PTSO Forum – The Pupil Course Request (PCR) Process

February 24, 2010
Together we promote respect for self, others and learning.
Myths about AB

- You have to take all AP’s.
- A middling student here would be a top student elsewhere.
- You have to take bio as a freshman.
- You have to get to calculus.
- Everyone gets into UMass.
- Everyone goes directly from AB to a four-year college.
- You have to do everything – play a sport, play an instrument, do community service, be in the play, get all A’s – to get into college.
- If I do all this, I will get into [pick your Ivy].
Balance

• Students should challenge themselves in areas that interest them.
• Allow time for relaxation.
• Remember (and remind your child) that there are many, many great colleges.
• Encourage students to get involved in extra-curricular activities that interest them.
• Get enough sleep.
• Talk and reflect together on your child’s plans for the year.
• Be flexible. Course loads are meant to change over the four years of high school.
Minimum Graduation Requirements

- 4 years English
- 3 years Social Studies (one must be U.S. History)
- 2 years Math
- 2 years Science (one must be Biology)
- Fitness for Living – required health/PE course for freshmen
- 3 additional semesters of PE
- Academic Elective – one additional year English, social studies, math or science; or a third year of world language
- 100 credits (5 credits per course)
- Pass MCAS
Lingo

- **990** – The number of hours students are required to be enrolled in academic study each year.
- **Directed Study** – Focused study period with a certified teacher. Required of freshmen with free periods.
- **ASC (Academic Support Center)** – Available for regular education students who want/need additional support.
- **Learning Center** – Special education support built into the school day.
- **Transition Program** – Program for ninth grade students who need additional support (academic and/or social) transitioning to the high school.
- **Peer Tutoring** – Program for students to serve as peer tutors in the ASC.
- **Peer Counseling** – Program that trains students to serve as counselors for younger students.
- **Peer Mentoring** – Program where older students are placed in Transition program classes.
- **MAP** – Alternative Program situated at the high school during the day.
- **SWAP** – School-to-Work Alternative Program that allows students to combine work with afternoon/evening classes.
The PCR Schedule for Grades 9-11

- February 10th – Students receive sample PCR Form and Time Management Sheet in Homeroom. Program of Studies available online.
- February 25th – PCR Day
- March 8th – Course Confirmation Forms distributed to students and available on the PowerSchool Parent Portal
- March 9th-26th – Override and Course Change forms available in the Counseling Center
- April 1st – Deadline for submission of Override and Course Change forms
The PCR Schedule for Grade 8

- March 1\textsuperscript{st} – 8\textsuperscript{th} grade Parent Night (snow date: March 2\textsuperscript{nd})
- March 17\textsuperscript{th} – High School visits Junior High
- March 18\textsuperscript{th} – March 26\textsuperscript{th} – Students work with teachers to fill out PCR forms
- April 9\textsuperscript{th} – Course Confirmation Forms sent home with students and posted on PowerSchool
- April 26\textsuperscript{th} – Override Conference Night
- April 30\textsuperscript{th} – Deadline for all course change requests