Frequently Asked Questions for Incoming 9th Graders

1) How do I decide if I should take an honors course?

In order for students to be successful in an honors level class at MIHS, having well developed skills in the areas of learning, motivation and time management, are essential.

Honors courses especially, require students to be able to work independently, including learning new materials outside the classroom.

Honors courses also require students to use knowledge from past courses, and apply that knowledge in new situations.

2) Is there a community service requirement for graduation?

There is no community service requirement for graduation. However, MIHS does recognize community service hours and students can begin logging hours on their 1st day of 9th grade.

3) What is the meaning of the “Highly Capable” designation?

Students who are designated as highly capable will be given information about enhanced courses (e.g., Honors, AP, and College in the High School) that are available in high school. All courses are self-selected.

4) Is there any way to change the sequence of my Math classes?

Math is a progressive study. The most important building blocks are the foundational courses of Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2.

- Get the advice of your current math teacher.
- Understand that Honors at MIHS is not the same as the accelerated program.

5) What is Islander Hour?

Islander Hour is Mercer Island High School’s student advisory program. Islander Hour groups are represented by single grade levels, and lessons may include discussions of health and social issues pertinent to the entire student body. Islander Hour also may offer regular in-school, supervised study time, access to tutoring, and access to classroom teachers outside of the regular class period or office hours.
6) **Is World Language a graduation requirement?**

World Language is a graduation requirement for the Class of 2024. The IMS credit and any courses taken at MIHS will count towards the graduation requirement.

Students who have taken World Language at IMS, **AND** successfully completed 5 trimesters, during 7th and 8th grade, will be able to enroll in Level 2, for freshman year.

7) **Is there a Social Studies requirement in 9th grade?**

Social Studies is an elective course during freshman year. Students, with a strong interest in history, can take either the 1 semester or 2 semesters version of Early Civilization.

8) **Can I make changes once I register for courses?**

Students are advised to make their course selection carefully and thoughtfully during the registration period. Get advice from your teachers, consider your school life balance, and be realistic about your academic skills. The master schedule will be developed from your course request and openings in any other sections will be limited. We realize there could be mistakes in student schedules, so there will be a short window in May to correct those mistakes.

9) **Can I move levels if I am not successful in my current class?**

Class level changes require your high school teacher to determine wrong placement. A class change is also dependent on space availability.

10) **What is the most important consideration in creating my 9th grade schedule?**

While graduation requirements are important, remember you have four (4) years to fulfill these requirements. The key component in creating a successful academic transition to the high school is **proper placement in classes and balance**. It is also important to consider your skills (academic and personal), your talents and interests.

**Questions about registration, please email**

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