



**LHMS Academic Advising and
Course Selection -
What You Need to Know for Your
Rising 8th or 9th Grader**

Our Academic Advising Team



Ms. Marissa Brooks

7th Grade Counselor

Last Names A-K

mlbrooks@fcps.edu



Mr. Mark Blocker

7th Grade Counselor

Last Names L-Z

mfblocker@fcps.edu

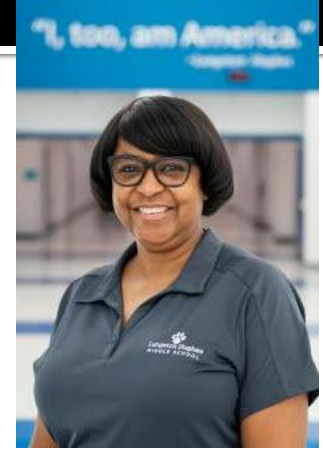


Ms. Karen Bach

8th Grade Counselor

Last Names A-K

kabach@fcps.edu



Ms. Phyllis Degraffenried

8th Grade Counselor

Last Names L-Z

pjdegaffenr@fcps.edu

Rising 8th Grade Important Dates

January 12 - LHMS Registration Site is live

Late January - Academic Advising Letters mailed home - includes teacher recommendations

February 22-25 - Meet with Counselors for Academic Advising (through social studies classes)

March 3 - Course Selections Sheets Due - Signed by Parent/Guardian

Late March - Parents confirm course selections in SIS Parent Vue

7th Grade vs 8th Grade Key Points

- 5 SOL tests (Writing, Reading, Math, Civics, and Science) instead of 2
- Spanish, French, Japanese, and German foreign language options
- Increased options for high school credit courses (math and world language)
- Advanced arts, music, and design classes
- Increased work expectations
- Finance Park experience for all 8th grade students
- 15 hour requirement for community service *by the end of 8th grade
- National Junior Honor Society

The IB Middle Years Program

1. Best development and preparation for honors work and the Diploma Program
2. Learning with an emphasis on inquiry, critical thinking, and rigor
3. Ease of preparation for the college application process (essays, interviews, perspective)



Preparing for the IB Diploma Program

All students in grades 7-10 at Langston Hughes and South Lakes are part of the IB Middle Years Program

If students are considering the IB Diploma Program at SLHS, they should take Algebra and a world language by the end of 8th grade. Honors level (advanced academics) classes are the best preparation for the IB Diploma classes.



Honors Classes

- Open access to honors classes (exception - Geometry HN - the prerequisite is Algebra)
- Similar curriculum as Level IV Center classes—Rigorous academic program using extensions to the Program of Studies

Both Honors and Level IV Center

May accelerate or compact curriculum

Choices for exploring interests and deeper understandings

Emphasize creative and critical thinking skills

Open-ended work; added depth and complexity

Simulate the work of experts in the field

Ongoing professional development for teachers

Why Should my Student take an Honors Class in Middle School?

Middle school is an excellent time to explore the honors extensions.

- Allows students to explore passions, interests, and career possibilities.
- Allows students to challenge themselves before high school and prepare for a more rigorous path in high school.

*All LHMS students (except students in AAP and small group classes) take honors history and Civics

Math Course Sequence

7 th Grade	Math 7	Math 7 Honors	Algebra 1 Honors*	Geometry Honors*
8 th Grade	<p>- Pre-Algebra or - Algebra 1* or - Algebra 1 Honors *</p> <p><i>*high school credit course</i></p>	<p>- Algebra 1* or - Algebra 1 Honors *</p> <p><i>*high school credit course</i></p>	<p>Geometry Honors*</p> <p><i>*high school credit course</i></p>	<p>Algebra 2 Honors*</p> <p><i>*high school credit course</i></p>

8th Grade High School Credit Courses

- Algebra 1 and Algebra 1 HN
- Geometry HN
- Algebra 2 and Algebra 2 HN

- World Languages - Spanish, French, German, and Japanese

*German and Japanese are offered through SLHS and transportation is offered only to students in the SLHS boundary

Support Classes Offered

- Math
- Reading
- Special Education
- ESOL
- Study Skills

* Students in need of remediation or who fail a SOL test will take a support class in place of an elective.

Student with Special Needs - ESOL, 504, and IEP

ESOL - Students are placed in classes (core and support classes) based on their WIDA scores and teacher input. WIDA scores are received in June.

504/IEP - 504/IEP teams will hold transition meetings which may include schedule recommendations.

Rising 9th Grade Important Dates

January 14 - Herndon HS counselors meet with students slated for Herndon HS

February 1st - HS transfer applications open

February 2nd - 7th - 8th grade students work on a 4 year plan with LHMS counselors

February 14-17 - SLHS counselors meet with students for course selection

February 25 - course selections due (HHS and SLHS)

8th Grade vs 9th Grade Key Points

- Student must pass a certain number of courses and SOL tests as graduation requirements (5 for both standard and advanced)
- Increased world language options
- Increased club/after school options
- High school competitive sports
- Year-long elective courses - many elective courses are taken sequentially
- Increased work expectations
- Honors level courses/advanced courses include a “credit bump” for GPA
- Advanced course options - IB (South Lakes) and AP (Herndon)

Questions?

Contact Michele Beard at mbeard@fcps.edu or
your student's counselor:

Current 7th Grade Students

Marissa Brooks - Last Names A-K mlbrooks@fcps.edu

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Current 8th Grade Students

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Phyllis Degraffenreid - Last Names L-Z pgdegraffenr@fcps.edu