

TESLA STEM COUNSELING CORNER

INSPIRE, INNOVATE, EDUCATE

February 2019

Welcome from the Counseling Department!!!

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Decoding Your Transcript

Ever wonder what all those codes and random-looking identifiers on your transcripts are? Here are some of the most common labels, decoded:

- ◆ **“Crs Dsg”**, listed to the right of each course – The Course Designation Key (which can be found above courses listed on your transcript) lists what each label means (e.g. A = AP course). This space to the right of your course can also be blank, depending on the course.
- ◆ **CADR** – this stands for College Academic Distribution Requirement, and is used to indicate certain core academic requirements for college admissions (such as English, Science, Math, etc).
- ◆ **Additional State Requirements** – English Language Arts and Math will be listed as either “Not Met” or “Met”, based on your SBA assessments taken at the end of 10th grade (or later). All standards must be met in order to earn the required Certificate of Academic/Individual Achievement for graduation.
- ◆ **High School & Beyond Plan** – this is met via a compilation of assignments students work on through the Xello (formerly Career Cruising) program during their high school years, in addition to Jr. Counselor Meetings, Sr. college planning and will be checked off at the end of your Senior year.
- ◆ **WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY** – in LWSO this graduation requirement is met within Middle School history courses, and will be listed as “Met”. Please speak with your counselor if your transcript shows this requirement as “Not Met”.

2019-20 Registration Information and Course Requests

Counselor Presentations and Course Request forms were given on February 7th/8th. Students should have brought home their packet of registration materials to share with parents. Teacher presentations about specific courses & STEM labs took place on February 8th. Copies of all materials (e.g. Course Catalog) can be found on our PowerSchool page under “Registration Forms and Course Catalog”. **Completed and signed Course Request forms are now due on Friday, Feb 22nd, 2019.**

Senior Updates:

- ◆ For CommonApp or Coalition App college applications, your counselor will automatically upload your first semester transcript into your “Mid-Year Report” this week.
- ◆ If your college apps do not allow electronic transcripts to be uploaded (via CommonApp, Coalition, or Independent Online App) and are requesting to have your first semester grades, fill out a Transcript Request Form and turn it into our **Main Office** (please provide the complete address on the transcript request).
- ◆ Now is the time to make sure that you have completed the FAFSA (Federal Financial Aid) and are applying for scholarships! Please refer to our Counseling PowerSchool page under the “Financial Aid & Scholarships” tab for Financial Aid and application help. Scholarship information is also available, including National Search sites and a regularly-updated list of local scholarships.

Junior College Planning Meetings

Counselors will be holding "Junior Meetings" with all Juniors and their parents/guardians during April/May. During Junior Meetings, we will discuss your graduation & credit status, career interests, your college or post-secondary plans, next year's college application process, and any post-high school questions you may have at this point.

- ◆ **Parents** - please look for an email from counseling staff in March with sign-up for Junior Meetings. These will be conducted during school hours.
- ◆ Our Post-High School/College Planning Handbook was given at our Student/Parent Night last November and copies are available on our PowerSchool page under College Planning Handbook. Please read through and bring it to your Junior Meeting, including any work you have already done on it (i.e. resume/lists of colleges you may be considering).

Xello Replaces Career Cruising

This year, the district has launched Xello as a resource for students to develop and track their High School & Beyond Plans. Through Xello, students gain self-knowledge through assessments and reflection. Students in grades 9-12 will be researching careers, colleges, majors/programs, and experiences to form a roadmap for their future. (More info on: <https://xello.world/en/student.html>). Juniors must have their required 11th Grade Xello lessons completed before signing up for their Junior meetings. For grade-level assignment instructions, go to PowerSchool -> Tesla STEM Counseling -> High School and Beyond Plan.

PE waiver via the Fitness Assessment or Written Fitness Plan

Many of our students opt to meet LWSD's PE/Fitness graduation requirement through the Fitness Assessment or Written Fitness Plan. This option is available during 11th and 12th grades only. Information, including submission dates, Study Guide, Plan & Grading Rubric are available at <https://www.lwsd.org/schools/high-school/high-school-guide/physical-education-credit-options>. The next assessment/submission date is **Feb 27th, 2019**. Seniors, if you have not yet passed the Fitness Assessment or Written Fitness Plan, you must utilize one of these options!

World Language Competency Credit Option

Students who already have proficiency in a world language, and are not already earning credit for that language through a class, may earn credit by taking a district assessment that measures proficiency. Students who wish to pursue this assessment option can sign up to take a language assessment test during one of our "Washington World Language Assessment Days". The next assessment date will take place on **April 17th**, after school at Eastlake High School. For general information, language-specific testing information, and to register, please go to <https://www.lwsd.org/schools/high-school/high-school-guide/world-language-credit-options>.

Faculty Office Hours

Were your first semester grades not as high as you'd hoped? Meeting individually with teachers *is our best resource* for grade improvement. Students can visit teachers during their before/after school office hours to discuss how to improve, review prior tests, ask homework questions, and prepare for future assignments/tests. Parents must email teachers prior to visiting their classroom to request an individual appointment for you and your student. Teacher office hours & teacher emails can be found at: <https://tesla.lwsd.org/about-us/staff-directory>