Spanish	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This course is designed for students who are new to a foreign language with no previous experience.• This course may also be taken by students who took level I in Middle School, who need to review the material to gain a stronger base for level II.
College Prep Level II French, German, or Spanish	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful completion of Level I with a grade of B or Higher• Recommendation by 8th grade French, German or Spanish teacher
Honors Level II French, German, or Spanish	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful completion of Level I with a grade of A• Recommendation by 8th grade French, German or Spanish teacher

Applied Arts Department

The Applied Arts Department does not have placement criteria. If students feel they are proficient at keyboarding they can elect to not take the keyboarding course. Proficient is defined as the ability to type 30 words per minute with less than 3 errors.

Fine Arts Department

The Fine Arts Department offers programs in music, art and theater. Placement for Jazz Lab Band and percussions in all bands will be through the audition process.

Physical Education Department

The Physical Education Department offers one course for incoming freshman at Lake Zurich High School: Freshman Physical Education. Because there is only one course offering, there is no placement criteria necessary. Students are placed randomly into freshman physical education course sections.
