

**GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL**  
COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

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**[2021-2022 Course Selection Notice!](#)**

Happy New Year!

As we begin to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, all students (grades 9-11) will be meeting with their counselor (remotely) to complete course selection requests for the next school year. A student's course selection includes both academic and elective options, as well as selecting alternate electives. In order to create a well-thought-out schedule for next year, the following components are utilized in preparing an individual student course request: student's interests and academic performance, student's college and career goals, teacher recommendations, and achievement scores on standardized assessments for placement predictability. Please review this letter thoroughly so as to understand the course selection process and to help you prepare for the 2021-2022 course selection process.

**Course Selection Process**

It is extremely important to take the course selection process seriously and prepare thoroughly for this meeting as **once the course selection process is complete, it is extremely difficult to make changes.**

**Teacher Recommendations**

Teachers provide a recommendation for a student's next year placement based on the current year's academic performance and prerequisite requirements provided within the 2021-2022 Program of Studies. These recommendations will be available via PowerSchool. It is suggested that students discuss recommendations with teachers prior to the course selection meeting with their counselor.

**NEW! Course Selection Meeting**

All students are required to enter in their 2021-2022 course requests for academic and elective classes via PowerSchool prior to their course selection meeting with their counselor. Students will be trained by the counselors in their Health/PE course and provided access to enter in their selections. Please know that these selections are interests of the student and will help guide the student-counselor course selection meeting.

Students will receive an email invitation indicating the scheduled time and date and Zoom link for their individual student-counselor course selection meeting. This meeting is a set meeting and cannot be changed. It is important that the student is on time and prepared to discuss their course selections.

<b>Course Selection Timeline</b>	
January 25th & 26th	Counselors visit PE classes (9-11) virtually and facilitate elective discussion; students select top electives and 8 alternate electives. Students are taught how to enter in 2021-2022 course requests through PowerSchool.
January 25-February 1st	Students have access to enter in 2021-2022 course selection requests in PowerSchool *A “How to” video will be shared through email.
February 22- March 19th	Students will have a specific scheduled appointment time to meet 1:1 with their counselors to review and complete the 2021-2022 Course Selection Process via Zoom.

Please communicate with your teachers to learn more about academic placement and inquire about any electives of interest. Review the most up-to-date [2021-2022 Program of Studies](#) found on the GL Guidance website to obtain specific information regarding course offerings, course descriptions, prerequisites, and graduation requirements. Be prepared, plan ahead, and ask your counselor if you have questions prior to your course selection meeting!

Sincerely,

GL Counseling Department

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What should I think about when selecting my courses for 2021-2022?**

It is suggested that you consider increasing and/or maintaining the academic rigor of your 2020-2021 schedule, as well as recognize your ability to be successful in each course. This means you should select courses that are both challenging and that you believe you will be able to maintain an average at or above average grade in throughout the course of the year.

### **Why do I need to pick so many electives?**

Elective choices - both primary and alternate - are an opportunity to explore and expand your learning of new interests or to continue to excel in an area of interest. Students should be aware that although we try to meet student requests, it is possible that due to course availability, limited seating, and scheduling conflicts students may not get their desired schedule. This is why it is important that the alternate electives you choose are selected thoughtfully.

### **How do I access PowerSchool?**

**Go to: [bhpsnj.powerschool.com/public](https://bhpsnj.powerschool.com/public)**

The link is also available on the [bhpsnj.org](https://bhpsnj.org) homepage.

### **What happens at the course selection meeting?**

The course selection meeting is an individual meeting between the student and his/her counselor. Course selections are created based on teacher recommendations, student performance, student's interests, and college and career goals.

### **Can parents attend the course selection meeting?**

Parents are not permitted to attend these meetings as this is an opportunity for the student to advocate for their academic and career interests and have these discussions with his/her counselor. Additionally, it is our experience that having parents present in the meeting can impact the student's ability to institute a transparent dialogue.

### **How do parents know what their student has selected?**

Once the course selection meeting has concluded, a hard copy of the student's course selection request will be sent home so that the student and parent/s are able to review and confirm the course decisions for next year. Students will have until the dates above to communicate with his/her counselor if there are any changes that need to be made. Please follow the timeline above for specific information related to course selection meetings.

**What happens after the course selections are made?**

The course selection information that is collected from all current 8-11th grade students will be utilized to create a master schedule. This master schedule is crafted to meet as many students requests as possible; which includes academic and elective courses. First choice electives and alternate electives may be utilized to fulfill a schedule.

**Once I enter in my course requests through PowerSchool, can these selections change?**

Yes. After students have entered in their course requests, the individual student-counselor meeting will review the teacher recommendations, course prerequisites, and student academic performance, interests, and goals to finalize the students 2021-2022 course request. The deadline to make any course requests to your counselor is **Friday, March 19, 2021**.

**What happens if I miss my scheduled course selection meeting?**

You should reach out immediately to your counselor to reschedule the meeting. Please note that these meetings are created with a strict timeline with limited time for rescheduling. Therefore, if you miss this appointment, you may not be able to reschedule your meeting for many days afterwards.