

**Natick Public Schools
Office of Pupil Services
Guidance Parent Q & A
February 2, 2010**

Q. I would like my child placed in a higher level honors course but based on my child's grades, teacher recommendation and high school pre-requisite, he/she does not qualify. What is the next step?

A. Notify the middle school guidance counselor who will make note of your concern. Have your child ask his/her teacher how they can improve his/her grade in order to get into an honors level course. The middle school guidance counselor will check back at the midpoint of the third trimester to see if the requirement was met.

Q. What if my child still does not meet the requirement at the end of the school year and I continue to want my son/daughter to be placed in an honors level course?

A. Contact your child's 8th grade teacher for further explanation as to why she/he was not recommended for the honors level. If you continue to be interested in your child being placed in an honors level course, write a letter to the high school department head of the content area by May 21st stating the reasons why you believe your child should be in the honors level. The department head will review your child's records and may ask the teacher or guidance counselor for further information. You will be contacted by the end of the school year with a decision regarding your request.

Q. If my child does not start in honors, can she/he move into an honors class as a sophomore or later in the school year?

A. Yes, students can advance levels once at the high school.

Q. Why is not possible for my child to take band and another elective at the same time?

A. Band is a full year course thus your child will be unable to take two half year courses.

Q. Do freshmen have a study hall period?

A. Yes, Usually about 8-9 periods in a rotation cycle.

Q. Is my child required to complete an intro class prior to any other art course?

A. Yes, your child is required to complete an intro class prior to any other art course.

Q. Is my child required to complete an intro class prior to any other theater class?

A. Yes, your child is required to complete an intro class prior to taking any advanced theater courses.

Q. Is community service required?

A. Yes, 30 hours over 4 years.

Q. Can a student complete community service hours during the summer prior to freshman year?

A. Yes, have the student complete the community service form on-line found on the high school website, have it signed by the supervisor and bring it to your guidance counselor at the start of the school year.

Q. What comprises the guidance seminar and are students graded?

A. Guidance seminar is a .5 credit course graded as Pass/Fail based on attendance and participation.

Q. Will students definitely get the electives they choose?

A. No, but the high school makes every effort to assign students to the elective they have chosen within the limitations of course availability during the semester.

Q. Who will be my child's ninth grade guidance counselor at Natick High School?

A. Based on the first few letters of your child's last name:

Ms. Boudreau: A – Bom

Mr. Strother: Bon – Dow

Ms. Randall: Dro – Kei

Ms. Dalton-Thomas: Ken – Mee

Mr. Garry: Med – Rossm

Q. Who are the high school department heads?

A. Guidance: Margaret Boudreau

Math: John Astill

Science: Kathi Brown

English: Margaret Hagemeister

Social Studies: Diane Langley

Fine and Performing Arts: Stephen Miller

Special Education: Marylou Carey

Foreign Language: JoAnn DiGiandomenico

P.E., Health and Wellness: Robert Mei

Alternative Education: Mark Mortarelli