

Lanier High School 9th Grade CORE COURSES

What are core courses?

Core courses are math, social studies, language arts, and science courses that are required for graduation.

Which core courses will I take in the 9th grade?

All 9th grade students are required to take **9th Grade Language Arts**. This course is offered at the honors/gifted or college preparatory level.

Most 9th grade students will take **Biology**. This course is offered at the honors/gifted or college preparatory level. Strong science students who plan to take AP Biology in the 10th grade may take **Honors/Gifted Chemistry**. 8th grade students qualifying for H/G Chemistry must have:

- 8th grade science teacher recommendation

- Score of 90 or better on the Physical Science EOC and math Georgia Milestones in middle school

- Final grade of 90 or better in middle school science courses.

Students participating in the CDAT 9 program will take **Chemistry (CP or HG level)**.

All 9th grade students are required to take either **Algebra: Concepts and Connections** or **Geometry: Concepts and Connections** or **Accelerated Geometry**.

How will I register for my core courses?

Your current language arts, math, and science teachers will review your academic progress during 8th grade and will recommend the appropriate level of 9th grade language arts and the appropriate math and science courses for next year.

What if my parents or I disagree with my teacher's recommendation?

Parents and students will have an opportunity to request a different level of science, and/or language arts, and/or a different math course for 9th grade when the **Student Course Request Profile** is distributed later in the semester. The **Student Course Request Profile** will include instructions for parents wishing to change the core recommendations provided by 8th grade teachers.

Can I take a social studies course during 9th grade?

LHS offers three elective social studies courses: World Geography, Law/Contemporary Issues, and Advanced Placement Human Geography. While these courses count for elective credit and do not fulfill social studies graduation requirements, they do affect the HOPE grade point average. AP Human Geography is strongly recommended for students who wish to pursue a rigorous high school academic record.

World History is a 10th grade course, and is not an option for 9th graders.

What other courses are required for 9th grade students?

All 9th grade students are automatically registered for **Health** and **Personal Fitness**. While these courses are categorized as electives, they fulfill graduation requirements. Both are one-semester courses. Students may opt to take one or either during summer school through Gwinnett Online Campus*. Once a student registers for summer school Health and/or Personal Fitness, he/she will be moved into the first alternate elective listed on the **Lanier High School 9th Grade Registration Database**.

*Please see the Gwinnett Online Campus webpage (gcpsk12.org/GwinnettOnline) for summer school registration information.