



**LEVITTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Wisdom Lane Middle School**  
**120 Center Lane**  
**Levittown, NY 11756**



**John Avena, Principal**  
**Craig Arvelo-Shaw, Assistant Principal**  
**(516) 434-7300**  
**Fax (516) 434-7323**

November 27, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

It's hard to believe that we are already starting to think about the transition to high school. I will be meeting with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students throughout the year to continue the conversations about career and college awareness and post-secondary planning. The following is information for the individual 8<sup>th</sup> grade conferences.

**Step 1: All appointments must be made online using the Teacher Reacher system.** Teacher Reacher Instructions on how to use the program as well as FAQ's are available on [www.TeacherReacher.com](http://www.TeacherReacher.com)

- If you have used Teacher Reacher in the past, your account is still active and you do not need to create a new account. Just log in and add any additional children to your existing account. You can request your password be sent to you if needed. Please do not create a new account.
- If you are new to Teacher Reacher, you will need to make an account and register your child to be able to book appointments. It is recommended that you set up your account as soon as possible.

Appointments must be made during the window of Monday, December 4th – Friday, January 2nd.

You will receive an email containing a link to your Zoom session. When you log into the **Teacher Reacher** system the link will be there for easy access. You can simply click on the link next to your appointment time, and it will direct you to the Zoom session, where you will be placed in the "waiting room," and you will be admitted shortly thereafter.

**Step 2: Please review the descriptions of the electives that are offered to our incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. This information will be available through Parent Square and on the school webpage on December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Below is a list of some points to consider when choosing electives:

- **Take a class in an area that you enjoy and want to learn more about. Learning more about a topic you already enjoy can be fun and can help reduce stress.**
- **Take electives to strengthen your transcript. If you choose electives in areas you're excited about and will work hard in, that interest and effort will show in your grades.**
- **Try something new! High School is a great time to introduce yourself to a completely new subject. You may discover a new talent or interest!**

**Your child will have to choose either one art or one music elective. The electives that meet the art or music requirement are marked with a series of asterisks. \*\*\*\*\* Students will be instructed to enter their first choice art or music elective online. We will make every effort to accommodate your preferred request, but no guarantees can be made.**

Academic placement will determine how much space is available in your child's schedule for electives. When meeting with your child, it will be very helpful if they are familiar with the electives at that time.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Loveland*

B. Loveland  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade School Counselor



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November 27, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In December, we will begin scheduling 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes. The Wisdom Lane Counseling Department has scheduled a series of activities to prepare you and your child for the transition to high school.

**Classroom Visit:** The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor will visit your child's classroom to present about 9<sup>th</sup> grade scheduling, high school credits, graduation requirements and selecting their electives.

**Individual Conference (optional):** You may schedule a Virtual Zoom conference with your child and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor, Mrs. Loveland to discuss high school requirements and finalize their 9<sup>th</sup> grade schedule together through the **Teacher Reacher** system. The system will be open to schedule appointments on December 4th, 2023 and will close on January 2, 2024. To make an appointment through Teacher Reacher, follow the directions outlined on the schools web page. Individual conferences will be held from December 12th - January 12th. In addition, evening appointments will be available on the following evenings:

- \*Thursday, December, 21, 2023 (4-6pm)
- \*Thursday, January 4, 2024 (4-6 pm)
- \*Thursday, January 11, 2024 (4-6 pm)

If you are not able to attend a meeting, your child will still be seen by counselor to review all information. All academic classes will be determined at a later date through review of your child's performance during the academic year. The final academic placement will determine how much space is available in your child's schedule for electives.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Loveland*

Mrs. Loveland  
School Counselor

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## **Ninth Grade Elective Courses**

*Students must take their Art/Music requirement in 9th grade. Classes with \*\*\*\* fulfill the Art/Music requirement.*

### **ART DEPARTMENT**

#### **CERAMICS I**

**Credit: 1**

This course offers an exploration of the properties of clay as related to pottery and ceramics. Students will learn various hand building techniques. Surface decoration techniques are widely explored.

#### **\*\*\*\*FASHION ILLUSTRATION (Alt Days)**

**Credit: .5**

**Note: This class alternates with Fashion Design**

Students will learn to draw the fashion face and figure, explore drawing, painting, and pen and ink techniques in order to design clothing for men, women and children. Students will study clothing styles and by the end of the course, students will have developed their own personal style and fashion statement through their own work.

#### **\*\*\*\*STUDIO IN ART**

**Credit: 1/5**

#### **\*\*\*\*STUDIO IN ART A/ B (Alt Days)**

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of drawing, painting, sculpture, and art history. Students will learn the elements and principles of design while exploring different media, various techniques, and the influence of art history. At the completion of this course students will have developed a strong foundation in art should they desire to enroll in additional art courses.

#### **STUDIO IN CRAFTS (Alt Days)**

**Credit: .5**

This foundation course is recommended for students with an interest in three-dimensional design. Though 2D design may be incorporated, students will design craft art forms using materials such as wood, plaster, wax, wire, and clay. Students will explore cultural and historical art influences and its impact within their own work. This course is an excellent pre-requisite for other 3D classes-Ceramics, Ceramics II, and Sculpture.

#### **\*\*\*\*STUDIO IN MEDIA**

**Credit: 1**

This is a digital media visual arts foundation course. Students will learn about the elements of art and principles of design through a foundation of different media: graphic design, darkroom and digital photography, animation, and video.

#### **\*\*\*\*DESIGN AND DRAWING**

**Credit: 1**

Through hands-on projects students apply engineering standards and document their work. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to help them design solutions to solve proposed problems. This is a great starter course for all students interested in engineering, architecture, and drafting. Students will use traditional and computer aided drafting (CAD) while exploring new and exciting design problems. Successful completion of this course satisfies the NYS graduation requirement in art.

### **BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

#### **APP INVENTOR (Alt Days)**

**Credit: .5**

Never coded but want to learn how to build apps? Then you've come to the right place. This course starts at the very beginning and then will walk you through building progressively more complex apps. You'll learn how to build many types of apps and you'll learn programming concepts and terminology.

***BUSINESS EXPLORATION (Alt Days)*****Credit: .5**

This course is for any student interested in exploring the field of business, this is the place to start! Students will develop a foundation in business concepts and transferable skills that will prepare them for other high school business courses and ultimately for postsecondary education and career opportunities. This course will give students the opportunity to examine business basics, such as marketing and social media, financial foundations, such as accounting and investing, and career connections, such as entrepreneurship and tourism.

***COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (Alt Days)*****Credit: .5**

The objective of this course is to provide students with computer skills that will be useful in high school, college and throughout their lives. Students will be provided a hands-on opportunity to explore some of the modern computer software productivity tools used in the business world through Microsoft Office. Students become familiar with the manipulation of data through the use of Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Additionally, students will learn effective internet search strategies and how to evaluate the veracity and authenticity of web content.

***COMPUTER PROGRAMMING I*****Credit: 1**

Students are introduced to computer programming, logic and techniques using the RealBasic language. Emphasis is placed on developing skills in problem analysis by means of computer programming. Using mathematical computation and technological knowledge, students will explore ways to design and create applications through activities and projects.

***DESKTOP PUBLISHING (Alt Days)*****Credit: .5**

This course is designed for the students as an introduction to the state-of-the-art, professional-level computer applications used in the publication field. Students will gain marketable skills by learning Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign to create top-quality printed materials such as playbills, brochures, newsletters and advertisements. Students will learn how to create and import graphics, scan images, manipulate fonts and use special graphic effects to produce professional documents.

***WEB DESIGN I*****Credit: 1**

Students will learn to explore the Internet and obtain information for reports, projects, and personal use. Students will develop website pages using the basics of Hypertext Markup language (HTML), the language of the World Wide Web. Students will also explore Dreamweaver software to create WebPages that integrate word processing, graphics, and photographs as well as other layout techniques.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE*****CHILD DEVELOPMENT I (Alt Days)*****Credit: .5 & 3 Credits LIU Post**

This course provides students with a knowledge base and practical experience in child development from the prenatal period through pre-adolescence for application to his or her present role as a family member, as a future parent, and/or in a career. Students will learn through the engagement of project-based assignments. Major units of study include: children and parenting, prenatal development, infant growth and development, toddler and preschool development and careers in child care. Students enrolled in this course will have the option of receiving dual credit from the high school and local college.

***CULINARY ARTS*****Credit: 1**

This comprehensive course in food and nutrition is designed to provide students with the skills and techniques necessary for the preparation of a variety of foods. Course content includes nutrition awareness, meal management, preparation of foods and career exploration.

**\*\*\*\*FASHION DESIGN (Alt Days)****Credit: .5****Note: This class alternates with Fashion Illustration**

This course is an introduction to fashion and clothing construction skills. Students will sew their own garments, evaluate the quality of ready to wear clothing and explore fashion design principles. Clothing care, textiles, consumerism and careers will be integral parts of the course. Successful completion of both *Fashion Illustration* and *Fashion Design* will satisfy the minimum art requirement for graduation.

**FOOD INVESTIGATIONS (Alt Days)****Credit: .5**

Students will cook, bake, experiment and taste a variety of foods. Using scientific methods students will solve problems by conducting food experiments to describe chemical reactions that occur during the cooking/baking process. Why does popcorn pop? What is a food scientist? Is this a real profession? Take this interactive class and find out the answers to these questions and more!

**INTERIOR DESIGN (Alt Days)****Credit: .5**

Through hands on experience, students will learn elements and principles of design as they relate to architecture and interior decorating. Students will learn the essential components of interior design and create a final plan for an interior space. The course will highlight decorating trends, lifestyles, types of dwellings, units of color, furniture styles and career exploration.

**INTERNATIONAL CUISINE****Credit: 1**

Students will learn about the cultures and cuisine of different regions of the world. Students will work in lab groups to create and sample cuisines from these regions. For those students who may be interested in pursuing a culinary career, this course would provide a foundation in knife skills, food preparation, and presentation. Visits from culinary professionals and college presenters will be part of the course.

**MUSIC****\*\*\*\*BAND/ORCHESTRA/CHORUS 1 Year****Credit: 1****Prerequisite: Audition and /or previous participation**

These performing groups pursue the art of playing a musical instrument or singing in an ensemble. At the same time, students will be improving individual performing skills. These courses cover a broad variety of musical literature that will be read, rehearsed, and/or performed by each group. Public performances are the culmination of at least some of the selections prepared. The student in the performing group may also be eligible for nomination to All-County, the Long Island String Festival (string instrument players only), All-State, and All-Eastern performing organizations. The work requirements include learning about music and how to play the instrument or sing through home practice, class participation, and the preparation of assigned materials. There may be performance tests on the assigned material. Students are required to attend a weekly lesson on a rotating basis. Participation beyond the school day (sometimes involving evening and/or weekend activities) is required for students joining these groups. In addition, band students are required to participate in noncompetitive marching band and all of its activities. Students enrolling in these groups, in order to maintain membership and/or receive credit, must be prepared to make a commitment to all of the activities of the group. Therefore, students considering enrolling in one of these courses should familiarize themselves with the requirements. Weekly rotational pull-out lessons required.

**DANCE (Division Avenue Only)****Credit: 1**

This course exposes beginners to a variety of dance styles while allowing more advanced students to expand their abilities. Dance styles explored include Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Tap, period dance, and movement of various cultures. Testing may be written, performance, and/or the critiquing of others. Recitals are after school hours. Participation beyond the school day (including evening and/or weekend activities) is required for students to receive credit and/or remain enrolled in this group. Students must be prepared to make a commitment to all the activities of the group. Appropriate clothing is required and character shoes, or other appropriate dance shoes, are recommended.

**\*\*\*\*\*DIGITAL MUSIC PRODUCTION****Credit: 1**

This course is designed for students who wish to gain a working knowledge of electronic music through the use of synthesizers and other electronic devices. Digital Music Lab I covers the principles of sound production, acoustics and sound synthesis. Previous knowledge of electronics is not required. Electronic instruments used in this class will be supplied. Students will be required to perform or demonstrate for the teacher and class the projects they have been working on in class. Students will develop an independent final project.

**\*\*\*\*\*GUITAR I/GUITAR II****Credit: 1**

These guitar courses are designed to meet the needs of the guitar student and will equip the student with the ability to read musical notation and to develop facility on the fingerboard by playing songs and chords. Areas of study will include listening to and analyzing all styles of guitar music, performing, composing and using technology. Students do not need to have their own guitar; guitars are available to use in school. Students will be required to perform for the teacher on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, take written exams and develop an independent project. These courses may include performances beyond the school day. Enrollment in Guitar II is by audition.

**\*\*\*\*\*MUSIC THEORY I****Credit: 1**

This course seeks to explore music theory and study the "building blocks" of musical composition. Students will focus on basic chord progressions and structure, major, minor, and modal scales, the ability to identify scales, intervals and chords by sight and sound, sight singing, basic four-part harmonic structure and composition techniques, and other areas. Students will be expected to develop, through class work, homework, and practice, the aural, visual, and vocal assignments that will be given to assess mastery and development of skills. Tests will be given, and they will involve aural, written, and vocal skills in order to evaluate the degree to which these skills are being mastered and/or developed.

**\*\*\*\*\*PIANO I/PIANO II (Semester or Alternate Days)****Credit: .5**

The piano course is designed to meet the needs of the novice piano student and/or experienced piano student. Students will learn to read musical notation and to develop facility on the keyboard by playing compositions. Areas of study will include listening to and analyzing all styles of piano music, performing, music history, composing and using technology. Enrollment in Piano II is by audition.

**JAZZ ENSEMBLE (MacArthur Only)****Credit: .5****Prerequisite: Audition**

Students in the Jazz Ensemble will be offered the opportunity to enhance their education in music and develop their abilities as players through rehearsals and performances of jazz ensemble repertoire. In addition, portions of the course are devoted to the development of the skills associated with improvisation, and the history of the uniquely American art form known as Jazz. Acceptance into the course is by audition and/or teacher recommendation. Selections are made based upon the aptitude shown by a student at the audition and the instrumentation needs of the ensemble. Students taking the course for credit are graded based upon class participation, which includes attendance, class preparation, and periodic evaluations of their playing. At the end of the school year, students seeking credit will take a final examination, containing both written questions and/or a performance portion. Participation in the Jazz Ensemble involves rehearsals and performances which may take place **after school and/or on weekends**. Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances in order to maintain membership and receive academic credit, if applicable, for their participation in the course. Additional remedial instruction may be required as necessary.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION****Credit: .5****Health (1/2 year or Alt Days)**

This course is required for graduation. The health curriculum is concerned with the physical, mental, emotional and social health of the individual student. This course includes a study of oneself: personality and personality traits, emotions and their relationship to the body and reactions to the problems of living in today's world. Types of mental illness and their treatment are also discussed. A strong emphasis is placed on the effects of drugs, alcohol and smoking. Students also study nutrition, relationships, disease and first aid. A final examination is given.

## **SCIENCE**

### ***SCIENCE RESEARCH I (Alt Days)***

**Credit: .5**

**Prerequisites: Students need departmental approval for placement.**

This is an introductory research class that is designed to expose students to research techniques. This course is designed to help develop effective research skills and abilities. The overall goal of the course is to prepare students to conduct advanced research projects if they move forward in the program. Students will have the opportunity to compete in various science competitions.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

### ***ROBOTICS I***

**Credit: 1**

This program is designed to teach the fundamentals of electricity and robotics. The students will be introduced to safety, construction, power, energy, AC and DC circuitry, home applications, and communications systems. The exploration of robotics will include research and design, problem-solving, and practical applications. The students will acquire knowledge and skill in these areas through academic and hands-on experience. Grades will be based on written exams and performance evaluation.