

Transition from Grade 8 (SOMS) to Grade 9 (TZHS)

The SOMS and TZHS Guidance Departments work together to make sure your child's transition from Middle to High School is smooth. Beginning High school is an exciting time for your child, and we do everything to make sure the process is well-organized and enjoyable. We realize students and their Parents/ Guardians will have many questions and concerns regarding scheduling. Below you will find a timeline of our duties as your child's counselor at SOMS. You'll realize that you'll have an idea of all the classes your child will be taking at Tappan Zee as early as April! As always, we make every effort to ensure parents are well-informed of the process every step of the way.

January	-Teacher recommendations are made for class placements
February	<p>- SOMS Counselors visit classrooms and discuss electives offered to ninth graders at TZHS.</p> <p>-Students receive a <u>curriculum guide</u>, which outlines all classes offered at TZHS</p> <p>-Students bring the curriculum guide home and they choose their electives for grade 9 with their parent/guardian.</p>
March	<p>-TZHS and SOMS counselors hold informational assemblies on the guidelines and course advisements for parents and their 8th graders. A rough outline of your child's class placements and elective requests will be completed by the end of this assembly.</p> <p>-Additional conferences are set up (with SOMS counselors) for parents who still have questions about 9th grade courses.</p>
April	<p>-Parents/Guardians will receive a verification sheet indicating the courses the student will be taking in the high school (<u><i>Note: This is NOT the student's 9th grade schedule.</i></u>)</p> <p>-SOMS counselors send all course information over to TZHS. From here, all parent questions will be forwarded to TZHS counselors.</p>

What is an elective?

An elective is a class your child will take outside their core subjects. There are many elective courses available through the following departments: Art, Music, Technology and Business. Remember, many elective courses have pre-requisites and may not be available to ninth graders. When your 9th graders decides on elective courses they enjoy, remember to pick at least two, and rank them by preference. Your child may not get into their first elective choice (due to class sizes). All students must take electives. A total of 5 full credits are required to satisfy requirements for a local or regents diploma, and a total of 6 full credits are required for an advanced regents diploma. Please visit the TZHS Guidance website for further explanation on graduation requirements.

What classes do teachers make recommendations for?

Your child will be recommended for Science and Math classes by the 8th grade teacher. In many cases, the recommendation follows the sequence relating to the level your child is currently taking at SOMS.

All ninth grade students take English 9R and World History 9. Foreign language usually follows the sequence begun at SOMS. For those who have failed the Spanish I proficiency, they would be recommended to repeat the course at TZHS and/or be enrolled in Spanish Lab (explained below).

The following includes classes that also may be recommended for your child:

Writing Lab- This class would be recommended by the 8th grade ELA teacher, or your child will be recommended for it based on their 8th grade ELA Assessment score.

Learning Center Math- This class would be recommended by the 8th grade Math teacher for a student currently struggling at their current math level. Your child will also be recommended for this class based on their 8th grade Math Assessment score.

Spanish II Lab- This class would be recommended by the 8th grade Spanish teacher based on their proficiency score, and performance in Spanish class.

English 9 and World History 9 Honors- The TZHS teacher determines eligibility for this after the 9th grade student completes the first quarter. Honors accreditation is offered to qualifying students in one of three ways:

- 90% average or better in the first marking period
- 90% average or better on the common quarterly assessment AND/OR
- Timely completion of all assignments during the quarter, along with a letter of interest prepared by the student after an interview with the teacher.

Students who meet the requirements, and are willing to accept the challenge of the honors curriculum, will be eligible for honors accreditation. Accreditation will be based on completion of the program requirements for the remainder of the year, including additional relevant and meaningful learning experiences. In addition, students choosing the honors option will take more complex exams. **These requirements are completed within the framework of the student's English and/or World History class. *Please Note: This is a new option (as of the 2005-2006 school year) for English as opposed to the previous English 9 Honors Discussion (which was offered outside the English class).**

Course description information will be available to each 8th grader and their parent/guardian in **February** through the Tappan Zee High School Curriculum Guide. We strongly encourage parents/guardians to thoroughly review this guide. It will answer many questions that may arise in this transition process.

For other information, such as New York State graduation requirements, please visit our school homepage, click on Tappan Zee High School, then "Guidance."