

• O' BRIEN MIDDLE SCHOOL •

FAMILY GUIDE TO:

THE 2022–2023 SCHOOL YEAR

CREATED BY:

O' BRIEN COUNSELING



O'BRIEN LIONS

*** All information in this document is updated with the most current information available, but it is subject to change or adjustment without notice. ***

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GENERAL O'BRIEN INFORMATION:

O'BRIEN COUNSELING DEPARTMENT:

Your student's counselor is determined by your students last name:

- Student Last Names A-G:
 - Mr. Ryan Howe
- Student Last Names H-P:
 - Ms. Alejandra Reyes
- Student Last Names Q-Z:
 - Mrs. Adrienne Hendrixson-Metcalf
 - Counseling Department Lead

*(** Please be aware that there is a service dog who services one of our counselors. This dog is not to be distracted from her work or petted and will not interact with students. **)*

O'BRIEN PRIDELAND DAY:

Prideland Day is an opportunity for families to come to campus to: complete online registration, free and reduced lunch application, obtain a paper copy of your students schedule, pay any fees, make sure you can login to your Infinite Campus Portal, submit shot records, take your students ID photo, purchase school uniforms through Kates Logos, find your students classes, and more!

- Prideland Day for the 2022-2023 School year will be: TO BE DETERMINED

UNIFORMS:

All O'Brien students will wear their uniform daily:

- Tops:
 - Solid Black or White Polo. Polos may have: the O'Brien logo, or a logo smaller than a quarter
 - Undershirts must be solid: black, white, or grey
 - Sweatshirts: solid black or white. Sweatshirts may have the O'Brien logo, or a logo smaller than a quarter
 - If the sweatshirt has a hood, students are NOT permitted to wear the hood on campus
- Bottoms:
 - Solid black or khaki pants, shorts, or skirt (shorts and skirts must be knee length). Black jeans, sweatpants, and leggings are acceptable if they are not transparent, have rips/holes, or have any stripes, markings, or colors
- Shoes:
 - Any shoe is acceptable if it is: close toed, not a slipper, and is not deemed a distraction
- PE Uniforms:
 - Tops: any dark blue/navy top. Bottoms: any grey athletic shorts or sweatpants

GENERAL SCHOOL STRUCTURES:

- O'Brien does not have lockers.
 - All work will be electronic using the school's one-to-one laptop device structure
- O'Brien is a NO backpack school.
 - Work will primarily be electronic, and students will have a laptop bag, eliminating the need for a standard backpack
 - All personal and hygiene supplies must fit in the laptop bag
 - Students are permitted to carry a water bottle and are permitted to bring a lunch bag/box from home
- O'Brien has a firm no cellphone AND earbud policy.
 - While students are on campus cell phones and earbuds must remain off and out of sight throughout the day
- Parent and Student Infinite Campus Portal:
 - Students, parents, and guardians should ensure they can log into the Parent and Student Infinite Campus (IC) portal to ensure access to:
 - Students most current and accurate schedule, grades, attendance, behavior notes, teacher contact information and email capabilities
 - If you are unable to log into your portal, please contact the O'Brien main office (775-677-5420)

CLASS STRUCTURES

CLASSES FOR STUDENTS BASED ON GRADE:

(** there could be individual exceptions to these pathways **)

6TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full year classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advisory ○ English ○ Math ○ Science ○ Social Studies ○ Music • Semester classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total Fitness ○ Art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full year classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advisory ○ English ○ Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Math 7 or ▪ Math 7/8 ○ Science ○ Social Studies ○ PE • Semester classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Healthy You ○ Living STEAM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full year classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advisory ○ English ○ Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Math 8 or ▪ Algebra ○ Science ○ Social Studies ○ PE ○ Computers

Possible elective classes for students with specific learning tracks:

- **7th grade students taking Math 7/8:**
 - May have Spanish in place of one of the grade level electives
- **8th grade students taking Algebra:**
 - May have Spanish in place of one of the grade level electives
- **All 7th & 8th grade students:**
 - Music and Spanish classes are available at students' request and will replace one of the grade level electives
- **Students will not have a choice which elective Music or Spanish replaces**
 - Music and Spanish are a full year commitment
 - Schedules will not be changed mid-year to accommodate elective change requests

CLASS Q & A'S AND FAQ

1. Why are electives by grade level?
 - a. This allows all students to have the opportunity to experience every elective.
 - b. Allows elective teachers to be a part of grade specific Teams, decisions, and interventions.
 - c. Prevents competition between electives and allows all students to have equitable scheduling.
2. Can I take an elective class outside of my grade level pathway?
 - a. No
3. Can I make any schedule changes during the school year?
 - a. No. Classes are predetermined and scheduled by the students' grade, academic team, and individualized education requirements.
4. If I elect to take Music and/or Spanish, can I change my schedule mid-year and take one of the grade level electives?
 - a. No. A student's schedule will be locked from the start of the year and adjustments will not be made.
5. As a 6th grade student, am I guaranteed to be enrolled in the Music class I request?
 - a. No. We do our best to ensure students are enrolled in the classes they request, but there are circumstances where a student's academic classes, determine the Music class they take.
6. I am a 6th or 7th grade student; can I flip when I have my semester elective classes?
 - a. No. Classes will not be shifted.

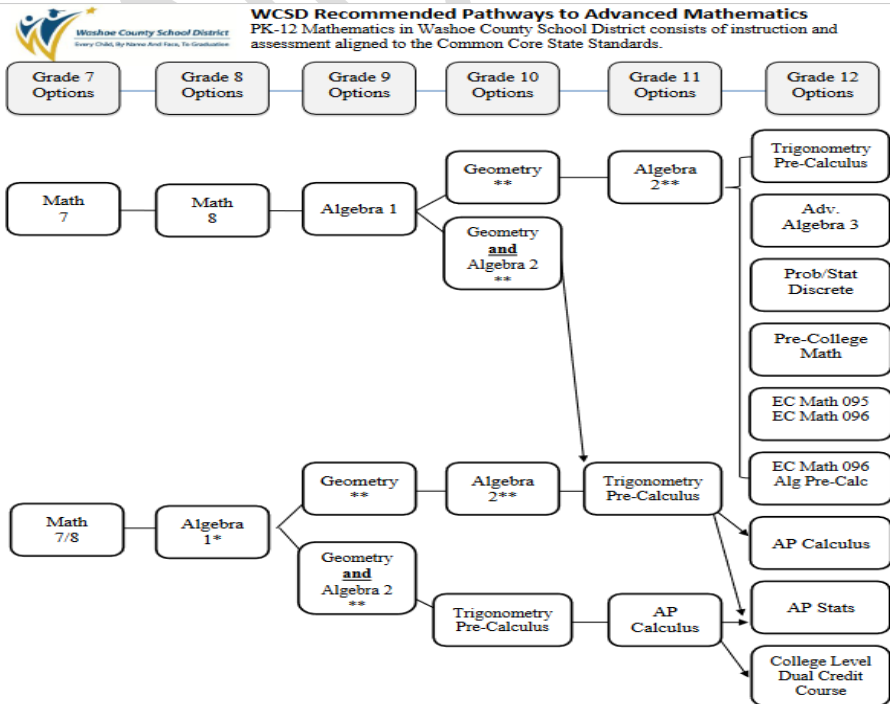
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7. If I am in Math 7/8 or Algebra, why do I take Spanish?
 - a. Spanish is considered an Honors level elective class. It prepares students for their high school language requirement as well as provides students the opportunity to take the APPL test for high school advanced placement.
8. Why do 8th grade students take Computer Literacy?
 - a. Computer Literacy is a high school graduation requirement. Offering Computer Literacy to our 8th grade students, allows them to take the Credit by Exam (CBE) at the end of the year. This test provides the opportunity for students to earn their High School Computer Science credit, which allows them to bypass the class in high school.
9. Can anyone take Leadership?
 - a. No. Leadership has an application and interview process. Any student interested in Leadership, who meets the class requirements, can contact the leadership teacher: Mr. Reinhold for the application and interview process.

MATH OPTIONS

ADVANCED/HONORS MATH OPTIONS		
CLASS	REQUIREMENTS	DESCRIPTION
Math 7/8 Accelerated (HS Pathway)	7th Grade Only Teacher recommendations Score of 225+ on Math MAP Test Level 3 or Higher on Math SBAC	An accelerated math class that combines 7th and 8th grade curriculum to prepare students for Algebra in 8th grade. Students must maintain a C or higher for each quarter and have excellent work ethic with 95% homework completion in this class. Students must also have good attendance throughout the school year.
Algebra Accelerated (HS Pathway)	8th Grade Only Passed Math 7 th with C or better Score of 235+ on Math MAP Level 3 or Higher on Math SBAC	This course is offered for High School placement, enabling students to potentially begin their High School careers in Formal Geometry their freshman year. Students must maintain a C or higher for each quarter and have excellent work ethic with 95% homework completion in this class. Students must also have good attendance throughout the school year. Students are required to retake tests that fall below a C. A district final is given at the end of each semester, which students must pass with a 70% or higher to be eligible for Formal Geometry.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL MATH PATHWAYS



* High School credit is not awarded for high school level courses taken prior to 9th grade. Students must earn a C or better to progress on to the next course in sequence
 ** Students choose from two class options to fulfill this requirement – Geometry or Formal Geometry (H) and Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 (H)

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MUSIC ELECTIVES

GENERAL MUSIC ELECTIVE		
CLASS	REQUIREMENTS	DESCRIPTION
Music Exploration (Year Long Elective)	None	This course covers a wide variety of introductory Music topics. Units may include: jazz, singing, instrumental music, dance, music history, music theory, digital music, songwriting, arranging and composing, improvisation, and music wellness.

CHORUS ELECTIVES		
CLASS	REQUIREMENTS	DESCRIPTION
Beginning Chorus (Year Long Elective)	None	Students will learn the basics of proper vocal technique and beginning skills such as sight-reading, ear training, musical interpretation, and expressions. Classical, Broadway, and Pop tunes will be sung.
Advanced Chorus (Year Long Elective)	Beginning Chorus	Students will continue developing proper vocal production, technique, music reading skills and sight singing skills. Three-part (Soprano, Alto, & Baritone) singing will be the focus using Classical, Broadway, and Pop tunes.

BAND ELECTIVES		
CLASS	REQUIREMENTS	DESCRIPTION
Beginning Band (Year Long Elective)	None	Metal and woodwind instruments: flute, trombone, trumpet, clarinet, alto saxophone, percussion (mallets/keyboards instruments). Emphasis on reading rhythms and musical notation. This is a performance-based class with performance expectations. Students can rent instruments from agencies in the community, the school, or can use an instrument already in the family.
Intermediate Band (Year Long Elective)	Beginning Band OR Teacher Recommendation	This class furthers the development of young musicians and delves deeper into the content that was learned in Beginning Band. There is an emphasis on rhythm and how to play with others in an ensemble setting. Students will learn how to read music properly, as well as learning the art of listening to each other. This is a performance-based class with performance expectations.
Advanced Band (Year Long Elective)	Intermediate Band OR Teacher Recommendation	In this class students will continue their development in instrumental music through rehearsal and performances. Students are required to attend all mandatory events. There will be cross-curricular assignments that may include writing, reading, and history. Students will build upon the skills they learned in prior band classes and begin preparing for high school band. This is a performance-based class with performance expectations.

ORCHESTRA ELECTIVES		
CLASS	REQUIREMENTS	DESCRIPTION
Beginning Orchestra (Year Long Elective)	None	Students learn to play the violin, viola, cello, or standup bass. Students will learn instrumental, bowing skills, reading music, and tuning your instruments. The class includes development of skills necessary to become independent as a musician. Students will perform solos' as well as have performance opportunities.
Intermediate Orchestra (Year Long Elective)	Beginning Orchestra OR Teacher Recommendation	A class for students who are familiar with basic orchestral techniques who are looking to improve musical skills and continuing to learn the violin, viola, cello, and standup bass. Students will perform solos' as well as have performance opportunities.
Advanced Orchestra (Year Long Elective)	Intermediate Orchestra OR Teacher Recommendation	Students who are looking to advance their musicianship on the violin, viola, cello, and standup bass. Continuation of instrumental techniques in class that balance the development of performance skills on orchestral string instruments with a focus on concert repertoire. Compete in festivals and concert experiences.

6TH GRADE ELECTIVES

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
Art (Semester Elective)	A class described as a "Creative Sanctuary" where students are encouraged to imaginatively express themselves. You will learn secrets to making your art better, as well as learning new ways to create. Students will explore drawing, painting, collage, clay, tie-dye, mixed media, and art journaling. This class is an in-depth discovery of the visual language that will help you express and gain a greater understanding of yourself and others.
Total Fitness (Semester Elective)	This course emphasizes health-related fitness and developing the skills and habits necessary for a lifetime of activity. Students will participate in health-related fitness activities, aerobic exercise, team sports, individual and dual sports, recreational games and will have ongoing assessments including both written and performance-based skills evaluations. <i>Students may be required to change, daily, into the schools PE uniform (grey bottoms, dark blue top)</i>

7TH GRADE ELECTIVES

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
Living STEAM (Semester Elective)	A technology-based class that focuses on: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Students will have the opportunity to learn: photoshop, architecture, digital design, digital artwork, coding, software, simulations, and tech design utilizing a variety of equipment, online programs, and software.
Healthy You (Semester Elective)	A class based in health and nutrition with the following themes: goal setting, communication skills, social-emotional awareness, family relationships, food safety, basic cooking skills, nutrition, health, wellness, career investigation, and financial literacy.
PE (Year Long Elective)	This course will help students to develop the physical skills necessary to be competent in many forms of movement including: body awareness, body management, knowledge of team and individual sports concepts, appropriate social behaviors within a team or group setting focusing on exposure to various sports and activities, as well as individual health and wellness. Students will have ongoing assessments including both written and performance-based skills evaluations. <i>Students will be required to change, daily, into the schools PE uniform (grey bottoms, dark blue top)</i>

8TH GRADE ELECTIVES

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
PE (Year Long Elective)	This course will help students to develop the physical skills necessary to be competent in many forms of movement including: body awareness, body management, knowledge of team and individual sports concepts, appropriate social behaviors within a team or group setting focusing on exposure to various sports and activities, as well as individual health and wellness. Students will have ongoing assessments including both written and performance-based skills evaluations. <i>Students will be required to change, daily, into the schools PE uniform (grey bottoms, dark blue top)</i>
Computer Science (Year Long Elective) HS CBE Eligible Course	Students will explore digital thinking concepts by mastering digital work flow by experiencing a fully digital class using: online collaborative tools, learning to use key applications through long term performance based tasks and projects, creation of meaningful technology projects, explore the fundamentals of computing through direct experience, learn and apply digital citizenship skills for living and working in an online world.

ALTERNATIVE AND APPLICATION ELECTIVES

CLASS	REQUIREMENTS	DESCRIPTION
Spanish 1-2 (Year Long Elective) HS APPL Eligible Course	Math 7/8 OR Algebra Students OR Student Interview with teacher	This class will be taught at an accelerated pace, very much like the high school course. Students will learn vocabulary to allow you to read, write, and speak in Spanish. You will learn about the cultures of many Hispanic countries and be able to compare cultures and holidays. The class requires student participation.
Spanish 3-4 Heritage Spanish (Year Long Elective) HS APPL Eligible Course	Spanish 1-2 OR Math 7/8 OR Algebra Students OR Student Interview with teacher	This class is designed to refine the students' previous knowledge of the language, while enhancing grammar, writing, speaking, reading, and listening skills. The class is primarily taught in Spanish, with English used to clarify concepts, as necessary. The class requires student participation.
Leadership (Year Long Elective) Occurs during Advisory	Application process and Student Interview with teacher	This class promotes school spirit, respect, school fundraising, school event organization, community involvement, social inclusion, and role-modeling. Due to limited seats and required quality expectations, all students are selected through a consistent application process. Students characteristics may include: demonstrates school spirit, kindness toward peers, academic success and integrity, empathy, clear communication, reliability, strong work ethic, problem solving skills, creativity, public speaking, and positive interaction with peers and adults.

CHECK LIST FOR BEING PREPARED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Familiarize yourself with the O'Brien School Website. Regular communication and up-to-date information can be found on the our website: <https://www.washoeschools.net/obrien>
- (PD)** Complete 2022-2023 Online Registration through your Infinite Campus Parent Portal (if you have not done so already).
 - o Visit <https://www.washoeschools.net/obrien> for the Registration Help Manual if you have questions.
- (PD)** Ensure parents/guardians and students are familiar with the Infinite Campus (IC) Parent and Student app and/or website.
 - o Infinite Campus can be used to: check students' grades, progress, upcoming assignment/test/quiz/project due dates, attendance, behaviors, and communicate with teachers through email.
- (PD)** Submit your students updated shot records to the O'Brien office or clinic.
- (PD)** Contact the main office to pay any necessary class fees.
- ((PD))** Sign any paperwork and pay any fees associated with your students' school issued laptop.
- (PD)** If applicable to your family and student: complete and submit the Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) application.
 - o Any family who wishes their student to receive FRL needs to complete and submit the FRL application. As a school, O'Brien does not automatically submit or qualify students for FRL. It is up to each individual family to apply using the following link: <https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/1166>
 - o If your family is not eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL), have a plan for either adding money to your students Nutritional Services Account, money for purchasing daily lunch, or providing a home packed lunch.
- If you are unsure if your student will ride the bus, you should access the district transportation website, input your address and determine if your student will ride the bus, or be walking to school.
 - o If your student will be riding the bus:
 - Ensure students know their bus number
 - Ensure students know the pickup time and location AND the drop off time and location
 - o Bus routes can be found at: <http://buses.washoeschools.net/Students/BasicTransBoundarySearch.aspx>
- Students need to be prepared to abide by the O'Brien No Cellphone Policy.
- (PD)** It is recommended to have at least: 2 uniform polos and 2 uniform bottoms.
- Have an established school day morning and afternoon routine including an appropriate wake up and bedtime.
- Before the first day of school, check your students schedule online through the Initiate Campus (IC) portal to ensure:
 - o **6th grade students should have:**
 - **Full year Core classes:** Advisory, Math, English (ELA), Science, Social Studies, and Music
 - Depending on students IEP or ELL accommodations, their classes could be listed using a slightly different name
 - **Semester Elective classes:** Art and Total Fitness
 - o **7th grade students should have:**
 - **Full year Core classes:** Advisory, Math, English (ELA), Science, and Social Studies
 - Depending on students IEP or ELL accommodations, their classes could be listed using a slightly different name
 - **Full year Electives:** PE OR Music OR Spanish
 - AND / OR
 - **Semester Elective classes:** Living STEAM and Healthy You
 - o **8th grade students should have:**
 - **Full year Core classes:** Advisory, Math, English (ELA), Science, and Social Studies
 - Depending on students IEP or ELL accommodations, their classes could be listed using a slightly different name
 - **Full year Electives:** PE OR Music OR Spanish
 - AND / OR
 - **Full year Elective:** Computer Science

**** PD = can be done any time before school or during Prideland Day at O'Brien on Monday August 8th ****