
CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 2028
9th Grade Orientation
Program Planning Guide
2024-2025

Chatham Central School District

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Chatham Central School District is to provide an education that nurtures intellectual curiosity and focuses on academic and cultural foundations. Our students will graduate with the knowledge, problem-solving abilities and character needed to participate ethically, adapt, succeed and contribute in their future educational, career, and community endeavors.

CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL

**50 Woodbridge Avenue
Chatham, New York 12037
(518) 392-2400**

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Chatham Central Schools

Dear Incoming Freshmen,

Over the next few months we will be working together with you and your families to prepare you to enter your freshmen year at Chatham High School as a member of the Class of 2028.

All students are required to take six classes and physical education. We recommend that you strive to meet the demands of a challenging schedule, as this will best prepare you to reach your future goals.

You will be working closely with teachers and Guidance who will provide programming and support for you throughout your freshman year. Transition program topics may include: transitions to high school, academic integrity, building study skills, healthy life choices.

In addition to our academic program, you are encouraged to participate in the various extracurricular and athletic programs offered at the school. Our athletic program has grown in respect and recognition over the last ten years. Our extracurricular activities involve such things as robotics club, class activities, literary magazine, gender equality club, outdoor club, and the school newspaper, to name a few. We strongly encourage all of our students to get involved in extracurricular activities. A well-rounded resume will surely help in the college application process as well as offer you an opportunity to connect with your school community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Guidance Office at (518) 392-1575 or the Principal's Office at (518) 392-1570.

We are excited to meet the Class of 2028 and we wish you all the best in the second half of the school year!

Sincerely,

John Thorsen
Principal

Justin Forrest
Assistant Principal

Chatham High School Sports & Extracurricular Clubs

The following extracurricular activities are offered at the high school. Belonging to a club or team is a valuable part of a well-rounded education. All Students are encouraged to participate.

High School clubs meet regularly throughout the school year. Meetings are announced during homeroom beginning in September. In some cases, club availability is based on student interest.

Baseball
Basketball
Bowling
Cheerleading
CHS Musical
Cross Country
DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion)
Ecology Club
Football
Gender Equality
Golf
Literary Club/Magazine
Model Congress/UN
Outdoor Recreation

Robotics
Shakespeare & Co
Ski Club
Soccer
Softball
Student
Government Tennis
Track
Volleyball
Weight Room
Yearbook

Graduation Requirements

Graduation from Chatham High School requires the fulfillment of course and examination requirements as outlined by the New York State Board of Regents. The Board of Regents has proposed amendments to the current graduation requirements to establish multiple, comparable pathways to graduation for all students.

In addition to the requirements below, all Chatham High School students are required to complete a locally developed Senior Project.

Course Requirements

Students must earn the following credits to graduate:

ENGLISH	4 Local	4 Regents*	4 Advanced Regents
SOCIAL STUDIES	4 Local	4 Regents	4 Advanced Regents
MATHEMATICS	3 Local	3 Regents	3 Advanced Regents
SCIENCE	3 Local	3 Regents	3 Advanced Regents
ART/MUSIC/DDP	1 Local	1 Regents	1 Advanced Regents
HEALTH	.5 Local	.5 Regents	.5 Advanced Regents
PHYSICAL ED	2 Local	2 Regents	2 Advanced Regents
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	1 Local	1 Regents	3 Advanced Regents
ELECTIVES	3.5 Local	3.5 Regents	1.5 Advanced Regents
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TOTAL CREDITS	22	22	22

Students who have an IEP earn a CDOS Credential in addition to or instead of one of the diplomas listed above (as determined by the Committee on Special Education)

Current Regents Exam Requirements

Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors

Grades: An average of 90+ on all 8 Regents Exams (Math and/or Science Endorsement available)

Regents Exams:

- 1 English
- 2 Social Studies (Global History & U.S. History)
- 2 Science (Earth Science, Chemistry, or Physics & Living Environment)
- 3 Math (Common Core Exams in Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2)
- 1 Foreign Language/Checkpoint B or CTE Alternative

Diploma with Advanced Designation

Grades: 65+ on all Regents Exams

Regents Exams:

- 1 English
- 2 Social Studies (Global History & U.S. History)
- 2 Science (Earth Science, Chemistry, or Physics & Living Environment)
- 3 Math (Common Core Exams in Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2)
- 1 Foreign Language/Checkpoint B or CTE Alternative

Regents Diploma

Grades: 65+ on all Regents Exam***

Regents Exams:

- 1 English
- 1 Social Studies (Global History or U.S. History)
- 1 Science
- 1 Math (Common Core Exams in Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2)
- And one: 2nd Social Studies Exam or
2nd Math Exam or
2nd Science Exam or
Approved CTE Exam**
CDOS Credential

Local Diploma (Special Education or approved 504 Students only)

Grades: Special Education Students Only*

Regents Exams:

- 1 English
- 1 Social Studies (Global History or U.S. History)
- 1 Science
- 1 Math (Common Core Algebra)
- And one: 2nd Social Studies Exam or
2nd Math Exam or
2nd Science Exam or
Approved CTE Exam**
CDOS Credential

Students with Disabilities have different options. Speak to your counselor for more information.

***CTE Students may have another option. Speak to your counselor for more information.*

****Students scoring between 62-64 may be eligible for an appeal. Speak to your counselor for more information.*

Grading System

A 100-point numerical grading system is in effect.

- Course grades shall be the straight numerical average of all quarter grades (20% each) mid-term exam (5% where applicable) and final/Regents exam (15% or 20%).
- Minimum passing grade shall be 65.
- In the first quarter of any full year course, no grade lower than 50 may be given. In subsequent quarters the actual grade earned shall be recorded.
- In quarter or semester courses the actual grade earned shall be recorded for each grading period.

Students shall be allowed to drop a course only under the following conditions:

- A Student must be enrolled in 6 classes plus Physical Education. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by administration.
- In all courses, a student may drop a course without penalty only in the first five weeks.
- After the five week period a student who drops a course shall receive either a withdraw-pass or withdraw fail as a grade for that course. The student will receive no credit for the course.

A cumulative weighted Grade Point Average (weighted GPA) will be computed for each student. This average will be used in determining class rank.

- Level I final course grades will be multiplied by 1.00 to obtain a weighted grade. (AIS / Remedial / Regents / Applied Courses).
- Level II final course grades will be multiplied by 1.03 to obtain a weighted grade. (Accelerated and Pre-AP Courses).
- Level III final course grades will be multiplied by 1.06 to obtain a weighted grade. This includes Advanced Placement or College Accredited courses taken while in attendance at Chatham.
- The weighted Grade Point Average will be computed as follows: each weighted grade will be multiplied by its credit value; the grades will then be totaled, and divided by the number of credits attempted.
- Independent study shall not be included in class ranking computations unless the course is meeting a graduation requirement. In such a case, approval must be obtained from the Principal and guidance counselor.

An unweighted Grade Point Average (unweighted GPA) will be computed, recorded on report cards and transcripts and used to determine Honor Roll status each quarter.

- The unweighted GPA will be calculated by multiplying the final grade for each course by its credit value. These values will be added together and this total will be divided by the total number of credits.

Students who meet the following criteria for each marking period will be included on the Honor Roll:

- Honors: Unweighted GPA for the marking period of 85 or above with all passing grades.
- High Honors: Unweighted GPA for the marking period of 90 or above with no grade below 80.

Class ranking* is done at the end of the junior year and again at the end of the first semester of the senior year:

- After weighted GPA is computed students will be ranked. The ranking will be recorded based upon 5% intervals.
- This ranking determines honor students, valedictorian, and salutatorian. It is also used to determine eligibility for the National Honor Society. Graduating honors students will be determined by using 3½ years of cumulative weighted GPA of 89.5% and above. National Honor Society eligibility will be based upon obtaining a cumulative weighted GPA of 90% and other factors as outlined in the regulations of the organization.
- The final transcript, including final ranking, done after final exams in June, does not change or alter the status of honor students or valedictorian or salutatorian.

**Students who transfer to Chatham High School will be ranked with their graduating class if they have attended Chatham High School for a minimum of four semesters prior to 12th grade.*

Repeating A Course Previously Passed

Students who wish to repeat a course they have already passed (other than Physical Education, Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Choir, Theater Production & Marketing) may do so at the discretion of Building Administration. Credit will only be awarded for the first attempt. Although both final averages will display on the transcript, only the first attempt will impact the student's grade point average.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

English Department Faculty

Mrs. Meghan Connelly- Academic Team Leader

Mrs. Emily Desmarais

Mrs. Lauren Montgomery

Ms. Jessica Samplaski

Mr. Seth Tillinghaust

The following courses will be offered during the upcoming school year, pending approval by the Board of Education and adequate student enrollment.

English 9 Concepts Full Year Grade 9 1 Credit Level 1 Course

English 9 Concepts will follow the Regents English 9 curriculum, but more emphasis will be placed on the development of the skills needed to successfully meet the State ELA requirements for graduation.

English 9 Full Year Grade 9 1 Credit Level 1 Course

English 9 focuses on Common Core Learning Standards: Reading (Literature, and Informational Text), Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Language. Vocabulary is studied as part of supporting student literacy throughout this course. Students complete assessments including: Common Core-Style Examinations, written responses (expository, narrative, and argument), at least one significant research paper (MLA style) with presentation component, creative pieces, and various responses that prepare students for the Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core).

Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) English 9

Full Year Grade 9 1 Credit Level II Course

9th grade students wishing to undertake a more rigorous course of study may opt for the Pre-AP section.

A summer literacy project is required.

See Entrance / Continuance Requirements below)

PRE-AP ENGLISH ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR 8TH GRADERS ENTERING 9TH GRADE:

1. Entrance Assessment:

A. *The student will complete entrance assessment in a secure setting. This assessment will be evaluated by the 7th-12th grade ELA Academic Team. A score of 80+ is required.*

B. *A student who attended a school other than CMS for 8th grade English must complete the exact entrance assessment (see above). This sample will be evaluated by the 7th-12th grade ELA Academic Team.*

2. GPA:

A. *The student must have an average of 90%-100% at the end of the quarter 3 in a related 8th grade class to be admitted into Pre-AP English 9.*

Students who do not meet Advanced Placement entrance requirements may make an appeal, in writing, to the High School Principal. The deadline to appeals is the Friday following CHS graduation. Appeals will be reviewed by Guidance staff, administration, and department leadership. Appeals should be based on extenuating circumstances that families feel impacted their students' qualifications for AP programming.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Social Studies Department Faculty

Mr. Peter Cook

Mr. Michael Griggs - *Academic Team Leader*

Ms. Ashley Keegan

Mr. Mark Pearson

Mr. Owen Poland

Global History & Geography I

Full Year	Grade 9	1 Credit	Level I Course
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Grade 9 begins with the Paleolithic Era and the development of the first civilizations, continues with an examination of classical societies, and traces the expansion of trade networks and their global impact. This course emphasizes the key themes of interactions over time, shifts in political power, and the role of belief systems.

Advanced Placement (AP) World History I

Full Year	Grade 9	1 Credit	Level III Course
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9th Grade students wishing to undertake a more rigorous course of study may opt for the AP section. This course primarily focuses on early civilization to absolutism around 1750. Students who are successful in AP are those with strong reading and writing skills. This course uses a college level textbook and requires additional time outside the classroom as compared to the Regents level course. **A summer reading and writing assignment is required.**

See Entrance / Continuance Requirements below

PRE-AP WORLD HISTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR 8th GRADERS ENTERING 9th GRADE:

1. The student must have a final grade of 90% - 100% at the end of Quarter 3 in their 8th grade Social Studies class to be admitted into AP World History 9.

2. The student will complete an entrance assessment. This assessment will be evaluated by the 7th-12th grade Social Studies Academic Team.

Students who do not meet Advanced Placement entrance requirements may make an appeal, in writing, to the High School Principal. The deadline for appeals is the Friday following CHS graduation. Appeals will be reviewed by guidance staff, administration and departmental leadership. Appeals should be based on extenuating circumstances that families feel impacted their students' qualifications for AP programming.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Mathematics Department Faculty

Mrs. Jill Chittenden-Academic Team Leader

Mrs. Katharine Curtis

Mrs. Jennifer Dilorio

Ms. Elizabeth Pegarella

Mrs. Kathryn Rossi

The following courses will be offered during the upcoming school year, pending approval by the Board of Education and adequate student enrollment.

Algebra 1A/1B	Two Year	Grade 9 & 10	2 Credits	Level 1 Course
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This two-year course serves as an introduction to Algebra. It covers many topics such as the properties of real numbers, evaluating, graphing and analyzing functions, as well as data analysis and statistics. Students will also gain experience using the graphing calculators. This course is designed for students who require more time to meet the expectations of the Algebra I curriculum. ***Students are selected for this course of study based on test scores and teacher recommendations. All students will be expected to pass a departmental final at the end of the first year and the NYS Algebra Regents Exam based on current NYS requirements at the end of the second year.***

Algebra 1	Full Year	Grade 9	1 Credit	Level 1 Course
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This course serves as an introduction to Algebra. Algebra I students will study content standards within four conceptual categories: Number & Quantity, Algebra, Functions, and Statistics & Probability. Students will evaluate, graph, analyze, and model a variety of functions. Using the graphing calculator, students will also interpret and describe data using regression and statistics. ***All students will take the NYS Algebra Regents Exam based on current NYS requirements.***

Geometry	Grades 9, 10, 11, 12	1 Credit	Level 1 Course
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Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I.

The general goals of this course are for students to develop an understanding of geometric concepts and logical reasoning skills and be able to apply these skills to the solution of problems. Geometry requires the use of skills learned in Algebra I. Topics include: angles, triangles, parallel lines and planes, congruent and similar polygons, right triangles, circles, coordinate geometry, areas of polygons and circles, surface areas and volumes of solids, transformations, constructions, proofs, and right angle trigonometry. Emphasis is placed on deductive reasoning, logic, and problem solving. ***All students will take the NYS Geometry Regents Exam based on current NYS requirements.***

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Science Department Faculty

Mrs. Brooke Decker

Mrs. Sandy Fischer– Academic Team Leader

Mr. Thomas Gazda

Mrs. Patricia Songayllo

Physical Setting/Earth Science Regents/Lab

Full Year Grades 9-10 1 Credit Level 1 Course

Earth Science follows the state designed curriculum which includes topics in astronomy, meteorology, physical geology and historical geology. In order to be eligible to sit for the Regents in June, a student must complete the mandated state requirement for lab work. Additional lab periods are included in order to meet this requirement. Earth Science is usually completed by students during their freshman year.

Science Links

Full Year Grade 9 1 Credit Level 1 Course

Science Links is an integrated science program that uses high interest themes to engage students in science learning. In Science Links students will learn science by doing many laboratory investigations. This course is also designed to meet the New York State Standards for science. The goal of this course is to prepare students for a New York State Science Regents at the end of 10th grade.

Living Environment / Regents/ Lab

Full Year Grade 9, 10 1 Credit Level 1 Course

This course offers investigation into evolution, reproduction, heredity, human anatomy and physiology, and the interrelationships among organisms. Students will be required to master large quantities of information in order to obtain a foundation for understanding the fundamental characteristics and functions of living things. Students must also complete the required laboratory skills in order to gain admittance to the Regents exam in June. Independent research will also be a part of course requirement.

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

Language Department Faculty

Mrs. Alicia Andersen

Mrs. Elizabeth Conley- Academic Team Leader

The ability to communicate in another language is a vital skill in today's world. Language study provides students with a valuable linguistic tool, and it develops cross-cultural skills and understandings. The proficiencies acquired through studying another language give students cognitive, analytical, and communication skills that carry over into many other academic studies. In addition, proficiency in multiple languages is a credential sought by most colleges and employers.

Spanish I	Full Year	Grade 9	1 Credit	Level 1 Course
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Spanish I is a beginning level course. This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. The first year of learning a language is very important; this is where the foundation of Spanish is built. The course focuses on the four main communication skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing while including many activities designed to introduce students to the customs, cultures, and geography of Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish II	Full Year	Grade 9	1 Credit	Level 1 Course
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Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th & 8th grade Spanish or Spanish I, if offered, and Checkpoint A Exam.

Spanish II is an intermediate level course. The main goal of this course is to enhance the proficiency of the four main communication skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Thematic units enrich students' grammar and broaden vocabulary. Students will also engage in a variety of cultural activities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hispanic cultures.

NINTH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

Chorus*

Band*

Orchestra*

Jazz Band - Audition required. Students must also be enrolled in Band or Orchestra.

Music Technology & Production- This course is for anyone interested in popular/electronic music composition, recording, and production. Students will analyze, compose, and understand different aspects of electronic music.

Studio Art* - This course includes the study of art history and related studio art projects, which include the fundamentals of drawing, painting and design. This course uses a textbook, requires writing assignments and includes a final exam. The course is required for students planning to take additional art courses while in high school.

Design/Drawing for Production*+ - This course will emphasize the design development process of a product and how a model of that product is produced, analyzed and evaluated using a Computer Aided Design (CAD) system. Most of the class time will be spent working on the computer doing various designs using CAD.

Principles of Engineering+ - This hands-on, integrative, laboratory based course introduces students to concepts of engineering such as ethics, design, modeling, optimization systems and technology/society interactions. The class will revolve around problem-solving activities while incorporating math, science and technology. Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra I.

Theater Production & Marketing*- This course provides an overview of fundamental theater & marketing concepts and strategies relevant to promoting artists and creative products.

Sports Marketing and Financial Literacy- Students learn the basic functions of marketing and apply to different projects and activities, some relating to actual school athletic events. Students will learn various career paths in the sports marketing industry. Financial Literacy will educate students about sound money management skills and the financial planning process. Students will evaluate spending habits, create a budget, and discover how to save.

Financial Literacy is an introductory business course where students will learn to develop positive money management skills, create a financial plan for the future, understand the role of open credit, consumer loans, insurance, managing investments, and estate planning.

Intro to Business & Financial Literacy – In Intro to Business, students will learn about our economy, career exploration, and workplace skills. Financial Literacy is an introductory business course where students will learn to develop positive money management skills, create a financial plan for the future, understand the role of open credit, consumer loans, insurance, managing investments, and estate planning.

Health (1 semester) – This course will focus on seven health-education skills (self-management, relationship-management, stress-management, communication, decision-making, advocacy, and goal-setting). It fulfills the New York State graduation requirement for Health.

Discovering Computer Science- In this introductory programming course, students will learn will learn to express themselves creatively and solve problems using computational devices. This course is for students with little or no experience studying computer science. Students will learn through a series of engaging, hands-on labs and projects.

Web Design (1 Semester)- This half year course will take the student through the entire process of planning and building a website.

**These courses meet the one-credit requirement in Art, Music or DDP for graduation.*

+ Although not all students must participate, Design and Drawing for Production & Principles of Engineering are foundation courses for Project Lead the Way. Project Lead the Way is a program designed to prepare students for a pre-engineering or engineering technology course of study.