

Letter 1 – Early January

Dear <Student first name>:

Congratulations! Based on your standardized test scores in middle school, you have stood out as a student who can succeed in rigorous high school classes. My team and I applaud your achievements!

These rigorous classes may include:

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses;
- an International Baccalaureate (IB) program;
- dual enrollment courses that may be academic- or career-focused and offered with local universities and colleges; and/or
- career-oriented courses, including internships and apprenticeships, focused on high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand careers.

If you are already taking or considering taking these courses, that's wonderful. We wish you the best.

If you have not considered such courses yet, just connect with your school counselor to discuss your options.

You may already know that taking challenging courses in high school has many benefits, such as:

- Setting yourself apart when you apply to postsecondary institutions;
- Earning college credit to potentially skip introductory courses;
- Experiencing postsecondary-level work while in high school; and
- Learning exciting subjects in greater depth.

Congratulations again on your academic achievements, especially during these times. Please accept my best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
Commissioner of Education

Letter 2a: Students – Late January

Dear <Student first name>:

Course registration is starting in most Connecticut high schools. Now is the time to plan for next year. You have stood out as a student who can succeed in rigorous high school classes. Congratulations! When registering for courses, you should consider (if available in your school):

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses;
- an International Baccalaureate (IB) program;
- dual enrollment courses that may be academic- or career-focused and offered with local universities and colleges; and/or
- career-oriented courses, including internships and apprenticeships, focused on high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand careers.

If you are already taking these courses, that's wonderful; you are set up for success.

If you have not yet registered for such courses, connect with your school counselor to discuss your options.

Taking challenging courses in high school allows you to:

- Set yourself apart when you apply to postsecondary institutions;
- Earn college credit and potentially skip introductory courses;
- Experience postsecondary-level work while in high school; and
- Learn exciting subjects in greater depth.

Congratulations again on your academic achievements, especially during these times.

Sincerely,

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
Commissioner of Education

Letter 2b: Parents – Late January

Dear <Parent first name>:

Course registration is starting in most Connecticut high schools. Now is the time to plan for next year. <Student first name> has stood out as a student who can succeed in rigorous high school classes. Congratulations! Courses to consider include (if available):

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses;
- an International Baccalaureate (IB) program;
- dual enrollment courses that may be academic- or career-focused and offered with local universities and colleges; and/or
- career-oriented courses, including internships and apprenticeships, focused on high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand careers.

If <student first name> is already taking these courses, that's wonderful. If not, registration can happen by connecting with a school counselor and discussing options.

Taking challenging courses in high school allows students to:

- Set themselves apart when they apply to postsecondary institutions;
- Earn college credit and potentially skip introductory courses;
- Experience postsecondary-level work while in high school; and
- Learn exciting subjects in greater depth.

Congratulations again on <student first name>'s academic achievements, especially during these times.

Sincerely,

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
Commissioner of Education