

**Notes from 7th Sophomore PTO Meeting
February 1, 2010
Class Selection for Junior Year**

Nancy Wagman introduces evening,

Two BHS students describe Social Action project re: Emerson Literacy Partnership for Emerson School in Roxbury

- Emerson School needs books
- On March 6 there will be a fundraising concert
- Can also make donations online or in person

Diane Lande introduces teachers from different academic departments:

Josh Paris Chair of Math Dept.

- Thanks to PTO for continuing support and grants (which provided projectors, smart boards, etc.)
- Math for juniors is offered at 3 core levels:
- Algebra 2/Precalculus (which leads in senior year to AP Calculus (AB or BC);
- Algebra 2 /Trig Honors (which leads in senior year to Precalculus Honors); and
- Standard (which leads in senior year to Precalculus)
- In junior year can also take Intro to Algebra (less challenging than Standard)
- Also IMP track available
- Can also take summer courses to catch up
- (from Dean Lande): If you have questions/concerns about child's placement, bear in mind teacher will give recommendation with third quarter report cards, and you can then contact teacher or guidance counselor
- Most colleges like to see four years of math

Gary Shiffman - Chair of Social Studies Dept.

- Social studies for juniors presents U.S. history survey, offered at 3 core levels:
 - AP, Honors and Standard
- In choosing appropriate level, consider student's interests e.g., kid who is interested in focusing on science should feel very comfortable taking Honors in lieu of AP, even if fully capable of doing AP work.
- AP course requires summer study (as well as considerable reading during year)
- Also available: Social Justice Leadership Workshop
 - full year course; credit
- Last year 48 applied, 25-20 got in

Ric Calleja - Representing World Language Dept.

- Students can take two different languages
- Each year's level is offered at AP, Honors and Standard pace
- Junior year level is Level 4
- Level 4 is a good synthesis year, with thematic approach and readings of real works in native language
- If struggling in AP, consider Honors.
- Spending time in native speaking country is also good way to go from Honors to AP
- New Latin teacher (Eli Williams) is teaching
- AP Exam is in May of senior year

Gaelen Harrington for English Dept.

- Favorite year to teach is junior year
- Two levels of American literature offered: Standard and Honors
- The AP Exam is not content-based; it is skill-based; an AP Exam workshop is offered, but

- feeling at BHS is that both levels offered (Standard and Honors) meet AP Exam level
- Transition is toward closer analysis looking at how language is used to create effect
 - Biggest difference in levels is pace more or less reading/writing
 - SWS offers different selections

Re: Science (per Dean Lande)

- 3 different core levels of Biology offered in junior years:
- Biology BSCS: college-level; better for kids who like to work in groups; more interaction, more project-oriented
- Biology Honors: Still gung ho, but less interactive
- Biology Standard: More straight written work

Overall Considerations; Electives, misc.

- To get full picture/balanced schedule, after getting teachers recommendations, talk with student, have guidance counselor involved
- Review students habits, approaches
- Three full years of electives required
- One approach is to get one full credit in each of:
 - performing arts
 - technology arts
 - visual arts
- Can also do pathway approach where focus is in one area
- Also health/fitness requirement
- No community service required, but it is encouraged

Questions/Discussion Period

Adjourned at 8:20 PM