




9th Grade Course Selection

2021-2022 School Year
Allentown School District



9th Grade Scheduling Overview

This presentation will review course selection for students that will be enrolled in 9th grade for the 2021-2022 school year in one of the following schools:

- William Allen High School
- Building 21 High School
- LCTI (Half-day)
- Louis E. Dieruff High School

Courses students will be selecting may include:

- Elective options
- World Languages
- Band and Choir options
- JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps) options

2021-22 Allentown School District Program of Studies

The 2021-22 ASD Program of Studies (PoS) is viewable through the counselor's Google Classroom page (version in Spanish not yet available). Inside, you will find information about all the courses offered at the high school level across the 3 Allentown high schools: Louis E. Dieruff, William Allen, and Building 21.

The slides that follow will go into more detail about what's contained within the PoS. You are strongly encouraged to open the link and review the program with your parents/guardians.

High School Graduation Requirements

(Charts on pg. 8 in PoS)

Students must complete the coursework listed below to meet graduation requirements:

- English 4.0 credits
- Social Studies * 3.5 credits (*3.0 credits for LCTI students)
- Math 3.0 credits
- Science 3.0 credits
- Arts & Humanities 2.0 credits (at least .5 of each)
- Health 0.5 credit
- Physical Education 2.0 credits
- Computer Programming/Technology 0.5 credit
- Electives 5.0 credits

Total Minimum Credits 23.5 credits

Required 9th Grade Courses

All 9th grade students will be required to take the courses below, though the level of each course may vary from student to student:

- English 1.0 credit
- Social Studies 1.0 credit
- Math 1.0 credit
- Science 1.0 credit
- Physical Education .5 credit
- Health Education .5 credit
- Computer Programming .5 credit

Required Courses 5.5 credits

Elective Courses up to 1.5 credits

Grade 9 Academic Program (Chart from pg. 9 in PoS) * - Keystone Exam

Subject	Traditional	LCTI Option (½ day)	Advanced
Math	Developmental Algebra or Algebra 1	Algebra 1 or Algebra 2	Algebra 2 or Advanced Algebra 2
Science	Physical Science	Physical Science	Advanced Biology*
Social Studies	US History 1	US History 1	US History 1 - Advanced
English	English 1	English 1	English 1 - Advanced
Health	Health	Wellness/Fitness	Health
Physical Education	Phys. Ed.		Phys. Ed
Computer Applications	Computer Programming	Computer Programming	Computer Programming
Electives	Electives, Virtual Academy Electives or Designs for Literacy	LCTI LAB	Electives, Virtual Academy Electives

Level of Coursework

So, how are the levels of your courses decided? Ultimately, each student's schedule is evaluated individually by the school counselor. Information is gathered from multiple sources, including:

- Communication and conversation with student and student families
- Current coursework in 8th grade and academic standing in classes
- Teacher feedback and recommendations
- Standardized test and benchmark testing data (PSSA's, STAR)
- Special learning needs (special education/IEP/GIEP, English Language Learners)

Gathering Course Request Information

Traditionally, counselors would first meet with students in a group setting (in classrooms, during assemblies, etc.), then individually to gather specific course requests. Since we aren't able to do things as we normally would, we need to adapt so this information can be gathered in a different way.

In the near future, a Course Request google form will be posted in the Counselor's google classroom that students can complete after reviewing options with their families. Every student is required to complete the form.

What information needs to be gathered?

Some courses will be assigned to you:

- Core Subjects: English, Math, Science, Social Studies
- Physical Education & Health Education
- Computer Programming

Other courses will be selected by you:

- Electives
- World Language option
- Music option
- JROTC option

The following slides will cover the Electives, World Languages, Music, and JROTC options students can begin exploring. These are the courses that students will need to select on the Course Request form.

Elective Offerings

Next to each course is the corresponding page # within the Program of Studies where a course description can be found.

- Art I, Art II (p. 40)
- Art Experience: 2-Dimensional, 3-Dimensional (p. 41)
- Computer Applications (p. 42)
- Electricity/Electronics (p. 42)
- Dance I, Dance II (p.43) ** Allen HS only
- Theatre I, Theatre II (p. 45/46)

World Language Offerings

Course descriptions of World Languages can be found on pages 46-47 in the PoS.

- German I
- Spanish I
- Spanish I for Spanish Speakers

* Assignment to Spanish II and higher requires previous coursework in Spanish during middle school years and teacher recommendation.

Music Electives

Course descriptions of Music Electives can be found on pages 44-45 in the PoS.

- Instrumental Activities
- Choral Activities
- Band
- Piano

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

The JROTC programs offer an introduction to the military for interested students. There is no obligation or enlistment required of students, though there are many tangible benefits for cadets that complete the course. See indicated pages in the Program of Studies for additional information.

Students may enroll in a JROTC program at Building 21, William Allen, or Louis E. Dieruff High School regardless of where he or she lives in the district. A written parental request for transfer approval must be submitted to the Director of Community and Student Services. Please contact your student's assigned school counselor with questions.

- Naval JROTC (p. 51 in PoS) - coursework completed at Allen
- Air Force JROTC (p. 50 in PoS) - coursework completed at Dieruff HS

Building 21

(from PoS, p.61): The mission of Building 21 is to empower networks of learners to connect with their passions and build agency to impact the world. Our learning model allows students to learn at their own pace, to engage with content and curriculum that they find interesting and relevant, and to apply and further develop their skills in real-world environments.

Students apply to Building 21 and are selected through a lottery format, with at least 150 applicants gaining acceptance for the 2021-22 school year. Further explanation about Building 21 and the coursework students can expect can be found on pages 61-73 in the Program of Studies.

A link to the digital application can be found on the counselor's Google Classroom page. Digital applications are submitted electronically. Submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance, nor does it obligate a student to attend. Students who are committed as well as students who are simply interested in attending Building 21 for the 2021-22 school year are encouraged to apply.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute (LCTI)

9th grade students in the Allentown School District may attend LCTI on a half-day (PM) basis.

- Students must complete an application and submit to their school counselor; additional required documentation will be submitted with application.
- Attendance at LCTI in 9th grade is dependent on learning/programming needs, academic achievement during 8th grade, and through communication between the family and school counselor.
- Additional information, including a more thorough explanation about the many program offerings can be found on the LCTI website: <http://www.lcti.org/> as well as on pages 74-81 in the PoS.

What to expect moving forward

Once the Course Selection form has been posted, instructions will be provided to explain how the form must be completed and submitted.

Once finalized, course requests will be scheduled into the district scheduling software. Schedules for the 2021-22 school year will be mailed out to families during the summer.

What else?

Allentown students will have loads of opportunities to participate in activities, clubs, and athletics at the high school level. This is an exciting time for students and families, as we move closer to high school graduation and beyond.

Please continue to reach out to your school counselors, teachers and building administrators with any questions or concerns. Your Google Classrooms as well as the ASD homepage (<https://www.allentownsd.org/>) should be referenced frequently for updates and new information as we continue to navigate current school closures.

STAY SAFE & STAY WELL!