

Dear Parents of the Class of 2016:

Welcome to Ferndale High School! Your student's high school career will begin with our 8th grade Parent and Student Informational Meetings on Monday, February 13.

There are two different sessions listed on the next page—one in the morning and one in the evening. We are offering this for your convenience and invite you attend one (if you choose to attend the evening session, feel free to bring your student with you).

At these sessions, our staff will present to you vital information to help your student make a smooth transition to high school and to ensure his/her success from 9th grade to graduation in 2016. In addition, after each session, there will be optional mini-sessions. You may choose to attend any or all of the mini-sessions that best meet your informational needs regarding your student's high school career.

By the end of these sessions, you will have an idea of a four-year plan for your student and will be equipped to complete his/her course selection sheet (see enclosed) for freshmen year. On this sheet, you will have the opportunity to choose your child's ninth grade elective courses (all freshmen will be automatically placed into required courses such as English, math, science and social studies based on testing information from middle school).

Ferndale High School determines staffing and building utilization by using the students' requests from these course selection sheets. Therefore, we ask that you return you child's sheet to the Ferndale Middle School main office by Friday, February 17.

This spring, you will be able to use your Zangle password to access online your student's ninth grade elective requests and placement in core courses (English, math, science and social studies). You will be able to view his/her final schedule in August. Once this information is ready for you to view in Zangle, you will be notified through an automated call.

It is our intent to develop the best possible schedule for each student. You can discuss changes of placement in the core areas by contacting your student's high school counselor at the end of this school year. A list of emails and phone numbers is included.

Thank you for your assistance in this process. We look forward to seeing you on February 13. Please be sure to bring this informational packet with you.

Sincerely,

Herbert Ivory, Principal

Lisa Williams, Executive Vice Principal

8th Grade Student and Parent Night

February 13, 2012

Please come to ONE of the following sessions:

<u>Session 1</u>	Large Session:	8:30 a.m. -9:15 a.m.	Media Center
	Optional Mini-Sessions:	9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	
<u>Session 2</u>	Large Session:	6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.	Auditorium
	Optional Mini-Sessions:	7:20 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.	

Topics to be Discussed

Large Sessions:	Welcome to Ferndale High School High School Reform Act 8 th to 9 th transition Assessments/Academic Support Programs Graduation Requirements Scheduling Process Core Course Placement Preparing for College
Mini-Sessions:	Oakland Schools Technical Center (OSTC) Center for Advanced Studies and the Arts (CASA) Sports/NCAA Requirements Electives Counselors

The following informational mini-sessions are optional.

Mini-Sessions: **Each session runs every 10 minutes so you may attend more than one session.**

Room 202 7:20, 7:35, 7:50 and 8:05

Mr. Butler, Athletic Director

Sports and NCAA

Room 204 7:20, 7:35, 7:50 and 8:05

Mr. Bill James, CASA Director

Center for the Advanced Studies & Arts
CASA

Room 205 7:20, 7:35, 7:50 and 8:05

Ms. Janice Lefkowitz, OTSC Counselor

Oakland Schools Technical Center
OSTC

Room 206 7:20, 7:35, 7:50 and 8:05

Ms Leslie Miller, Fine Arts Department Coordinator
Mr. Elon Jamison, Secondary Band Director

Fine Arts Electives

Media Center 7:20, 7:35, 7:50 and 8:05

FHS Counselors

Scheduling

High School Counselors

Mrs. Kimberly Ellis

A – Ha

248-586-8641

kellis@ferndaleschools.org

Mrs. Stephanie Pitcher

He – R

248-586-8639

spitcher@ferndaleschools.org

Mrs. Gayle Minneci

S – Z

248-586-8640

gminneci@ferndaleschools.org

Ferndale High School Course Catalog

A complete list of all courses offered at Ferndale High School is available on line at www.ferndaleschools.org. Please click on Ferndale High School and then on Course Catalog.

Core Course Placement Criteria

Most freshmen will automatically be enrolled in the following academic core classes:

English 9

Algebra 1

U.S. History & Geography

Physics First

Placement into honors, advanced and support classes will be determined by MEAP, EXPLORE and Gates test scores, grades and teacher recommendation.

NOTE: The MEAP tests are given in the 7th and 8th grade. EXPLORE and Gates are given in the 8th grade.

Graduation Requirements

A total of 22 credits must be earned to graduate from Ferndale High School. As part of the 22 credits, the following Michigan Merit Curriculum must be successfully completed.

	Semesters	Credits
English	8	4
Social Studies	6	3
Mathematics	8	4
Science	6	3
Health & Physical Education	2	1
Visual, Performing & Applied Arts	2	1
World Language	4	2
Computer Education	1	.5

- Students may earn a physical education credit through participation in athletics or marching band. Successful completion of two athletic or marching band seasons is required.
- A student may receive credit in any foreign language not offered by the school providing the student meets the competency criteria established by the Superintendent.
- Testing Out: A student may receive credit in any subject offered at the high school in which she/he is not enrolled upon receiving a grade of C+ (77%) or better on the final examination or test out assessment. If there is no final examination or test out assessment for the course, the instructor working in conjunction with the building principal shall determine a valid means of assessing the student's mastery of the subject.
- PA – 141 allows modifications to the above courses through a person curriculum. See your counselor for additional information.

World Languages offered through Ferndale High School

Available to 9th grade students: Spanish, German & French

Available to 11th and 12th grade students only: Russian & Japanese

INSTRUCTIONS

All students will take 6 classes per semester. Freshmen will be pre scheduled into their four required academic classes (see reverse side) based on test scores, grades and teacher recommendations.

Please choose the most appropriate option below and follow the given directions to complete the schedule sheet on the reverse side.

- A. If your student chooses to take **BOTH** a world language class (French, Spanish or German) **AND** a music class (orchestra, band or choir), then please write the chosen language class in both semester boxes of the first row for electives. Then, write the chosen music class in both semester boxes in the bottom row of electives (world language and music classes are year long classes).

- B. If your student chooses **EITHER** a world language class **OR** a music class, then please write the chosen language or music class in the first row of elective boxes (world language and music classes are year long classes). Then write two of the three required semester classes (Health, Computer Applications, and Swim or Gym) in the bottom row of electives.

- C. If your student does **NOT** choose a language class **OR** a music class, then write Health and Computer Applications (required one semester classes) in the first row of elective boxes. Then write either Gym or Swim (required one semester class) and an elective class to complete the bottom row of elective boxes. Also, please choose two alternative elective courses as well.

We will review these options with you on February 13.

Required 9th Grade Courses

Placement will be made based on test scores, grades and teacher recommendations.

English:	Strategic ELA 9, English 9, Honors English 9
Mathematics:	College Prep Math, Algebra 1, Geometry, Honors Geometry
Science:	Physics First, Honors Physics First, Honors Biology
Social Studies:	U.S. History & Geography, Honors U.S. History & Geography

FRESHMAN YEAR COURSE SELECTION FORM

Class of 2016

STUDENT NAME: _____
(Last) , (First)

PRIMARY PHONE: _____

PARENT NAME: _____

PRIMARY EMAIL: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Please see back of this sheet.

1ST SEMESTER CLASS	2ND SEMESTER CLASS
English 9	English 9
Algebra 1	Algebra 1
Physics First	Physics First
U.S. History & Geography	U.S. History & Geography
Elective:	Elective:
Elective:	Elective:

Alternates: _____