



# HILLSBOROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL

*A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence*

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Principal

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February 23, 2024

Dear 8th Grade Students, Parents & Guardians:

It is officially time to select your courses for your freshman year of high school! The Genesis portal scheduling tab will open for you today, **February 23rd at 4 pm**. You will then be able to see your recommended course placements and select your elective courses including choice of world language studies.

The [HHS Program of Studies for 2024-25](#) was shared with all current eighth graders earlier this month during presentations conducted on teams by the HMS school counselors. The Program of Studies contains a great deal of important information, including course descriptions, prerequisites, and guidance for making appropriate selections by department. Please review that site together as you decide on course requests. Graduation requirements and suggested course sequences are also posted there along with a quick list under the “general information” section which lists electives available to 9th graders.

Additionally, you can find slide presentations that provide an overview of the program of studies and course sequences for each department designed specifically for each class level at HHS - including the incoming Freshman graduating Class of 2028 [here](#). Finally, if interested, you may also view a presentation by one of the HHS counselors who has prepared a “[4-Year Planning Guide](#)” video that provides a nice overview of how to plan your individual course of study for incoming freshmen. Further instructions on how to make course selections in the parent portal can be found [here](#).

The deadline for choosing course requests is **Monday, March 4th**. On Tuesday, March 5th, HHS school counselors will visit HMS and meet with 8th grade students individually during their health/PE class period to review their individual course requests and answer any questions students may have. Note that students planning to attend Somerset Vo-Tech or a private/parochial high school should still select courses for HHS until their acceptance to other schools are finalized. Do not hesitate to reach out to our school counseling office if you have any questions or need assistance with this process at any time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph Trybulski  
HMS Principal

Ms. Cynthia Povall  
Director of School Counseling

## **Note Additional Information to Address Frequently Asked Questions**

### **WORLD LANGUAGE**

World Language recommendations for next year's placements have been entered based on your current world language choice and progress for the past several years. If you wish to change to a new language, you will be able to choose Level 1 of a new world language in the same manner as choosing electives. Please note that we recommend that any student who would like to take American Sign Language (ASL) have a viable second choice of world language as ASL sections can fill quickly.

### **ELECTIVES/PERFORMING ARTS**

It is important for those students who have availability to schedule electives to choose at least ten (10) elective course options indicating the priority for each in terms of preference. If selecting semester electives, be sure to list additional choices for BOTH semesters. Choices for electives as well as instrumental/choral music can be found under the "REQUEST" course tab. A quick [tutorial video](#) on selecting electives can be viewed [here](#).

### **HONORS PROGRAM**

If you have been recommended for an honors course that you do not wish to take, please contact your HMS counselor to make the necessary course adjustment. If you have questions regarding honors placement decisions, please direct those to the respective curriculum supervisors:

- Literacy - Sheila Cooper, District Literacy Supervisor (ext. 3311)
- Math - Kyle Dattola, District Math Supervisor (ext. 2010)
- Science - Lisa Kiel, District Science Supervisor (ext. 2728)
- Social Studies - Abraham Nole, District Social Studies Supervisor (ext. 3474)
- World Language - Roberto Lugo, District World Language Supervisor (ext. 2014)

### **HMS SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE**

For assistance in all other areas, contact your child's counselor at HMS:

- Teams 8B, 8D and 8E - Aime Casagrande (ext. 2022)
- Teams 8A and 8C - Sara Hunkeler (ext. 3278)

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION - CHILD STUDY TEAM**

for children with individual education plans (IEP's), contact your child's case manager:

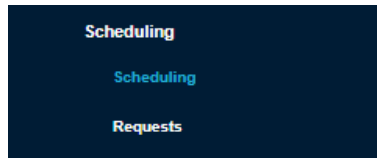
- Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant - Carol Ann Giresi (ext. 2761)
- School Social Worker - Katie Esposito (ext. 3320)
- School Psychologist - Mikala Fuscoletti (Connery) (ext. 3343)

The Child Study Team (CST) case managers will be working with the school counselors to ensure that all course selections are in accordance with the student's IEP.

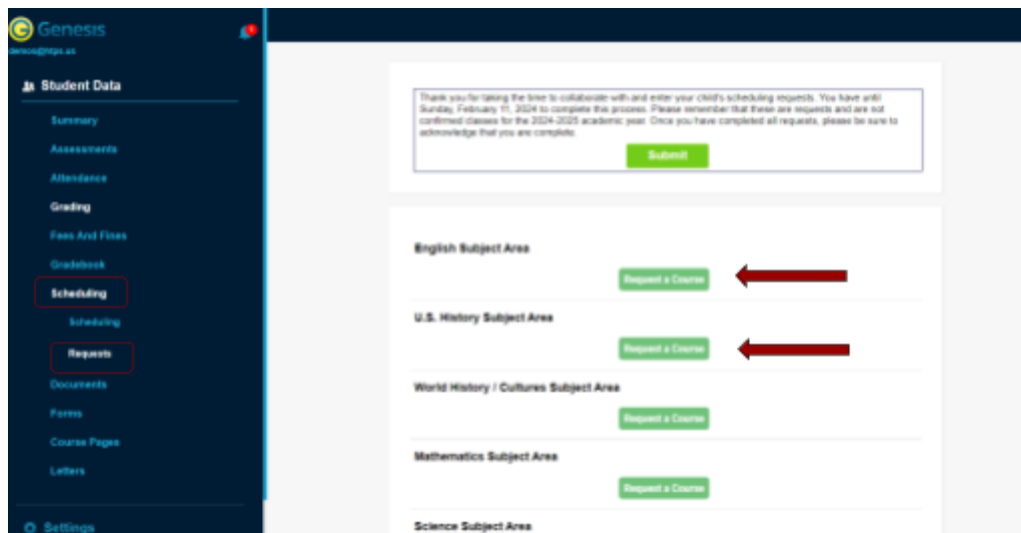
### Schedule Requests/Recommendations

In the Genesis Student Portal, you will see a new tab labeled “scheduling” starting Feb. 23 - Mar. 4. The scheduling feature for 8th graders will enable you and your child to see the recommended courses in each of the core areas and to make selections for world language & elective courses if available.

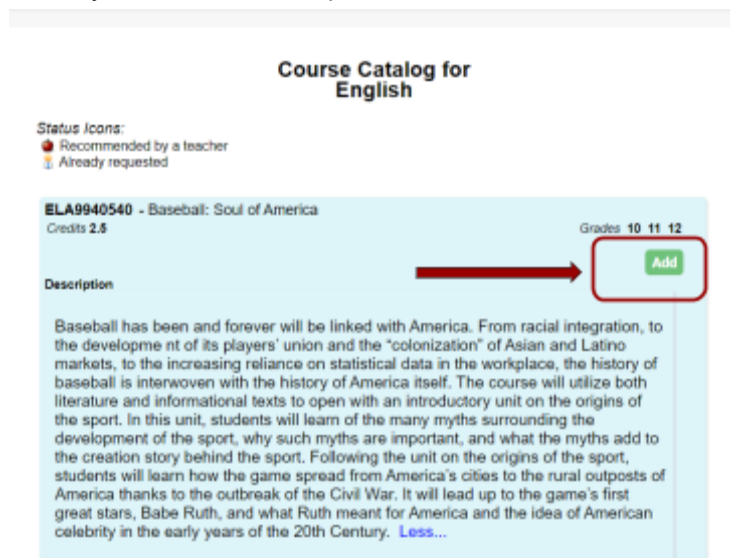
1. Log into the Genesis portal <https://students.https.us/>
2. Click on Scheduling
3. Click on Requests



4. Find the subject area that you would like to make a request in, then click on the link to “Request a Course.” In this example we are making a request in the Visual or Performing Arts subject area.



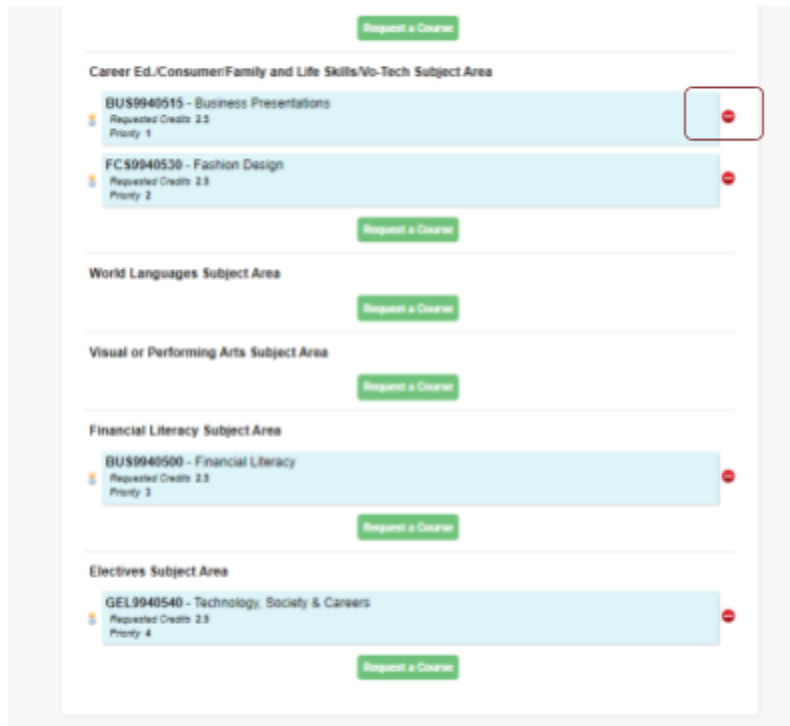
5. Find the course that you would like to request and click Add.



6. In the pop up window that opens, use the dropdown menu in the Priority column to rank your course request choice - on a scale of 1 (Highest) to 10 (Lowest). Please note that you can only make ONE request at a time. Click Add Request to request the course.

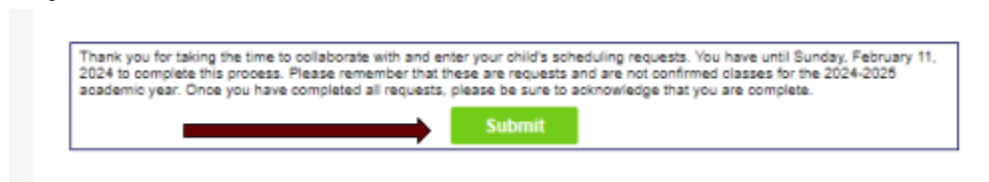


7. You are then returned to the Requests page where you can:
  - a. View all existing course requests
  - b. Delete a request by clicking the red circle.



- c. Add new requests by repeating the steps in this tutorial
- \*\*Remember: You MUST make ten prioritized requests.**

8. When you have made all of your requests, please click the Submit button at the top of the Requests screen to finalize and acknowledge your requests. **Your requests will be locked once you submit them.**



9. Type SUBMIT into the pop up box

