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Pleasantdale Middle School  
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Pleasantdale School District 107 | 7450 S. Wolf Road | Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 708.784.2013 | Fax: 708.246.0161 | [www.d107.org](http://www.d107.org)

**Background:** The township has administered a Freshman Preparedness Survey for several years. The survey was not administered during the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 school years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The township superintendents created the survey, which is distributed to students electronically through a third-party vendor, School Perceptions. Previous administrations of the survey have yielded low response rates because the distribution lacked uniformity. In previous years, a link was distributed to students through Infinite Campus, and they were asked to complete the survey. This methodology resulted in response rates between 10% and 25%. Beginning in 2023, the survey was administered to all students through PE classes, achieving a 90% response rate. The survey asks students questions in eleven (11) categories (respondent information, curriculum/programs, special services, life at middle school, learning at middle school, bullying, adjustments, life at high school, learning at high school, overall preparedness, and comments). The questions ask students to reflect on their experiences transitioning to high school and provide a clearer picture of how well prepared they believe they were for the transition. In addition to the survey data, Lyons Township High School distributes class grade information to the associate schools. These data include the number of Pleasantdale and Township students who earned A, B, C, D, or F grades in core academic classes. For the purpose of this report, core academic classes include math, English, social studies, science, and world language. Finally, associate schools are provided with their students' grade point averages (GPA) compared to the entire freshman class.

**Preparedness Data:** The overall takeaway from the Freshman Preparedness Survey is that our students transition well to LTHS and report being well prepared for the academic rigors and social aspects of high school. This year, 73 of our 97 (75%) Pleasantdale graduates completed the survey. Pleasantdale graduates make up about 10% of the freshman class at LT and represent that same percentage on the survey. The timing of the survey is strategic, as we aim to gather feedback from students at the end of their first semester, after completing their first round of finals. This year, the survey was given in early March. When analyzing the data, it is important to remember that respondents are 15 years old, which may be some students' first time completing a perception survey. The questions are simple sentences, and the responses are generally Likert-scale (e.g., great, good, fair, poor). The survey generates rich data that allows us to plan programming and set a direction for improvement. The data presented in this report support initiatives the district has been implementing or programs put in place to improve students' preparedness or outcomes.

As we consider the data, we find that our graduates report being well prepared for high school. When students reflect on their middle school experience, the overwhelming majority respond positively. Over 82% of students reported feeling safe at their middle school, and 82% reported being able to identify an adult with whom they had a personal connection (responding "Always" or "Usually"). 84% of students also responded "Always" or "Usually" when asked whether they could identify at least one adult they could talk to about classwork when needed. Finally, nearly 76% of students felt they were treated fairly and respectfully in middle school. As students transitioned to high school, we found that over 89% of our graduates participate in a club, sport, or activity outside the classroom. When we consider students' perception of their executive functioning skills, 87% reported knowing how to keep their materials organized, and 96% reported knowing how to get help at school when needed. Socially, our students fit in as well. When asked to respond to the question "*I have friends at school,*" over 98% of students selected either "Strongly Agree" or "Agree." The top four areas students reported struggling with when transitioning to high school were: Fitting in with new people, keeping up with homework, balancing



academic and co-curricular activities, and finding classes. When asked to rate their preparedness across a variety of categories, students were given four options: Great, Good, Fair, and Poor, with "Great" and "Good" positively correlated and "Fair" and "Poor" negatively correlated. Our students' perception of their preparedness was very high. The table below shows our students' perceptions of core academic classes compared with those of the entire LTHS freshman class.

Table 1: Preparedness by Core Academic Class

	Pleasantdale				Lyons Township High School			
	Great	Good	Fair	Poor	Great	Good	Fair	Poor
Math	65.8%	23.3%	9.6%	1.4%	51.3%	32.7%	11.6%	4.2%
English	52.1%	37%	9.6%	1.4%	46.2%	39.5%	12.6%	1.7%
Science	40.3%	36.1%	19.4%	4.2%	38.4%	38.9%	17.1%	5.5%
History	52.2%	34.7%	8.3%	1.4%	49.7%	36.6%	10.9%	2.5%
World Language	47.2%	20.8%	11.1%	5.6%	41.3%	30.8%	12.3%	4.8%

The positive feedback continued as students considered their preparedness in additional areas related to academic success. Students were asked how well prepared they were in academics, study skills, time management, stress management, and overall preparedness. The table below shows our graduates' responses compared with those of the entire LTHS freshman class.

Table 2: Freshman Preparedness by Category

	Pleasantdale				Lyons Township High School			
	Great	Good	Fair	Poor	Great	Good	Fair	Poor
Academics	64.3%	30%	5.7%		50.6%	39%	7.2%	2.1%
Study Skills	40%	30%	24.3%	5.7%	34.1%	34.2%	20.4%	9.8%
Time Mgmt	35.7%	34.3%	24.3%	5.7%	30.2%	38.3%	21.7%	8.5%
Stress Mgmt	37.1%	30%	24.3%	7.1%	30.6%	34.4%	20.2%	13%
Overall	48.2%	35.7%	16.1%		37.9%	43.2%	15.5%	3.1%



**Academic Outcomes:** As stated above, Lyons Township High School provides associate schools with first-semester data. These data allow us to compare the preparedness data with actual student outcomes. The students' grade distribution data can confirm or refute what we see in our perception data. Comparing these two data sets shows that our student outcomes are near or above those of the entire freshman class. The vast majority of our students earn A's and B's in their classes, which mirrors the data from the perception survey. Below are six tables outlining our students' grades in the core academic classes for the first semester compared with those of the township freshmen.

Table 3: Math

	A		B		C		D		F	
	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204
Alg Accel	6	132	20	107	3	34	1	10		
Alg 2 Honors	14	31	3	5	1	3	1			
Alg Prep	3	56	9	49	2	26	4	19		2
Geo Accel	6	42	1	18	1	3		1		
Geo Honors	2	86	5	40	2	7				
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

Table 4: English

	A		B		C		D		F	
	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204
English I Accel	9	124	7	88	3	15	1	2		
English I Honors	21	159	10	63	1	6		1		
English I Prep	5	27	10	111	11	62	4	16	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

Table 5: Science

	A		B		C		D		F	
	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204
Bio Accel	32	266	9	132	6	21		2		1
Bio Prep	9	43	10	99	12	63	2	25		4
Intro to Health Care	3	18	5	15	1	5		3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>5</b>

Table 6: Social Studies

	A		B		C		D		F	
	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204
AP Human Geo	14	119	12	105	6	44	2	14		
World History	19	192	14	112	15	50	2	17		3
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>3</b>

Table 7: World Language (Not Including Spanish)

	A		B		C		D		F	
	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204
French	4	111	1	11						
German	2	12	2	7						
Italian	2	34	2	5	1					
Latin Accel	1	12	1	6	1	1		1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>		

Table 8: World Language (Spanish)

	A		B		C		D		F	
	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204
Spanish I Accel	4	17		8						
Spanish I Prep	1	21	1	11		1		2		
Spanish II Accel	24	136	5	48	1	7				
Spanish II Prep	10	37	4	38		18		3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>5</b>		

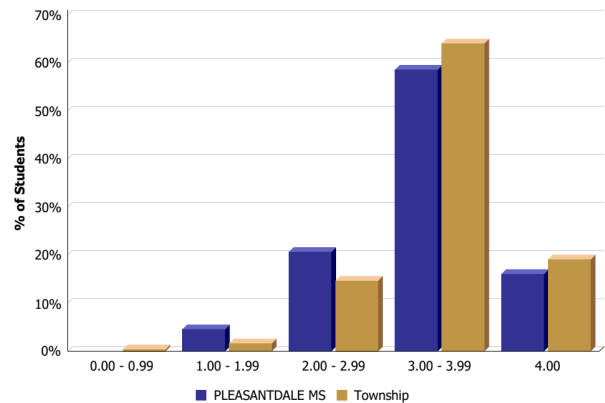
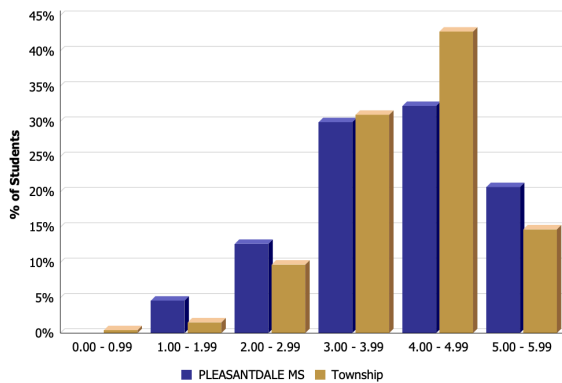
Finally, our school received a Grade Point Average (GPA) comparison. The charts below show that Pleasantdale graduates perform at or above the township norm for both weighted and unweighted GPA.

Weighted:

Unweighted:

	PLEASANTDALE MS		Township	
	# of Students	% of Students	# of Students	% of Students
5.00 - 5.99	18	20.7%	106	14.7%
4.00 - 4.99	28	32.2%	308	42.7%
3.00 - 3.99	26	29.9%	223	30.9%
2.00 - 2.99	11	12.6%	70	9.7%
1.00 - 1.99	4	4.6%	11	1.5%
0.00 - 0.99			3	0.4%

	PLEASANTDALE MS		Township	
	# of Students	% of Students	# of Students	% of Students
4.00	14	16.1%	138	19.1%
3.00 - 3.99	51	58.6%	462	64.1%
2.00 - 2.99	18	20.7%	106	14.7%
1.00 - 1.99	4	4.6%	12	1.7%
0.00 - 0.99			3	0.4%



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**Takeaways from the Data:** The data provided to associate schools from Lyons Township High School helps our district gauge the effectiveness of programs and initiatives. Likewise, it allows us to reflect on our current practices and make necessary course corrections. As we review the data, we find several highlights and a few areas to focus on for improvement over the next few years.

- The transition to LTHS is smooth for our students.
- Students report that they are well prepared for the rigors of high school, and the distribution of A's and B's would support that perception.
- Students report a positive experience at middle school.
- Our students perform well academically, often outperforming the township comparison group.