

Pleasantdale Elementary School
8100 School Street
La Grange, IL 60525
708.246.4700 Fax: 708.246.4625



Pleasantdale Middle School
7450 S. Wolf Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
708.246.3210 Fax: 708.352.0092

Pleasantdale School District 107 | 7450 S. Wolf Road | Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 708.784.2013 | Fax: 708.246.0161 | www.d107.org

Background: The township has administered a Freshman Preparedness Survey for several years. The survey was not given during school years 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 due to the COVID-19 global 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 garnered low response rates as the survey distribution lacked uniformity. In previous years a link would be distributed to students through Infinite Campus, and students would be asked to complete the survey. This methodology resulted in response rates between 10- and 25%. Beginning in 2023, the survey was given to all students through PE classes, and a 90% response rate was achieved. 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 students 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 to be well prepared for the academic rigors and social aspects of high school. This year, 59 of our 98 (60%) 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 look to get 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 a 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 they were well-prepared for high school. When students reflect on their middle school experience, the overwhelming majority responded positively. Over 89% of students reported feeling safe in their middle school, and 82.5% of students reported that they could identify an adult with whom they had a personal connection (responding "Always" or "Usually"). 92.8% of students also responded "Always" or "Usually" when asked if they could identify at least one adult they could talk to about class work when needed. Finally, nearly 80.7% of students felt they were treated fairly and respectfully in middle school. As students transitioned to high school, we found that over 86.8% of our graduates participate in a club, sport, or activity outside the classroom. When we consider students' perception of their executive functioning skills, 94.4% reported knowing how to keep their materials organized, and 98% 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 100% of students selected either "Strongly Agree" or "Agree." The top four areas students reported struggling with when transitioning to high school were: Balancing academic and

co-curricular activities, managing my time, keeping up with homework/greater workload, higher expectations. When asked to rate their level of preparedness in a variety of categories, students were given four options Great, Good, Fair, and Poor, with "Great" and "Good" having a positive correlation and "Fair" and "Poor" having a negative correlation. Our students' perception of their preparedness was very high. The table below shows our students' perceptions of core academic class compared to 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	67.2%	24.1%	6.9%	1.7%	51.6%	33.1%	12%	3.3%
English	51.7%	41.4%	5.2%	1.7%	42.1%	42.3%	13.4%	2.2%
Science	42.4%	40.7%	11.9%	5.1%	43.8%	40.5%	12.7%	2.6%
History	52.5%	33.9%	13.6%		45.8%	37.6%	13.8%	2%
World Language	54.2%	22%	10.2%	3.4%	37.6%	33.8%	13.1%	6.1%

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 the areas of academics, study skills, time management, stress management, and overall preparedness. The table below shows our graduates' responses compared to 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	50.9%	45.3%	3.8%		49.6%	41.5%	7%	1.2%
Study Skills	32.1%	43.4%	15.1%	9.4%	32.1%	40.9%	19%	7.3%
Time Mgmt	32.1%	39.6%	22.6%	5.7%	29.1%	42.8%	21.5%	5.9%
Stress Mgmt	26.9%	36.5%	26.9%	9.6%	28.5%	38.5%	22.2%	9.7%
Overall	35.7%	57.1%	7.1%		38.9%	48.6%	12.1%	0.4%

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 you will find six tables that outline our students' grades in the core academic classes for the first semester compared to 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	7	116	14	72	8	43		21	1	2
Alg 2 Honors	4	37		11		3		1		
Alg Prep	1	35	4	42	1	38		17	1	4
Geo Accel	7	39	5	21		1		1		
Geo Honors	7	66	8	42	6	13		2		
Total	26	293	31	188	15	98		42	2	6

Table 4: English

	A		B		C		D		F	
	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204
English I Accel	9	109	20	107	1	23		5		1
English I Honors	11	119	11	71	2	2				
English I Prep	17	94	2	58	1	19				
Total	37	322	33	236	4	44		5		1

Table 5: Science

	A		B		C		D		F	
	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204
Bio Accel	36	299	14	87	6	15		4		1
Bio Prep	8	65	9	77	1	47		17	1	3
Intro to Health Care	8	11	2	8		1		2		
Total	52	375	25	172	7	63		23	1	4

Table 6: Social Studies

	A		B		C		D		F	
	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204
AP Human Geo	6	98	11	92	5	42	3	17		1
World History	24	168	16	121	9	51		19		5
Total	30	266	27	213	14	93	3	36		6

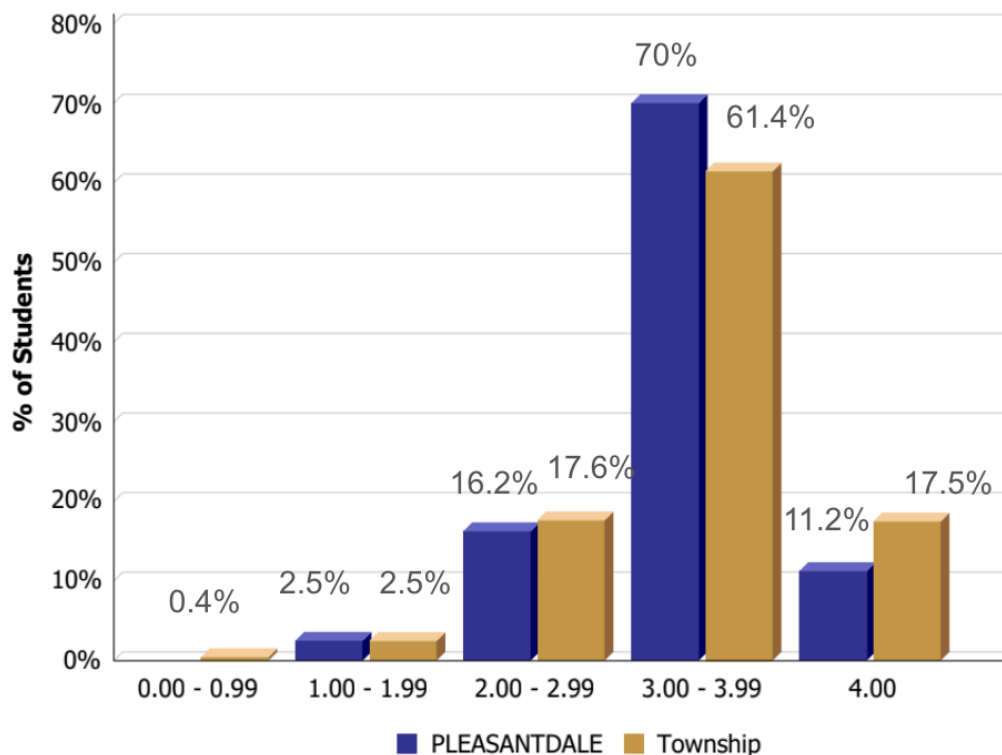
Table 7: World Language (Not Including Spanish)

	A		B		C		D		F	
	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204
French	3	78	1	16		3				
Italian	2	29	2	8						
Latin Accel	1	10		3		1				
Total	6	117	3	27		4				

Table 8: World Language (Spanish)

	A		B		C		D		F	
	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204	107	204
Spanish I Accel	2	12		2	1					
Spanish I Prep	2	31	2	15		3		3		2
Spanish II Accel	27	114	11	46		4				
Spanish II Prep	2	34	7	41	1	14		4		1
Total	33	191	20	104	2	21		7		3

Finally our school was provided with a Grade Point Average (GPA) comparison. The below chart shows that Pleasantdale graduates perform at or above the township norm when it comes to GPA.



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

Pleasantdale Elementary School
8100 School Street
La Grange, IL 60525
708.246.4700 Fax: 708.246.4625



Pleasantdale Middle School
7450 S. Wolf Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
708.246.3210 Fax: 708.352.0092

Pleasantdale School District 107 | 7450 S. Wolf Road | Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 708.784.2013 | Fax: 708.246.0161 | www.d107.org

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.
- Students report needing additional support for executive functioning skills (e.g., test-taking strategies, study strategies, time management, etc.).