

# Oak Lawn Community High School -- Class of 2027

## Placement Guidelines for the 2023-2024 School Year

In addition to standardized test scores, OLCHS will include additional criteria for placement into freshman-level classes. This is an opportunity for students to enrich their learning experience and be placed into the most appropriate course in each subject area. Students are encouraged to take the most challenging coursework that they are prepared for and will receive appropriate support regardless of placement.

The Class of 2027 Placement Process includes student and family input in the selection of classes. In order to do so, we will consider the following information when determining placement:

1. Middle School Teacher Recommendation
2. Standardized Test Scores and/or Writing Samples
3. Eighth Grade Grades in Progress (or Standards Met)
4. Student Elective Interest
5. Student/Family Enrollment Requests

### ENGLISH

Mr. Jeff Vazzana, Department Chair ([jvazzana@olchs.org](mailto:jvazzana@olchs.org))

| Course   | Placement Guidelines   |
|--|--|
| English I<br><br>Winter MAP Score Range: 219-228   | <p><b>Most freshman students are recommended for English I.</b></p> <p>Students should be capable of reading and comprehending literature (including stories, dramas, and poems) in the grades 9-10 CCSS text complexity band, with appropriate instructional support as needed.</p>   |
| English I + Reading Strategies<br><br>Winter MAP Score Range: 218 and below                              | <p><b>Students may be recommended for English I + Reading Strategies if they have needed support to read at grade level and meet other grade-level expectations.</b></p> <p>Students in this additional course need to build the fundamental skills needed to read for multiple purposes across content areas. Students placed into the Reading Strategies program will enroll in English I as well as a credit-bearing course that focuses intensely on developing reading skills. Improvement in these essential skills will benefit students in their other coursework. <b>Per OLCHS policy, this course may be required based upon teacher recommendation and/or grades in progress.</b></p>   |
| English I Honors<br><br>Fall MAP Score Range: 228 and above<br><br>Winter MAP Score Range: 230 and above | <p><b>Students may be recommended for English I Honors if they exceed grade-level expectations for writing, vocabulary, and language AND consistently perform above-average on summative assessments.</b></p> <p>Students are expected to demonstrate the following academic skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students are expected to analyze readings at a higher grade level and/or accelerated pace.</li> <li>○ Students are expected to use inquiry skills to draw conclusions based upon reading and observations.</li> <li>○ Students are expected to write frequently at or above grade level.</li> <li>○ Students should have an interest in reading and well-developed study skills.</li> <li>○ Students should have a willingness to participate in classroom discussion with insight beyond the ordinary.</li> </ul> |

# MATH

Mr. Christopher Newton, Department Chair (cnewton@olchs.org)

| Course   | Placement Guidelines  |
|--|---|
| Algebra I<br><br>Winter MAP Score<br>Range: 221-242  | <b>Most freshman students are recommended for Algebra I.</b><br><br>Students should be able to 1) use linear equations and systems to represent, analyze, and solve a variety of problems, 2) grasp the concept of a function rule, and 3) use ideas about distance and angles to describe and analyze two-dimensional figures and to solve problems.   |
| Algebra I with<br>Support<br><br>Winter MAP Score<br>Range: 220 and<br>below   | <b>Students may be recommended for Algebra I + Algebra I Support if they have needed support to perform at grade level and meet other grade-level expectations.</b><br><br>Students in this additional course need to build the fundamental skills necessary for success in Algebra I. Students placed into the Algebra I Support program will enroll in Algebra I as well as a credit-bearing course that focuses intensely on developing computation and problem-solving skills. Improvement in these essential skills will benefit students in their other coursework. <b>Per OLCHS policy, this course may be required based upon teacher recommendation and/or grades in progress.</b> |
| Algebra I Honors<br><br>Fall MAP Score<br>Range: 241 and<br>above<br><br>Winter MAP Score<br>Range: 244 and<br>above | <b>Students may be recommended for Algebra I Honors if they exceed grade-level expectations for solving, modeling, and problem-solving AND consistently perform above-average on summative assessments.</b><br><br>Students are expected to demonstrate the following academic skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.</li><li>○ Reason abstractly and quantitatively.</li><li>○ Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.</li><li>○ Look for and make use of structure.</li><li>○ Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.</li></ul>  |

## ALGEBRA SUPPORT PLACEMENT NOTES

Students placed into Algebra I Support receive the same Algebra I curriculum as all other Algebra I students, paired with an additional period so more time can be devoted to learning and applying the topics. Therefore, students requiring more intensive mathematics instruction are best placed in this course.

## HONORS PLACEMENT NOTES

Students demonstrating exceptional math ability and teacher recommendation may be invited to participate in a six-week credit-bearing Algebra I Honors Summer School Program. Students who qualify for Algebra I Honors and have already mastered essential Algebra content may be placed directly in Geometry Honors by demonstrating proficiency on an OLCHS-developed final exam.

# SCIENCE

Mr. Michael Bielski, Department Chair ([mbielski@olchs.org](mailto:mbielski@olchs.org))

| Course   | Placement Guidelines  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Biology</b></p> <p>Winter MAP Score Range: 214-233</p>   | <p><b>Most freshmen students are recommended for Biology.</b></p> <p>Students should demonstrate the following skills with appropriate instructional support as needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students should be capable of reading and comprehending grade-level scientific scenarios and fully cooperating in remediation activities.</li> <li>● Students should be capable of following written instructions for the completion of formative activities (including responding to scenarios, collecting and organizing data, formulating conclusions based on data, working cooperatively in small groups, and use of technology for presenting data).</li> <li>● Students should be capable of self-efficacy.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Biology RS</b><br/>(Reading Support)</p> <p>Winter MAP Score Range: 213 and below</p>                          | <p><b>Students will be recommended for Biology RS (Reading Support) if they are enrolled in English I + Reading Strategies. Biology RS may be required based upon teacher recommendation.</b></p> <p>Students placed into Biology RS will receive additional instructional accommodations to promote growth in the following essential science skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fundamental reading comprehension and interpersonal communication</li> <li>● Engagement in lab activities (including collection-organization-interpretation of data)</li> <li>● Use of cooperative learning and technology to discuss, record, and present data</li> <li>● Refinement and submission of assigned activities; Assessment remediation</li> </ul> <p>Improvement in these essential skills will benefit students in their continuing science coursework.</p> <p>Students placed into both <i>English I + Reading Strategies</i> and <i>Algebra I with Support</i> have the option to postpone freshman science and take their first science course sophomore year.</p> |
| <p><b>Biology Honors</b></p> <p>Fall MAP Score Range: 228 and above</p> <p>Winter MAP Score Range: 230 and above</p> | <p><b>Students may be recommended for Biology Honors if they exceed grade-level expectations for writing, comprehension of science vocabulary, and overall science literacy AND consistently mastered science learning targets.</b></p> <p>Students are expected to demonstrate the following academic skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students are expected to analyze scientific scenarios and readings at a higher grade level and/or accelerated pace.</li> <li>● Students are expected to use inquiry skills and evidence to draw conclusions based upon data analysis and make connections from observations.</li> <li>● Students are expected to respond to group members and participate in peer review projects frequently at or above grade level.</li> <li>● Students should have an interest and willingness to participate in lab activities independently, in small-group, and in large group discussions, with insight beyond the ordinary.</li> </ul>  |

## WORLD LANGUAGES

### Mr. Dustin Greenberg, Department Chair ([dgreenberg@olchs.org](mailto:dgreenberg@olchs.org))

- Any interested student may register for Arabic I, French I, or Spanish I.
- Placement tests in Spanish and Arabic are taken at the middle school.
- Students with prior Spanish instruction or who speak Spanish at home can be placed into heritage courses or second level of language courses. See below.
- Students with prior Arabic instruction or who speak Arabic at home can be placed into the heritage level. See below.
- Students with prior French instruction should contact Mr. Greenberg for more details regarding placement.

| Course                                 | Placement Criteria  |
|--|---|
| Spanish I, Arabic I, or French I       | No prior instruction or teacher recommendation is needed.   |
| Spanish II                             | <p>Placement test</p> <p><b>Students should be proficient in Spanish 1 learning targets.</b> Specifically, students in Spanish 2 should already be able to talk/write about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Themselves (physical, personality, age, nationality, where they are from, etc)</li> <li>-Their family members and friends (same as above)</li> <li>-Where they live (house/apartment) describe it, what's in it, and where things are located</li> <li>-What classes they have, time and opinion of their classes</li> <li>-What foods and drinks they have from breakfast, lunch and dinner</li> <li>-Their likes/dislikes</li> <li>-Talk about what they typically do (present tense) vs. what they are doing right now (present progressive)</li> </ul> |
| Spanish II Honors                      | <p>Placement Test and Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>These students should be highly motivated to learn and use the Spanish language in addition to being an "A" quality student in Spanish class AND being proficient in describing, both in writing and through speaking, themselves, their family, school, schedule and various after school activities in the present tense and by use of the present progressive.</p>   |
| Spanish for Heritage Speakers I        | Placement test including successful completion of an oral evaluation with an OLCHS Spanish teacher.   |
| Spanish for Heritage Speakers I Honors | Placement test including successful completion of an oral evaluation with an OLCHS Spanish teacher + Teacher recommendation.  |

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Arabic for Heritage Speakers I        | Placement test including successful completion of an oral evaluation with an OLCHS Arabic teacher.                          |
| Arabic for Heritage Speakers I Honors | Placement test including successful completion of an oral evaluation with an OLCHS Arabic teacher + Teacher recommendation. |

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Mrs. Kristin Kuchyt, Department Chair ([kkuchyt@olchs.org](mailto:kkuchyt@olchs.org))

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|----------------------|--|
| World History I & II | Required for graduation, may take freshman or sophomore years. Should take World History I before World History II   |
| AP World History     | Successful completion of English honors coursework<br><b><i>This course is offered only during <u>sophomore</u> year. Students enrolled in the English Honors program can plan on taking AP World History their sophomore year. They may enroll in <u>AP Human Geography or Geography</u> their freshmen year.</i></b> |
| AP Human Geography   | Elective Social Studies course recommended for students placed in honors English I.  |
| Geography            | Any interested student may register for regular Geography  |

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*Additional Notes Regarding ASPIRE testing for all content areas:*

*Scores above 428 are generally considered for honors placement. Scores below 416 may indicate additional support is needed.*