

9TH GRADE PARENT MEETING

Scheduling and Graduation Requirements

Rachel Cordova

9th & 11th grades Counselor, 2017-2018

(409)981-6430 ext. 3109

rachelcordova@hjisd.net

SCHEDULING

- Before meeting with your students, they completed a career test online. They also researched careers.
- Your students are given a list of our endorsements paths. They should choose three they are interested in taking during high school.
- We offer many electives to help students narrow down their career choices.



WHEN SCHEDULING YOUR STUDENTS

- *I will go step by step through each course choice.
- *I will explain the differences between regular and pre-ap classes.
- *I will talk to them at length about grades, GPA, ranking, etc.

GRADES & CREDITS

Grades

A= 90-100

B= 80-89

C= 75-79

D= 70-74

F= 69 and lower

Credits

Sophomore= 6 credits

Junior= 12 credits

Senior= 19 credits

Graduate= 26 credits

*As defined in our handbook



YOUR STUDENT'S CHOICES

- English I or Pre-AP English I
- Algebra I or Algebra I with the lab (The lab takes up another class period, but students have time for homework and to review the lesson.)
- IPC (Integrated Physics and Chemistry) or Pre-AP Biology
- World Geography
- Spanish I or II or Health/Professional Communications (Speech)
- Band, PE or Athletics
- Fine Art, Endorsement Class or Algebra I Lab

EXCEPTIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

- IPC is what should be considered “regular” science. Pre-AP Biology is advanced.
- Students who struggle in math SHOULD choose to take the lab.
- Students must take 2 years of the same foreign language to graduate
- Fine Art choices: Art, Theatre Arts, Band, Choir and Principles of Floral Design.



EXCEPTIONS & EXPLANATIONS (CONTINUED)

- If your student took Algebra I in 8th grade, they may choose Pre-AP Geometry or regular Geometry.
- If your student took Spanish I in 8th grade, they will take Spanish 2 in 9th grade.



EXPLANATION OF REGULAR, PRE-AP AND AP

- If a student takes a regular class and makes a 70, they get a 70 on their report card, a 70 for their GPA and a 70 for ranking.
- If a student takes a Pre-AP class and makes a 70, they get a 70 on their report card, a 70 for their GPA and a 75 for ranking.
- If a student takes an AP class and makes a 70, they get a 70 on their report card, a 70 for their GPA and an 80 for ranking.

SCENARIO

- Jane takes Pre-AP English and makes an 80.
- Joe takes regular English and makes a 90.
- Who is better off when looking at grades? ranking?
- Jane has an 80 on report card, 80 for GPA and 85 for ranking.
- Joe has 90, 90, and 90 for the 3.
- You have to decide what is most important - grades? Rank? Taking advanced classes?

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- English I, II, III, IV
- Algebra I, Geometry, and one Advanced Math (students will have several choices)
- IPC, Biology, Chemistry and one Advanced Science (students will have several choices) OR Biology, Chemistry & Advanced Sciences (some colleges require Physics- check their website for courses required for admissions)
- World Geography, World History, US History, Government (.5), Economics (.5)
- PE - one credit
- Technology - one credit
- Health/Professional Communications
- 2 Foreign Language credits (Spanish)
- Fine Arts - one credit
- Electives - 4 credits (or endorsement classes)

GRADUATION PLANS

1. Foundation High School Program
2. Foundation High School Program with Endorsement(s)
3. Foundation High School Program with Endorsement(s) and Distinguished

HOW TO EARN A DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

Successfully complete:

- a total of 4 credits in math, which must include Algebra II,
- a total of 4 credits in science,
- the remaining curriculum requirements and
- at least one endorsement

*** A student must earn distinguished level of achievement to be eligible for top 10% automatic admission.

ENDORSEMENTS

- All students must declare in 9th grade what endorsement area they wish to pursue.
- **HOWEVER**, students may change this year to year.
- There are over 20 ways students can complete an endorsement at HJHS.
- Endorsement classes are meant to help students with career choices.

**1ST ENDORSEMENT AREA:
STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING
AND MATHEMATICS)**

- Students must take Algebra 2, Chemistry and Physics and ONE of the following class sequences:

A) Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and 2 more advanced math classes

B) Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and 2 more science classes

C) Computer Science, Game Programming, Robotics & Mobile Applications

OR

D) Algebra 2, Physics, Chemistry and 3 credits combined from the first 3 options

2ND ENDORSEMENT AREA: BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

- Students must take an additional math and science credit (student's choice) and **ONE** of the following sequences:
 - A) Principles of Ag, Livestock, Veterinary Medical Apps. , Advanced Animal Science
 - B) Principles of Ag, Floral Design, Agribusiness, Horticulture
 - C) Principles of Ag, Ag Mechanics, Ag Fabrication (counts as 2 credits)
 - D) Principles of Information Technology (taken in 8th grade), Principles of Human Services, Interior Design, Advanced Interior Design or Fashion Design
 - E) Principles of Information Technology (taken in 8th grade), 3D Printing, Digital Multimedia and Graphic Design
- OR
- G) Coherent sequence of credits from A, B, C, D and E

3RD ENDORSEMENT AREA: ARTS AND HUMANITIES

- Students must take an additional math and science credit (student's choice) and ONE of the following sequences:
A) World History, US History, World Geography, Government (.5), Economics (.5), Psychology (.5) and Sociology (.5)
B) Spanish I, II, III, IV

OR

C) Theatre Arts I, II, III, IV; Art I, II, III, IV; Band I, II, III, IV; Choir I, II, III, IV; or a combination

4TH ENDORSEMENT AREA: PUBLIC SERVICE

- Students must take an additional math and science credit (student's choice) and ONE of the following sequences:
A) Principles of Human Services, Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness, Culinary Arts, and student's choice
B) Principles of Health Science, Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Terminology, and student's choice

5TH ENDORSEMENT AREA: MULTIDISCIPLINARY

- Students must take an additional math and science credit (student's choice) and ONE of the following sequences:
 - A) 4 Advanced courses in an endorsement area
 - B) 4 credits in English, science, math and social studies, **MUST** include English IV, Chemistry and Physics
 - C) 4 credits in Advanced Placement classes (NOT Pre-AP) or Dual Credit classes from English, math, social studies, science, foreign languages or fine arts

PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Outstanding Performance Dual Credit Course
- Bilingualism & Biliteracy
- Outstanding Performance on AP Test
- Outstanding Performance on PSAT
- Outstanding Performance on SAT
- Outstanding Performance on ACT
- Business or Industry Certification

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

- High School students should take the PSAT as a Sophomore
- They may take the PSAT as a Junior in order to be considered for the National Merit Scholar Program
- All students should start taking the SAT or ACT their Junior year (they may re-take these exams to better their scores)
- All Texas colleges require the TSI (placement exam) unless you are exempt (they have to let you know that)
- Contact each college for requirements

STUDENTS-THINGS TO DO IN 9TH GRADE

- Take challenging classes in core academic subjects.
- Work with one of your parents to estimate your financial aid using FAFSA4caster and be sure to save for college. (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm?execution=e1s1>)
- Get involved in school- or community-based activities that interest you or let you explore career interests. Consider working, volunteering, and/or participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, or science.
- Use the U.S. Department of Labor's career search tool to research your career options. (<http://www.mynextmove.org>)
- Start a list of your awards, honors, paid and volunteer work, and extracurricular activities. Update it throughout high school.
- Contact each college you are interested in for requirements

PARENTS-THINGS TO DO IN 9TH GRADE

- Talk to your child about college/trade school plans as if he or she will definitely further their education after high school.
- Keep an eye on your child's study habits and grades—stay involved.
- Monitor their grades & attendance from our Parent Portal.

HOW TO CHECK GRADES & ATTENDANCE

- You may monitor your child's grades and attendance through our new txConnect grading program.
- The login information you have this year will be the same for next year.
- If you have never signed up, you must see the school registrar or the secretary in the Counselors' Office to get an access code (once the school year is in progress)
- To access the grades & attendance, go to:
 1. www.hjisd.net
 2. Parents
 3. Grades & Attendance (txConnect)
 4. Click on the PDF attachment for directions to get set up