

Course Selection Information

CRLS is a block schedule school which allows students to enroll in up to 8 courses per school year. Students enroll in 4 courses in semester 1 and an additional 4 courses in semester 2. Semester 1 begins on the first day of school and ends in mid to late January. The second semester begins mid to late January and ends on the last day of school.

Most 9th grade courses are taught at both the college prep and honors level with the exception of physics and English. Physics is a heterogeneous class that students may elect to pursue an honors option. Honors option for physics will be discussed within the first two weeks of the physics class. Students who would like to pursue the honors option in physics will be required to complete a contract with the physics teacher. English is a heterogeneously grouped Honors course.

All 9th grade courses with the exception of College Prep (CP) Algebra 1 are 90 day courses. CP Algebra 1 is a yearlong course that meets for 180 days.

Selecting Courses

CRLS suggests 8th grade teachers recommend the course level for all CORE academic subjects. In addition, any student who wants to enroll in HN Geometry or any math course above Algebra 1 will need to take a placement exam. Math placement exams for Cambridge Public School Students will take place at the Upper Campuses at the end of the school year. The CRLS math coordinator will reach out to each Independent School to notify students and families regarding the math placement exam. Students who intend to take a math placement exam should select the math course he/she intends to enroll. CRLS will modify the student's schedule if the placement exam indicates the course chosen by the student is not appropriate.

Students must select courses from the CRLS 9th Grade Course Offerings 2017-2018 page which is included with the CRLS course selection materials. (The courses on this list are the only courses rising 9th grade students may choose from) You may reference the CRLS Course Catalog. The catalog may be found on the CRLS web site under quick links.

Students must choose courses in the CORE academic subject areas: English, math, history, science, and world language. Course level recommendations are being recommended by CPS 8th grade teachers and will be populated in Aspen. Independent School Students and Students coming from other districts are encouraged to secure course level recommendations from their current teachers. Course levels may be changed at the discretion of the student's family. In addition, all students must select either Wellness 1 or Dance and Grade 9 Health Education. Students MUST select a first, second, third, fourth and fifth option when selecting elective courses or when doubling up on academic courses.

Please see Sample Grade 9 Schedules which will help guide students and families with selecting the appropriate number of elective courses or doubling up on CORE academic courses. **CRLS is not able to guarantee doubling up on CORE academic subjects. Students are only able to double up if space**

permits. Students requesting to double up in a CORE academic course should also choose an alternate elective.

Sample Grade 9 Schedules

Semester 1	Semester 2
History	HN Algebra 1 or HN Geometry
RSTA, Visual and Performing Arts or Media elective	Dance and wellness or Wellness alternating days
HN English	Physics
World Language	Elective or additional core academic course if space permits

Students who take HN Algebra 1 or HN Geometry will have an opportunity to take either two electives or take one elective and double up on a core academic class taken in semester 1. Example: since this student took physics in S1 the student may request enrollment in HN Chemistry in S2. **(If space permits)**

Semester 1	Semester 2
HN Algebra 1	HN Chemistry
HN English	History
RSTA, Visual and Performing RSTA, Visual and Performing Arts or Media elective	World Language
Physics	Wellness or Dance and Wellness alternating days

Students who enroll CP math which is a yearlong course and require HN Access will have an opportunity to enroll in one elective in grade 9. CRLS encourages students taking HN Access to defer enrollment in world language until grade 10 and take advantage of an elective in RSTA, Visual and Performing Arts or Media Elective classes. **Participation in ELA Honors Access is requires approval of the ELA Dean.** See pg. 27 of the CRLS Course Catalog for description.

Semester 1	Semester 2
HN English	HN Access
RSTA, Visual and Performing RSTA, Visual and Performing Arts or Media elective	PE or Dance and Wellness alternating days
CP Algebra 1	CP Algebra 1
Physics	History

Should you have additional questions regarding the course sequencing in any subject area, you may contact Lynn Williams, Coordinator of Guidance via email williams@cpsd.us or 617-349-6698. In Addition, all rising grade 9 course selection information is located on the guidance web site.