



Lake Gibson Middle School - Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get a PE waiver? Can anyone waive PE?

PE waivers are available on our website, as well as in the School Counseling Office. Students must meet qualifications in order to waive PE, which includes: participation in a physical activity outside of the school day that meets or exceeds the mandated requirements OR enrollment in another year-long class offered by the school. See the waiver form for more details.

Is AVID available at LGMS?

Yes, AVID is available for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. AVID is an in-school academic college prep support program that prepares students for college eligibility and success.

What electives offered are High School credit for 8th graders?

We offer several elective classes that will provide our students with high school credit. These courses require 7th grade pre-requisites. Refer to the course description for those details. The electives we offer for High School credit are: Agricultural Science, Art 2: Advanced, Culinary Arts, Digital Media Fundamentals, Health & Medical Skills, and Spanish 1.

I thought students had only 7 classes. Why does my child have more courses on her course request? Some elective classes are semester courses. When semester courses are combined for the year your child should have 7 classes.

My daughter is in 7th grade and has U.S. History on her schedule. Her friend is in 7th grade but she has Civics. Is this an error? Students that score a Level 3 or above on the ELA portion of the Florida Standards Assessment are scheduled into Civics. Students that score Level 1 or 2 are scheduled into U.S. History. This was a decision made by the Polk County School District.

My friend told me students were not required to take a reading class. Why does my child have intensive reading on her schedule? Students that score a Level 3 or above on the ELA portion of the Florida Standardized Assessment do not have a reading class. Students scoring a level 1 or 2 have an intensive reading class.

What if my child did not take the FSA or is coming from another state? Students without standardized test scores are scheduled using available academic information such as grades and any previous assessments.

My son said he chose video on the course request. It is not on his schedule. Why? Some courses such as video required an application process and teacher approval. Your son may not have completed the application process or was not able to get the class due to a scheduling conflict with academic courses.

My daughter has only one of the electives she requested, my son did not get any electives he wanted but my friend's children have all the electives they requested, why?

Scheduling priority is given to academic and required courses. Electives are then scheduled. Students are requested to choose at least 5 electives to help ensure they get at least one of the choices. Due to academic course availability and class size it may not be possible to schedule students first few elective choices.

My son selected one elective, but now wants a different one. Can he change?

The number of students who sign up for each course determines teacher assignments. At the beginning of the year academic class adjustments are the priority. Student elective change requests are then reviewed to see if the change is possible by considering class size and academic course placement. We will make every effort to put a student in the courses they request if they are available.

Why can't my child have 3 elective courses?

There are several reasons a student would not have 3 elective courses. Students who score a 1 or 2 on their ELA Florida Standardized Assessment are placed into a reading class, which takes the place of one of their elective courses. Students who previously failed an academic course are placed in a credit recovery computer lab class to make up the failed course. This serves as one of their electives.

Can I pick my child's teacher?

Due to scheduling limitations, no. All of our faculty are highly qualified in their content area, but they have different teaching styles. Since our Guidance counselors keep the same students all 3 years of their middle school education, they grow to know your child's educational needs well. If you feel the need to meet with your child's counselor, set up a face-to-face meeting. If that is not possible, send in a letter. Frame your discussion in terms of *what* your child needs, rather than *who* your child needs. Share information that makes your child unique. Discuss personality traits, past experiences, learning styles and disability-related issues that you would like to be considered when assigning courses.

What's the difference between an elective class and a pre-academy class?

Career Pre-academics are small, personalized learning communities within a middle school. Pre-academies include a college-prep curriculum and lead to industry certification. Students enter pre-academies through an application process. Visit www.polkacademies.com to learn more about our academies and the application process. Elective classes do not require the academy application process and are open to all students.

What is the school policy on student schedule changes after school has started?

A considerable amount of time and consideration is dedicated to the scheduling of classes. Students are placed in Math and Language Arts classes based on state guidelines for student performance. Students are given the opportunity to choose from elective classes offered for their grade level. In most cases, students receive their top choices; however, due to the popularity of some electives, unfortunately some students do not receive their first choices. Because of these reasons, student schedules are not changed unless there has been an error in the scheduling process and/or administration feels it is necessary.