

Dear Families of Issaquah School District Highly Capable Students,

Secondary students in the Issaquah School District Highly Capable Program can choose from a variety of academically accelerated and rigorous programs and courses. In middle school, these options include Advanced Language Arts and several math, science pathways and World Language. In high school, these options include, but are not limited to: Honors classes, International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), Running Start (for Juniors and Seniors only), College in the High School, CTE Dual Credit, and online courses.

The opportunity for choice in the course request process allows students to select the level of learning that they feel is most appropriate for their own academic goals. Course request choices in middle and high school also provide the opportunity for self-actualization, the fulfillment of one’s talents and potentialities, and the chance to expand friendships through interactions with students who have different backgrounds and life experiences.

Each spring, typically in March, families have the opportunity to attend parent nights at their student’s middle school, high school and/or the district office that provide information about all course options available. We have provided additional information, including links to more detailed descriptions on our district and school websites below.

English Language Arts	
Middle School Advanced Language Arts	
Science Path Information	
Middle School Path I and II	High School Science
Math Path Options Information	
Middle School	Skipping 6th grade Content with Compact Pacing
High School	Exceptional Placement
High School Course Guides (includes information about Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, College in the High School, and CTE Dual Credit course options)	
Issaquah High School 2021-2022 Course Guide	
Liberty High School 2021-22 Course Guide	
Skyline High School 2021-22 Course Guide	

[Gibson Ek. High School](#)

[Running Start: Community College](#)

Occasionally, student needs are not met through these advanced courses, and families could work directly with their school to consider alternatives:

In-District Transfer

Transfer to a different school in the district that may offer class options that your neighborhood school of attendance does not. If the transfer is approved, the student maintains the transferred status throughout the course of the grade levels taught at the school (through 8th for Middle School, through 12th for High School). Please refer to details from [the website](#) regarding this process or contact [Debbie Romano](#).

Please note these important details about in-district transfers:

- The annual Open Enrollment period is the month of February (2/1 to the final day of February).
- A lottery determines the waitlist order by grade level/school of all in-district transfers received by the open enrollment deadline.
- All of our Middle and High Schools are full and the only transfers allowed are processed on a one-in, one-out basis between the neighborhood school and the non-neighborhood school using the waitlist created from the requests received at each grade level.
- All requests received AFTER February are dated and added to the bottom of the waitlist in the order they are received.

Online Courses

Online Learning serves students in grades 7-12 who reside in Issaquah School District. Online courses are approved by OSPI/ISD. The [course list for 2021-22](#) includes AP, Honors and Core Level classes. Please work with your school counselor to ensure accurate course selection for college entrance requirements. You may also visit ISD Online Learning to find out more information. Please contact [\(Carolyn\) Jodie Warren](#) with any additional questions.

Home Based Instruction

Consider [Home-Based Instruction](#) and access ISD classes on a part time basis. There are specific requirements from the state that must be met for this option. Along with the specific paperwork that must be completed, the family and student are responsible for meeting state requirements regarding instruction and assessment. Please work with your school counselor and principal when considering this option. In addition, you may contact [Cindy Feng](#) for information.

UW Robinson Center for Young Scholars

[UW Robinson Center for Young Scholars](#). Non-credit enrichment opportunities and Early Entrance Program (to UW).

While we do our best to meet the needs of our students, on occasion, some of our students identified highly capable may need different types of support and options. In these cases, parents should work directly with their school principal and/or counselor to discuss their student's needs.

Secondary Counselor Support

In addition to a selection of advanced courses, secondary students may also receive additional academic and targeted social/emotional support from school counselors. In the fall, secondary counselors check with students identified as highly capable either individually or in small groups. During this check-in, counselors generally review student schedules, administer a student survey and engage the student individual goal-setting in Career Cruising. Based on the survey results counselors may invite students to targeted intervention opportunities, which could include lunch groups, small group instruction, career exploration, or presentations on a social/emotional topic. In the spring, counselors provide a final individual or small group check in to follow up on individual goal completion in Career Cruising, and review student course requests for the following school year.

In considering student needs, it is important to understand that options/resources available are not limitless and access to accelerated learning and enhanced instruction through the program for highly capable students **does not constitute an individual entitlement** for any particular student.

As you and your student embark on this exciting journey into secondary education, we hope you find this resource helpful in assisting your student in navigating the Middle School and High School course request process.

Sincerely,

Page Perey, Director of Elementary Special Programs
Dr. Josh Almy, Deputy Superintendent
Susan Mundell, Executive Director of Elementary Education
Melinda Reynvaan, Executive Director of Elementary Education
Jason Morse, Executive Director of Middle School Education
Andrea McCormick, Executive Director of High School Education