

Frequently Asked Questions: Transition from Grade 8 to 9

Q How do I know my child is pursuing a curriculum that will be appropriate for admittance to a 4-year university?

The P-CEP graduation requirements not only reflect the State of Michigan's graduation requirements, but also meet the President's council requirement. (Refer to options in the P-CEP Course Catalog found online).

Q What is a "Smaller Learning Community"?

Ninth graders will have the option to join a "Smaller Learning Community". Students will be grouped with a pair of teachers for the core subjects of English and Social Studies.

Q Can my child have Band/Chorus plus World Language and still meet all the graduation requirements?

The requirements can be met during the high school years. Some requirements can be taken in the junior/senior years. An option (not required) would be to take Health and/or Personal Fitness during summer school; or attempt to test out of any course required for graduation.

Q Does my child have to take a World Language in high school?

Yes. P-CCS requires two credits of World Language for graduation. One or more of these credits may be started in middle school and will fulfill the high school graduation requirement. The President's council strongly recommends 2-3 years of World Language. You may check with individual universities about their requirements. (Refer to options in the P-CEP Course Catalog found online).

Q Does my child have to take a Personal Fitness and Health course during grade 9?

It is strongly recommended that the personal Fitness and Health graduation requirements be met during the ninth grade year, if possible. Personal Fitness and Health may be taken in other years or in summer school. A course test out may also be attempted.

Q What is Journey?

Journey is a voluntary support program, for 9th graders who previously failed to perform at their ability level and wish to improve their performance. Contact: Nicol.Shamey@pccsk12.com for further information.

Q When will my child receive their schedule for next year?

You will receive a newsletter in early August giving you schedule pick-up dates for later in the month, other important information is included in this newsletter. This information will be posted on the P-CEP website as well.

Q How often will my child have homework?

In general, students will be assigned homework nightly.

What kind of changes can be made in my child's schedule?

Q must follow their schedules. Changes can only be made for the following reasons:

- An incomplete schedule
- A failure from a previous semester in a prerequisite course
- Completion of a course in summer school
- Misplacement as verified by the counselor

Q How can I communicate with my child's teachers?

When you attend Open House and Parent conferences, teachers will share the best way to contact them. In general, you can email teachers or call the main office of the teacher's building and leave a message for the teacher. Parents should view their student's grades through MiStar Parent Portal online on a regular basis. The link is available on the P-CEP website.

Q Is there a source of information readily available to me concerning programs at P-CEP?

The P-CEP Course Catalog and Student Code of Conduct (both accessible online in the P-CEP website) are great resources to assist students and parents in decision making during the high school years. The Park website has a wealth of information about current events, news items and curriculum. www.pccsk12.com

Q Will my child be going to classes in all three schools?

Most likely, yes.

Q If my child struggles academically, what classes are offered to assist 9th graders?

P-CEP offers academic support in many ways: Some students will be placed in an Algebra Support class as well as Algebra 1. This class will take the place of an elective. Students who struggle with English have support classes such as Reading Writing Workshop.

Math, Writing, Geo Phys and Chem labs are offered during lunch hours at the Park. National Honor Society tutors are available at the public libraries after school/evenings.

Q My child speaks another language at home is there English Language services?

Each student that has been identified as having another language in the home, is evaluated on his/her English language proficiency. The P-CCS district's English Learners Program provides academic and language development support in the elementary and secondary levels.