

Ron Thiele, Superintendent

March 1, 2020

Dear Incoming 7th Grade Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to explain the Issaquah School District's advanced and accelerated options for Language Arts, and Math. Your student will automatically be enrolled in the appropriate Science class, based on last year's self-select decision.

Issaquah School District offers advanced and/or accelerated options for 7th graders in English Language Arts and Math. Families interested in Advanced Language Arts, or the accelerated math path, should consider the following guidance.

Students choosing advanced/accelerated courses should:

- reflect student's interest and aspirations in that course of study
- have excellent study habits and organizational skills.
- have strong communication and reading skills for engaging with rigorous material.
- demonstrate motivation, maturity, perseverance and stamina for learning challenging material.
- be active participants in all aspects of the classroom, including discussions, group or individual projects.
- consider the increased time commitment to studies outside of the school day. Please consider all responsibilities, including sports, music and club affiliations.
- consider the possibility that grades could be lower than if students took the typical course sequence(s).
- consider the increased rigor and vigorous pacing of the *Compacted Pacing* math pathway which condenses a year and a half of math into one year.

This is an important decision for students and families. In Language Arts, this decision will be made yearly. However, for math, once a student starts a path above grade level it is not possible to change course without repeating content at some point in time. Below is additional information to consider as you make your course selections. The readiness criteria is designed to serve as a guide. The SBA scores are from 5th grade and may not reflect your student's current academic performance and abilities.

Advanced Language Arts Readiness Criteria	CC7/8 Math Compacted Pacing Readiness Criteria
5 th Grade SBA in ELA: Level 4	5 th Grade SBA in Math: Level 4

The following page contains more detailed information to consider when choosing middle school math placement.

Families should be aware that high school level credit courses taken in the 2019-2020 school year or LATER will automatically be added to the student's transcript, this is in accordance with District Regulation 2410. Students can request to have the course transcribed only for credit toward graduation and not include the grade in the student's high school GPA calculation. Students can also request to have these credits removed completely from their transcript. Students should

Board of Directors

Harlan Gallinger • Marnie Maraldo • Anne Moore • Sydne Mullings • Suzanne Weaver

consult with their counselor to make this request, which must be done no later than the end of their junior year of high school. **Please note that once the grades and/or credits are deleted from the high school transcript, the grade and credit cannot be added back and will permanently be excluded from the student's grade point average.** This will impact students that select compacted pacing in math.

Please complete and return the Course and Elective Selection forms to your School's Registrar in the Counseling Center by March 12, 2020.

Sincerely,

Rich Mellish
Executive Director
Teaching and Learning Services

PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL WITH YOUR REGISTRATION MATERIALS

Fall 2020 / School Year 2020-2021

Course Selection Form

Advanced/Accelerated Selection for Current 6th Grade Students

Student Name (printed)

Middle School

_____ Regular 7th Grade Language Arts **OR** _____ Advanced 7th Grade Language Arts

_____ CC7 Math (Regular Pacing) **OR** _____ CC7/8 (Compacted Pacing)

PLEASE NOTE: If your student is currently in CC7/8 Math as a 6th grader, they will automatically be placed in CC8/Algebra 1 in 7th grade.

I affirm that I have reviewed the course selection materials to make the above choices.

Student Name (printed)

Parent Name (printed)

Date

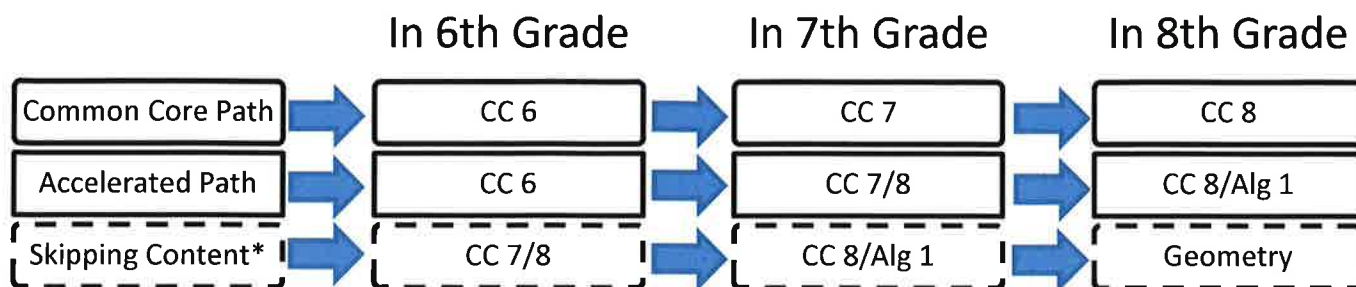
Student Signature

Parent Signature

Please have your student return the Course and Elective Selection forms to Mrs. Henneuse in the Counseling Center by March 12.

Questions? Please contact the Beaver Lake Middle School Registrar, Diana Henneuse, at (425) 837-4160 or henneused@issaquah.wednet.edu.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH COURSES



STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN COMMON CORE 6: You will decide between *Common Core Grade Level Pacing* and *Compacted Pacing*. Here are some considerations as you make this decision.

- **COMPACTED PACING:** Students who select *Compacted Pacing* have the same expectations as *Common Core Grade Level Pacing* in terms of achieving the Common Core Mathematical Content and Practice standards. No content will be skipped so, with faster pacing, students will complete three years of Common Core Mathematics in two years of instruction. Therefore, students who select *Compacted Pacing* should be prepared for increased rigor and vigorous pacing. Students who should consider *Compacted Pacing* exhibit strong organizational skills, maturity, self-motivation, and an interest and affinity for mathematics.
- **HOW DOES THE PACING DECISION AFFECT HIGH SCHOOL?** There will no longer be a self-select decision at the end of 8th grade. Students who select *Common Core Grade Level Pacing* will begin high school in **CC Algebra 1**. Students who select *Compacted Pacing* will begin high school in **CC Geometry**. **Our recommendation is to select the middle school math pacing that best meets the student's current level of readiness and interests.**
- **READINESS CRITERIA:** Families who wish to select *Compacted Pacing* should consider the Readiness Criteria below. The readiness criteria is designed to serve as a guide. The SBA scores are from 5th grade and may not reflect your student's current academic performance and abilities.
 - An average of **90% or higher** on **Tests and Quizzes** category of their current 6th grade math course.
 - A score of **Level 4 or higher** on the **5th grade Math SBA**.
 - Consistently demonstrates **Standards for Mathematical Practice**.
 - **STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE:** Common Core expects much more than just procedural skill and fluency. Students are expected to achieve deep conceptual understanding, to demonstrate critical thinking skills, to make connections, to persevere in problem-solving, to apply their learning to solving problems in real world contexts, to justify their reasoning, and to clearly communicate their math thinking. Read more about the Standards for Mathematical Practice at <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Practice>.

STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN COMPACTED COMMON CORE 7/8: You will automatically be enrolled in **CC 8/Algebra 1** for 7th grade and you will continue with **CC Geometry** in 8th grade. Please check the appropriate box on the **7th grade Math Placement Selection Form** and return to your child's school with your registration materials.

QUESTIONS? Please visit <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/academics/core/math/Default.aspx>, talk to your child's counselor, or contact Susan Ford, Secondary Math Specialist, at fords@issaquah.wednet.edu or Dawn Wallace, Director of Teaching and Learning, at wallaced@issaquah.wednet.edu.

7th Grade Electives

Course Title and Description

Year-Long Elective Classes:

7th Band: 7th Band is for students who have already completed Beginning Band. Students are responsible for an instrument, two books (CD or tape available) and binder. Home practice is required. Activities include home concerts, assemblies, league solo/ensemble contest and league band festival.

Women's Chorus: Women's Choir is a performance-based class for students who enjoy singing and learning a variety of music together. Most of the students in the class will have already completed 6th grade Choir and as voices mature, they are ready to move on to the next stage of singing techniques for the more advanced voice. However, anyone who loves to sing may join the class, and we will help you to "catch up" to the team. Students in the Women's Choir will learn advanced vocal techniques in addition to music theory and history. Students will have the opportunity to perform at concerts, assemblies, festivals, and community events. Our chorus members also have the opportunity to participate in league festivals where they will have the option to sing solos and/or participate in small groups. We also take trips to places such as Seattle Center, Leavenworth, and Disneyland (8th grade).

Boys Chorus: Boys Choir is a performance-based class designed especially for boys who enjoy singing and learning a variety of music together. Although we do sing songs as a boys group only, we also combine with the girls in the advanced chorus for concerts and festivals. Being part of this group will allow the boys to learn specific techniques to improve their singing skills while learning theory and history. The Boys Choir will have opportunity to perform at concerts, assemblies, festivals, and community events. They will also have the opportunity to participate in league festivals where they will have the option to sing solos and/or participate in small groups. We also take trips to places such as Seattle Center, Leavenworth, and Disneyland (8th grade).

7th Orchestra: Orchestra is a fun performing class for students with 1+ years of previous experience on a string instrument. Piano students wishing to be an accompanist for the orchestra need to have a minimum of 4 years private lessons, sight-read well and comfortably play 8th and 16th notes and chords. We play a wide variety of music styles including, classical, movie music, pop, rock, jazz, and fiddle. Students will have the opportunity to play in large and small groups for concerts, work on arranging and composing on their instrument, and take field trips to perform at festivals and events such as the Washington State Fair.

Yearbook: This is a year-long elective course where students will learn about design, production and photography and apply those skills to create the school yearbook. Students will learn how to take interesting, action-oriented pictures at BLMS. Students will then edit those pictures and write captions to describe photographs and design the yearbook pages. In addition to creating the yearbook, students will learn how to produce and publish their work in different formats including our school website, PowerPoint presentations, and our end-of-year slide show for students and parents.

Trimester Elective Rotation (12 weeks each):

Digital Photography: This is a Trimester-based elective where students will learn about composition, angles, lenses and lighting in digital photography. Students learn about cameras and how to take interesting, action-oriented pictures. Students will have an opportunity to take pictures on the BLMS campus. Students will produce and publish their work in different formats, including our school website, PowerPoint presentations, and our end-of-year slide show for students and parents. There is also an option to take this course as a Year-Long Elective, and learn additional skills, while working to create the BLMS Yearbook.

Automation & Robotics: Using VEX Robotics, you will design, build, and program real-world objects such as toys, rovers, and robotics arms. You will learn the skills necessary to build strong mechanical robots and to program the sensors and motors that allow the robot to move on its own. Lab fee.

Design & Modeling: Learn to design and create. This class introduces you to the design process, where you will create prototypes of games and other physical objects. Learn to take your ideas from creative concepts to the real thing. You will learn to sketch, measure, 3D model, and build your creations. This class will use Goggle SketchUp 3D design software, 3D printers, as well as various design and modeling materials. Lab fee.

Makerspace: Makerspace is a place for individual creation. You will learn to use computer-aided design software to design and plan out projects of your own design. Projects can include name plates, games, and jewelry boxes. You will then use a combination of woodshop tools, computer-controlled tools, 3D printers, paint and other finishes, and a variety of other equipment to create your project.

Note: Final course offerings are dependent on staffing and the number of requests for each course.

**Beaver Lake Middle School
Elective Course Request Form
7th Grade – School Year 2020/2021**

Name: _____

You may select 1 Year-Long Elective or up to 3 Trimester Electives.

Year-Long Electives – Choose 1

- Band Orchestra
 Women's Chorus Boys Chorus
 Yearbook

OR

Trimester Elective Options (Choose 3)

- Digital Photography
 Automation & Robotics
 Design & Modeling
 Makerspace

Final course offerings are dependent on staffing and the number of requests for each course.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Middle School Online Course Selection Process

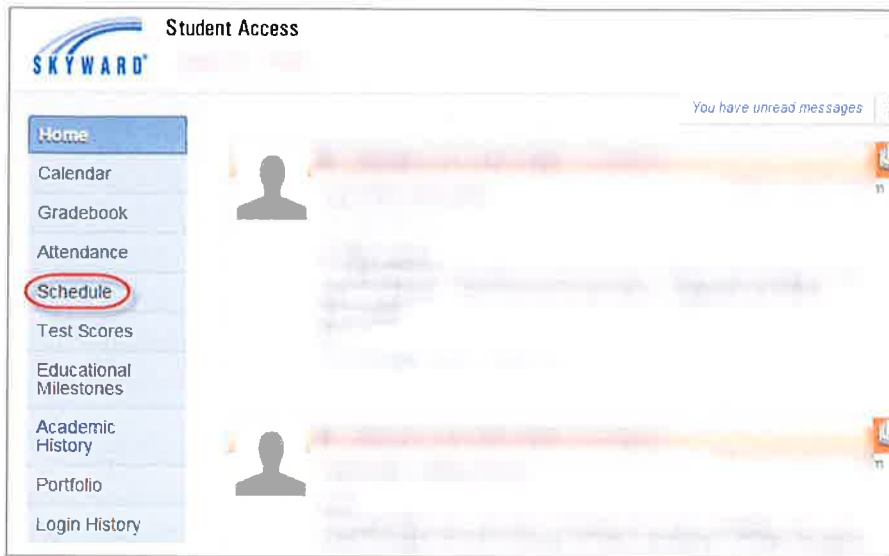
This is the process for selecting elective courses for the 2020-2021 school year

Path: Student Access/Schedule

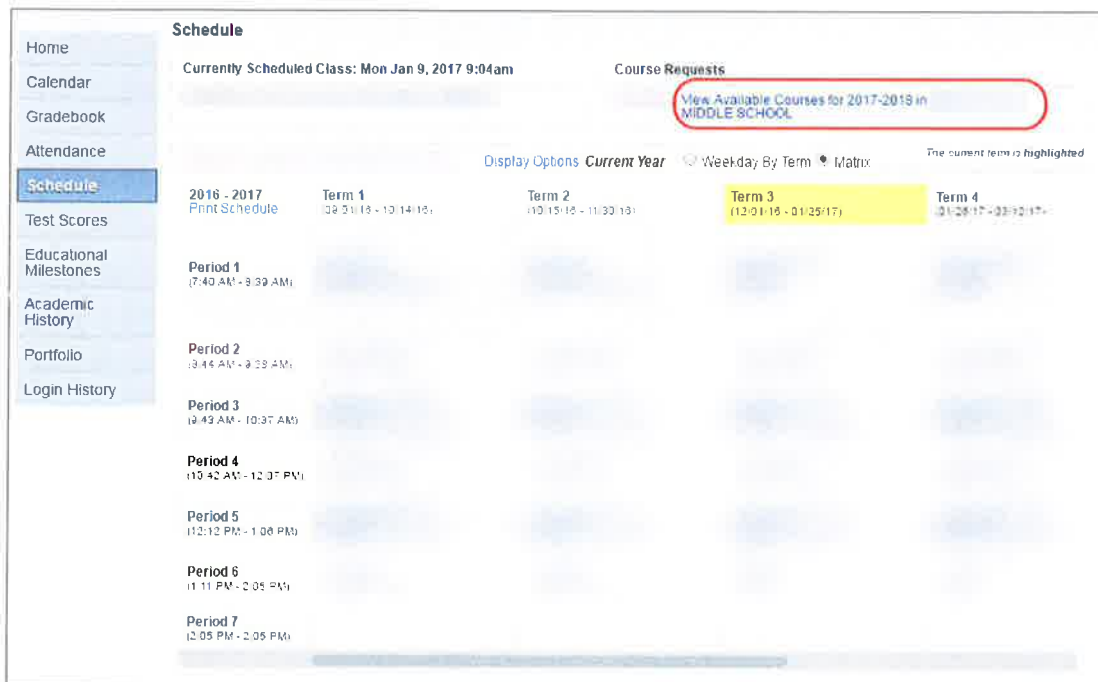
To begin the Online Course Selection Process, sign in to Student Access. If you need to have your password reset, please contact the registrar at your school.

To Add Requests:

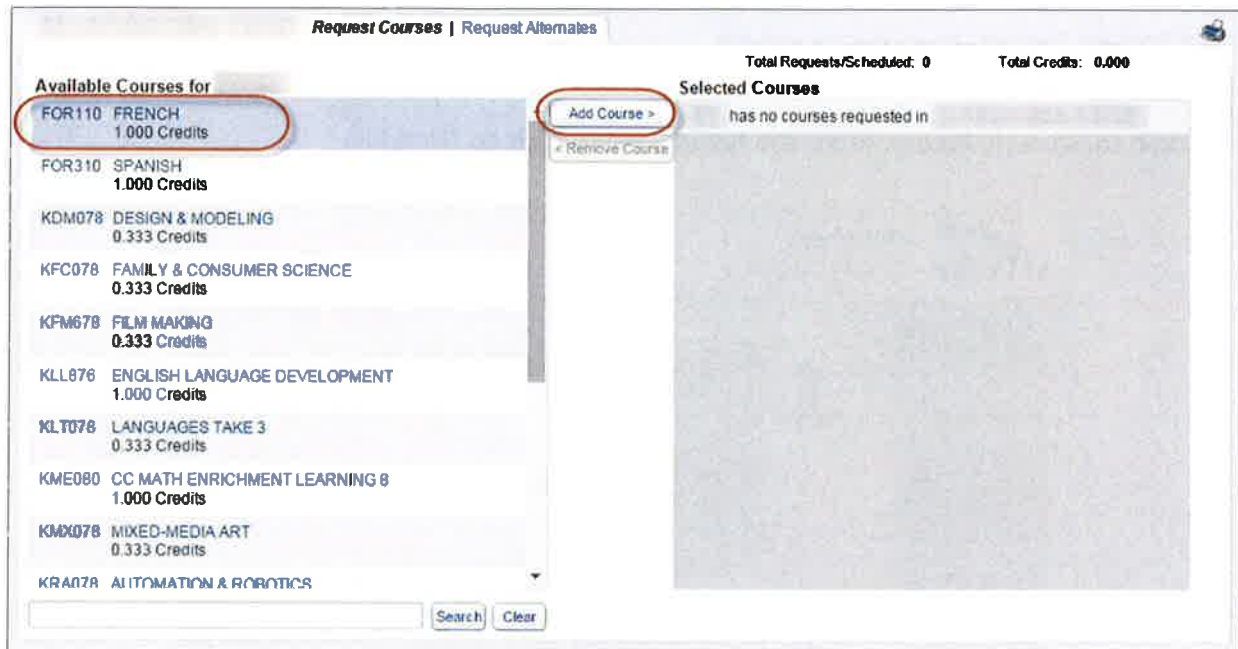
1. Login to Student Access. From the home screen, click on Schedule.



2. From the schedule screen, click on View Requests for 2020-2021.



- From the courses available on the left, click on a class you would like to select. Once the class is highlighted, click Add Course. Depending on your school, you may already see courses that you have been preregistered for in the Selected Courses box.



- Once the course has been added, it will be visible in the Selected Courses column and you will see the total of credits selected. Continue this process until you have added all your courses. The Total Credits will vary per school and grade level.



To Add Alternatives:

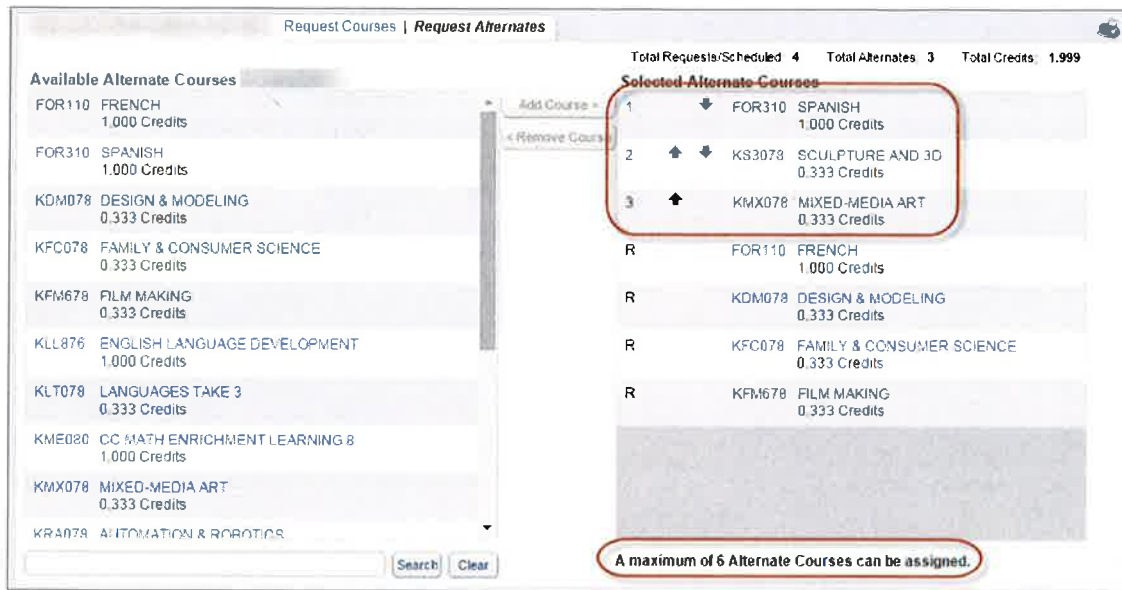
1. After all course selections have been made, click on Request Alternates at the top of the page.

The screenshot shows the 'Request Courses' interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Request Courses' and 'Request Alternates', with the latter being highlighted by a red circle. The page displays a list of 'Available Courses for' on the left and 'Selected Courses' on the right. The 'Available Courses' list includes: FOR110 FRENCH (1.000 Credits), FOR310 SPANISH (1.000 Credits), KDM078 DESIGN & MODELING (0.333 Credits), KFC078 FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (0.333 Credits), KFM678 FILM MAKING (0.333 Credits), KLL876 ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (1.000 Credits), KLT078 LANGUAGES TAKE 3 (0.333 Credits), KME080 CC MATH ENRICHMENT LEARNING 8 (1.000 Credits), KMX078 MIXED-MEDIA ART (0.333 Credits), and KRA078 AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS. The 'Selected Courses' list includes: FOR110 FRENCH (1.000 Credits), KDM078 DESIGN & MODELING (0.333 Credits), KFC078 FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (0.333 Credits), and KFM678 FILM MAKING (0.333 Credits). At the top right, it shows 'Total Requests/Scheduled: 4' and 'Total Credits: 1.999'. A search bar with 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons is at the bottom.

2. All courses that were previously requested have been given the priority R and cannot be changed from this page. To select an alternative course, click on a course from the left side of the screen and click Add Course.

The screenshot shows the 'Request Alternates' interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Request Courses' and 'Request Alternates', with the latter being selected. The page displays a list of 'Available Alternate Courses' on the left and 'Selected Alternate Courses' on the right. The 'Available Alternate Courses' list includes: FOR110 FRENCH (1.000 Credits), FOR310 SPANISH (1.000 Credits), KDM078 DESIGN & MODELING (0.333 Credits), KFC078 FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (0.333 Credits), KFM678 FILM MAKING (0.333 Credits), KLL876 ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (1.000 Credits), KLT078 LANGUAGES TAKE 3 (0.333 Credits), KME080 CC MATH ENRICHMENT LEARNING 8 (1.000 Credits), KMX078 MIXED-MEDIA ART (0.333 Credits), and KRA078 AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS. The 'Selected Alternate Courses' list includes: FOR110 FRENCH (1.000 Credits), KDM078 DESIGN & MODELING (0.333 Credits), KFC078 FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (0.333 Credits), and KFM678 FILM MAKING (0.333 Credits). At the top right, it shows 'Total Requests/Scheduled: 4', 'Total Alternates: 0', and 'Total Credits: 1.999'. A search bar with 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons is at the bottom. A red circle highlights the 'FOR310 SPANISH' course in the 'Available Alternate Courses' list, and another red circle highlights the 'Add Course' button in the 'Selected Alternate Courses' list. A note at the bottom right states: 'A maximum of 6 Alternate Courses can be assigned.'

- When more than one course is added, the course priority can be set by clicking on the green arrow keys to move the courses up and down in the list. You can add up to the maximum number of assigned courses, which will be visible at the bottom of the screen and will vary by school.



To Finish Course Selection Process:

- When all of the alternative courses have all been selected, click the X in the top right corner of the window to save the course selection and end your session. You may reenter this program to change your selections at any time during the Course Selection time frame.

