Moving Up: First steps in the Transition to High School

9TH GRADE SCHEDULING

Answers to frequently asked questions for 8th grade students and families navigating the 9th grade class scheduling process:

How many classes will I take?
You have up to 7 daily periods to fill. You can mix required courses, electives, and study halls to make up the 7 each semester (half of the school year). Some will be year-long courses and some will be semester long.

What classes are required for 9th graders?
All 9th graders must take:
- English (English 9 or English 9 Honors): Year-long course
- Biology (Regular or Advanced): Year-long course
- World Studies (World Studies or Honors World Studies): Year-long course
- Math (your current teacher will let you know recommended placement): Year-long course

That leaves you with three daily classes to choose. One of these will probably be a foreign language class.

How do I choose the rest of my classes?
Consider the graduation requirements presented to you by your High School Counselor. Another copy of graduation requirements is presented to parents at the 8th Grade Course Selection Meeting. Graduation requirements are also available by clicking here. You have the full four years of high school to fulfill them but start thinking about them now.

Requirements to consider:
- You will need 21 credits for graduation
- You will need 1 credit (2 semesters) in Fine Arts
- You will need a semester of Oral Communications
- You will need ½ credit (2 semesters) of Physical Education
- You will need a semester of Health

What if I’m not recommended for a course I’d like to take?
First, talk to your teacher. Students can exercise a waiver. With a waiver, you, your parents, and your current teacher sign an acknowledgment that you intend to take the course despite the recommendation. You MUST stay in that course all year. Waivers should be considered heavily before used.

Do I have to fill my schedule?
Yes, but you can have a Study Hall for either one or both semesters, if you think you need the time to get work done. This could be because you have lots of activities after school or you just need the extra time to finish work.

**Don’t overfill your schedule your freshman year.**

Take on what you can handle based on your graduation requirements. It is recommended that you take Health and Physical Education early in your high school years.

**How will high school grading be different from middle school?**

In high school, courses are graded by individual course credit. If you fail a course that is required, you must take that course over again.

Each core high school course (English, Social Studies, Math, and Science) must give a semester final. This is worth 20% of your semester grade.

Who can I talk to about the classes I choose?

There are lots of people to ask about what classes you should take:

- Your current teachers
- Your parents
- Your middle school counselor
- Your high school counselor

**What else should I consider when making my schedule?**

Choose courses that fit your interests, passions, and personality. Look for things you enjoy as well as things you might want to do in the future.

Never pick classes based on these ideas: who might teach it or whether your friends will be in it.

**What do I do if I am considering going to another school next year?**

Fill out a schedule and turn it in anyway. Lots of things could happen. If you do attend another school, you will have to formally withdraw, and we will then move you from the classes you chose. Turning in a schedule at this time will keep you involved with the process for as long as possible, in case you decide not to withdraw.

**What kind of help is available if I want to do better in high school?**

Teachers are often available before and after school. Other teachers may be available during your study hall to answer questions and reteach topics.