

Maddie's Minutes

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The expectations of consistency



Completing the honors diploma program is a rigorous ropes course. Meeting all the requirements by taking specific classes only determines one's fate of achieving the program. During their freshman years, the classes of 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027 were given the opportunity to either complete the graduation requirements or the honors diploma requirements.

As they continue to do so, the incoming class of 2028 will be given other opportunities and ways to achieve the honors diploma. As approved by the board, the class of incoming freshmen will be given the privilege to take classes that will be credited differently than in previous years.

The Eaton School District Board of Education consented to Eaton High School to replace the previous diploma programs with a system that is traced by points. Every class at EHS was given a ranking, one through four, based on complexity, and students looking to achieve the honors diploma must have more than 120 points and a 3.0 grade point average or above to receive the honors diploma cord.

The idea behind this newly innovated diploma program is to give students higher credit for complex courses outside of core classes. A majority of advanced elective classes at EHS are currently not considered as honors di-

ploma requirements, so they fall under general electives. Having a new honors diploma program that incorporates more career paths at EHS is a great opportunity for many students. However, where is the bar of expectations held for students to take the rigorous courses to accomplish the difficult honors program?

Advanced elective courses are difficult, but do not incorporate the complexity that advanced core classes have in order to be deemed as honors classes. Anyone can be advanced and deemed honors worthy in their niche environment, but the original intent of the honors diploma program was to see if students could meet the sophisticated expectations if they chose to go down that route.

As the current honors diploma program is optional, there are graduation requirements that are the bare minimum to meet, which a majority of students are successful in completing. The class of 2028 will be the true test to validate the success of the new diploma program.

Consistency is a principal part of high school, especially when accomplishing and achieving austere honors classes to complete the honors diploma. As EHS is continuously growing, modifications are going to be made to benefit the entirety of the school, but the importance of consistency and intentions are highly valued.

Complexity controls the sphere of registration at EHS. Like an onion with many layers, there's no "perfect" solution to stop from beginning to cry when one cuts it open. There's no "one size fits all" for registration either. There's no short-term fix or easy way out. It's an arena of different perspectives and opinions. Seemingly all the perspectives match up to the same solution, but sometimes in life, it's vital to look at what doesn't work rather than hone in on an exact solution. One problem does unite all the staff and students in the quest for a more efficient process, and its communication.

Communication is important to anything in life, relationships, work, home, and in EHS registration. Now, registration is not life or death, but it is important for students who want to place themselves on the correct pathway into their future occupations and lives. It is so important for communication to be the mantle-piece of registration. Communication between students and advisors, students and parents, and between advisors and administrators. It's apparent communication failed this year and with time it should improve. EHS Principal Jessica Grable said, "we must find a happy medium and help our seniors and everyone; we need more communication."

The problems don't stop at communication though. Unfortunately for EHS elective teacher Christopher Love, it's hard to find a balance between the students who know what's next in the future for them and the ones that don't, but the solution is found in the process. The expectation for the registration process is to do one's best to identify a career pathway, look through the coursebook, get the initial registration sheet signed by one's parents, go to Infinite Campus and choose the classes, then print it out and get it signed by an advisor and any other signatures that are necessary, but this process has flaws of its own.

The process is nowhere near as streamlined as it could be. The excess amount of papers and

Eamon's Editorial

The complex sphere of registration

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signatures is no easy task for advisors and students to tackle. This year, the time chosen to register wasn't beneficial for any party. In February of 2024, it's up in the air for many students the next classes they want to take. Considering the time that the counselors need to make classes, it makes sense why students registered early, but it felt rushed for students and advisors alike. Ultimately, it added to the clutter and confusion of the entire process because there was not time to prepare. The time that is cut off for students and advisors in order to register is not worth it, and several larger districts don't register until April. History teacher, Brittany Turnbull, who was involved in registration at her prior job at Weld Central, said, "typically we would register in April or May, when we knew which students would pass and fail their classes, and then we could send them on the correct path."

It is absolutely necessary that advisors are adequately trained and versed in what is expected of them in order to set their students up for success, but asking one advisor to be responsible for at least 20 students to register for at least eight classes is impossible. Advisors are also responsible for knowing the prerequisites that a student must have in order to register for the class. It becomes easily overwhelming for students and advisors. It's finding the balance between student advisor, and parent responsibility. A possible solution could be for the student to sit down with their kid and look through the coursebook and decide together what classes are right. Once ownership occurs from all parties, it's much easier to travel through the confusing registration process.

The solution has to begin with realizing and admitting that the system is wrong. It's a complex issue that demands cooperation and communication. Unfortunately, the process is self-sabotage. It's a system that gives an easy way out and doesn't force students to critically think, especially when students are handed the responsibility to

sign up for electives as well. The math department's process could be one that is fully adopted and replicated by the rest of the core classes. It's a process that takes the control from the student and leaves it in the hands of the teacher. With some communication and an agreement in place, the math teachers place students in whatever class is right for them. The problem with this system is it leaves the elective registration behind.

Electives offer an extra opportunity to learn and cultivate skills that a student knows they have. Now, for students who haven't found their passion or know what they want to do, it's oftentimes too easy. Most students when thinking of their future rather choose the elective class that's easier, rather than the one that forces them to learn vital skills. The system gives students too much empowerment. It is an ideal process for students who know their futures, but not everyone who registers exactly knows their future. A system that forces students to sign up for classes that enhances critical thinking skills is beneficial for all.

Again, it's a complex scale of balance between efficiency and problem solving. The student side isn't the only glaring problem though. The process is what can be referred to as a "trial process," one that's meant to fail and improve later on, but it's time to take ownership of the process and begin towards correcting it. EHS math teacher, Derek Weigle said, "My mentality is to do your best at the beginning of registration and accept that you are going to have to clean it up at the beginning of next year." That trail is currently being hiked by administrators and counselors, and it's encouraging to see the process move towards change.

It's not an easy trail to hike, but with adequate communication and cooperation it's a process that can be improved upon easily. There won't be an ultimate solution for registration, but hopefully all of EHS can assist in finding the one that works best for everyone.