



EDWIN O. SMITH
HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Rising Ninth-Grader and Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

This letter comes to you with warm greetings and best wishes for a Happy New Year. It serves as an introduction to E. O. Smith High School (EOSHS) and the transition planned for your teenager in the months ahead. There are several activities planned for eighth graders over the next few months that are designed to introduce them to EOSHS as well as to ease their transition into a new school environment, and we'd like you to know about them. With this in mind, we offer a preview of these coming attractions for you and your growing 8th grader who will soon be moving on to high school.

The first activity will actually be on Thursday, February 2nd at 6:30 PM. We will offer a presentation designed to inform you of course selections and the process involved with students constructing their four-year plans of study. The presentation will also include information about our academic support system and co-curricular offerings here at E.O. Smith. This presentation will take place in the auditorium at EOSHS and will follow with a guided tour of the school facility. We encourage you to attend this presentation together as we feel it is important to share the experience to allow for a more in-depth dialogue with each other about E.O. Smith and your transition to our school.

There will be a **February/March visit by EOSHS counselors** to each of the sending schools (Ashford School, Horace Porter School, Hall Memorial School, and Mansfield Middle School) during which time students will learn about course offerings as well. At that time, counselors will present pertinent information to 8th graders and answer questions they may have. Much of this will likely be a reiteration of what they've already learned from teachers and counselors at their schools, all of whom are fully knowledgeable of the curriculum offered at EOSHS.

In the next several weeks, your current teachers will make recommendations for placement in ninth-grade English, Geography/Politics, Math, Science, and World Language. These recommendations will then be mailed home from your local school. Teachers in each of the sending schools are well informed of the course content in their specific subject areas and the challenges presented at the various levels. Historical data has clearly indicated that their recommendations prove to be accurate placements. That said, parents/guardians and students have the right to appeal a recommendation and choose another level (or course) if they so desire and if prerequisites (presuming there are any for a particular course) are satisfied. Students will be presented with an opportunity to select additional electives if they wish. Keep in mind that eight "time slots" are available in the high school schedule. We encourage at least one study hall in these slots. The recommendations along with elective choices will be entered into our system when the 2017-18 master schedule is constructed.

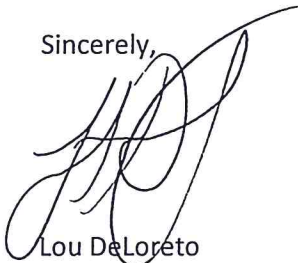
As you move through this process, we encourage you to read the on-line Course Description Catalog that is available in Naviance. You may access this site by going to "Guidance Matters" (<http://eosguidance.blogspot.com>). Once there, click on "Family Connections" in the upper right corner of the page. A sample student has been created for any **guest** to access. The user name is lisadoe and the password is lisadoe. Once into Naviance, click on the "Courses" tab and you'll find course descriptions there. The daily schedule is located on the school website (www.eosmith.org) as well, giving you a sense of how each school day looks in a typical week.

Regarding 2017-18 course schedules, they are scheduled to be **mailed home to students in May**. A letter accompanying the schedule will provide more pertinent information at that time.

Also, **in June** (date not yet determined), an activity night will be held for eighth-graders. This activity night will be hosted by the Peer Natural Helpers (PNH) at EOS (more information will follow). **In August**, incoming ninth-graders will be contacted by a PNH member and encouraged to attend the orientation program just prior to the start of school. More information about this program will be provided during the summer.

There is certainly a good deal of information to digest in this letter, particularly if this is your first time moving through the process. Rest assured that it should all make sense in due time. If at any time it doesn't, I encourage you to contact us with your questions or concerns. With all this said, we look forward to seeing you soon and to working with you over the next four years.

Sincerely,



Lou DeLoreto
Principal



Douglas Melody
Director of Guidance