

From Your Ridgecrest Counselors

It's hard to believe as we ring into 2016 that we immediately start preparing for the 2016–2017 school year! Your administrators, counselors and teachers are busy planning and discussing the next school year. As with each year, families and students have questions about what to expect in the coming months: teacher recommendations, course selections, new student schedules, when to expect paperwork and more. To streamline this process for you, below is a breakdown of what to expect in the coming months.

Your child's teachers will be making course recommendations for your child's classes for next year at the start of 3rd trimester. Incoming 7th grade recommendations include Math and, if appropriate, Foreign Language; incoming 8th grade recommendations include Math, Language Arts, Science, and, if appropriate, Foreign Language; and incoming 9th grade recommendations include Math, English, Biology, and, if appropriate, Foreign Language. Teachers uphold your child's best interest in mind when making academic recommendations. Recommendations will be sent home with your child in March and April (read below for more specifics). Should you have any questions or concerns about your child's course recommendations, please contact Ms. Shulman or your child's teacher directly.

New this year: We are excited to share that students will be making their course selections for the 2016–2017 school year through an online scheduling format via Aeries Parent Portal. Directions for this process will be explained and sent home with students on how to complete this with their parent/guardian. All incoming 7th and 8th grade students will receive: an Initial Letter with teacher recommendations for next year's courses, a Scheduling Worksheet of elective options for next year, a Course Request Aeries Parent Portal document with directions on navigating the online scheduling process, and a Confirmation Letter of courses requested to be signed and returned once the online scheduling process has concluded.

6th Grade: Ms. Shulman will be making scheduling presentations to all 6th grade Science classes on Monday, March 28. Scheduling documents will be handed to your child on that day. Your child is expected to bring home their Initial Letter, Scheduling Worksheet, and Course Request Aeries Parent Portal Directions to review their teacher recommendations with you and select courses for their 7th grade year. Students are expected to complete their online scheduling by Friday, April 1. Students must also submit their signed Scheduling Worksheet to their Science teacher on April 1. A Confirmation Letter of courses requested will be sent home on Wednesday, May 4 to be signed and returned by Wednesday, May 11.

7th Grade: Ms. Shulman will be making scheduling presentations to all 7th grade Science classes on Wednesday, April 13. Scheduling documents will be handed to your child on that day. Your child is expected to bring home their Initial Letter, Scheduling Worksheet, and Course Request Aeries Parent Portal Directions to review their teacher recommendations with you and select courses for their 8th grade year. Students are expected to complete their online scheduling by Wednesday, April 20. Students must also submit their signed Scheduling Worksheet to their Science teacher on April 20. A Confirmation Letter of courses requested will be sent home on Wednesday, May 4 to be signed and returned by Wednesday, May 11.

8th Grade: Ms. Shulman will be making scheduling presentations to all 8th grade Science classes on Monday, April 11. At that time, a letter which includes teacher recommendations for 8th grade students

going onto high school will be mailed home. On Thursday, April 14, high school counselors from both PVPHS and PVHS will be presenting High School Orientation in all 8th grade Social Studies classes. Students will receive their Educational Planning Guide, High School Course Handbook, and freshman year scheduling worksheets. Counselors will return on Tuesday, April 26 to conduct scheduling with each 8th grade student for their freshman year classes. It is imperative that 8th graders have their scheduling sheets completed prior to this date. Both of these visits are wonderful opportunities for students to interact with their future counselor. If you have any questions, please direct these to Ms. Shulman.

As you review your student's course recommendations for the 2016–2017 school year and wish to complete a Request for Placement (waiver) form for placement in a different course level, forms will become available in the office once presentations have been made. An electronic copy of the waiver form may be found at www.pvpusd.net/math and select Course Criteria. Completed forms must be submitted to the Ridgecrest Intermediate office by April 22 for consideration. Any forms submitted after the deadline will be deemed "late" and only accepted on a space availability basis.

The spring scheduling process is a busy but exciting time as we prepare our students for the next step in their education! Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Shulman with any questions or concerns at shulmanh@pvpusd.net.

Heidi Shulman & Jesse Allen

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