Dear Students and Parents:

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2020 – 2021 Course Guide. Mrs. Lisa Capone-Steiger, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Marybeth Kopacz and Mrs. Natalie Topylko, Directors of Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Sinead Crews, Director of School Counseling; Mrs. Marjorie Duffy, Assistant Principal; the curriculum content area supervisors, and the school counselors have all collaborated in the development of this resource to ensure that you have all of the required information at hand for program planning and scheduling. Additionally, this document includes descriptions of a wide variety of exciting and challenging course opportunities for students. A four-year planning tool is also included to assist you in the course selection process. Please keep the guide readily available for quick reference to policies, procedures, and student services you may wish to access during the school year.

Please read the introductory pages of the guide thoroughly prior to making course selections with your LHS and/or HMS School Counselor. You may hear many opinions expressed by fellow students and parents about the course selection process. While colleges and universities place great emphasis on taking advanced-level courses in high school, it is equally important that you develop a well-rounded program that not only addresses academic rigor, but also enables you to have a balanced, healthy lifestyle. Your interests, current level of performance in the various subject areas, and your teachers’ recommendations are the best predictors of your future success at the higher level. The school counselors will be able to answer your questions about different courses and programs available to you. In your schedule decision-making process, please think about your current involvement with outside organizations and possible time commitments for the LHS sports and co-curricular activities you may join. The ideal schedule is comprised of the five required core courses and two to three exciting electives that reflect your interests, all set at the appropriate level of intellectual challenge that respects your capabilities. All students will be scheduled for eight, fifty-six-minute class periods and one unit lunch period to refresh, relax, and socialize with classmates.

Course requests will be accessible for verification in the Genesis Portal after the student’s scheduling appointment. Should there be any questions or concerns, parents and students are responsible for notifying their school counselor regarding a change in course selection. Schedule changes will be honored throughout the scheduling process until April 3, 2020 and again in the summer. Please do not schedule any course on a “try-out” basis thinking that you can simply change it at a later date. I heartily encourage you to make reasonable, informed course choices to ensure that you will be able to maintain your desired level of performance. There is no guarantee that desired classes and electives can be retained should you require a level change due to a performance issue once the school year has started.

It is my sincere hope that you will enjoy the upcoming school year in one of the best high schools in New Jersey and that you will take advantage of all the programs, resources, and supports we have in place for you.

Mark Stern
Principal