



Navigating through High School Registration

*A guide for parents and students
to better understand the
high school registration process*



HOWARD COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As your eighth grader begins the transition to high school, it is easy to breathe a sigh of relief feeling that he/she is finally grown up and will not need your help with school any longer. Nothing could be further from the truth! Your child will need you now more than ever! It is important that you are involved in your child's high school career from the beginning by working with your child, and teachers, to develop an academic plan of action for the upcoming years. Decisions made within the next few weeks concerning course selections could affect options available to your child after graduation from high school. To help direct the planning, you should begin to discuss with your child possible career and post high school alternatives. Also, to ensure you and your child are making appropriate decisions, learn as much as you can about the high school he/she will be attending by being present at all evening information sessions that the high school offers.

Sincerely,

Your School Counselor





Here are some suggestions to encourage your child's success once high school begins:

- Establish and maintain contact with your child's teachers.
- Show an interest in your child's schoolwork.
- Encourage good study habits.
- Ask your child what happened in school each day.
- What are his/her favorite classes and why?
- Set up a system for receiving important papers from school.
- Attend PTA meetings and volunteer in school activities.

Studies have shown that students whose parents are involved in their school community are more likely to perform better in school. Show your child that you feel school is important. Your child may want you to believe that it is not necessary for you to be a part of his/her school life or that no one else's parents talk with teachers. Don't believe it! This student who seems so grown up at times, so immature other times, is still a child requiring love, attention, and yes, monitoring and support. Your job is not over. It's just beginning, again.

Please feel free to contact your student's counselor or any eighth grade team member with questions or concerns about high school registration.

Maryland High School Graduation Requirements

To be awarded a diploma, a student shall be enrolled in a Maryland public school system and have earned a minimum of **21** credits that include the following:

Subject Area	Specific Credit Requirements	High School Assessment
English	4 credits	Students must pass the Maryland High School Assessments for English, algebra/data analysis, biology and government. The student must achieve one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the passing score on each test (English - 396; algebra/data analysis - 412; biology - 400; government - 394), (2) a specific score on an MSDE approved comparable assessment(s), or (3) a passing score on the four High School Assessments by a combination of (1) and (2).
Mathematics	3 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in algebra/data analysis • 1 in geometry 	
Science	3 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in biology • 2 that must include lab-oratory experience in any or all of the following areas: earth science, life science, physical science 	
Social Studies	3 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in U.S. history • 1 in world history • 1 in local, state, national government 	
Other Requirements		
Fine Arts	1 credit	
Physical Education	1/2 credit	
Health	1/2 credit	
Technology Education	1 credit	
Other	2 credits of world language <u>or</u> 2 credits of advanced technology ed. <u>and</u> 3 credits in electives <u>or</u> 4 credits by successfully completing a career academy (state-approved career and technology completer)	Students must also meet attendance, service-learning and Career Preparation requirements.

The High School Schedule

- All high schools schedule students for seven classes per year.
- School starts at 7:25 am and ends at 2:10 pm.
- The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th periods are 50 minutes long.
- The 4th period includes both an A/B rotation and lunch. An additional 30 minutes is added to this period. There are four lunch shifts and each student will be scheduled to eat at the beginning, middle one, middle two, or end of the period. Students are mixed between all grade levels during lunch.

Sample Schedule:		
Period 1	7:25 - 8:15	50 minutes
Period 2	8:20 - 9:10	50 minutes
Period 3	9:15 -10:05	50 minutes
Period 4	10:10 - 12:20	
Lunch Shifts:		
A	10:10 - 10:40	
B	10:45 - 11:15	
C	11:20 - 11:50	
D	11:55 - 12:25	
Period 5	12:25 - 1:15	50 minutes
Period 6	1:20 - 2:10	50 minutes

Below is an example of what a student’s full year schedule will look like when you receive it in the mail this summer. It lists all the vital information necessary for a successful first day of 9th grade including: counselor’s name, course names, course numbers, room numbers and teachers.

Name : Super Student	Grade: 9	ID: 001234567
Homeroom: A215	Locker: 1234	Teacher: Smart, Mr. Counselor: Helpful, Ms.
Period 1:	US History (Section 1)	America, Ms. A. B110 – Social Studies
Period 2:	Algebra 1 (Section 3)	Calculate, Ms. C. A214 – Math
Period 3:	English 9 Honors (Sect. 2)	Book, Mr. R. B122 – English
Period 4A:	Intro to Dance	Tap, Ms. S. A209 – Studio
Period 4B:	Software Apps (Sect. 1)	Mac, Mr. I. E102 – Industrial
Period 5:	Earth Science (Sect. 3)	Worm, Mr. D. B112 – Science
Period 6:	PE/Health (Sect. 1)	Healthy, Mr. A. GYM – Gymnasium
Lunch Shift: D		

Sample Registration Form

High School
2008-09 REGISTRATION
GRADE 09 - Class of 2012

1. NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

List below the seven (7) credits to be taken during the school year 2008-09. Read the notes below before completing the registration form.

2.

Dept	Course Name, Number & Level	Credit	Teacher Recommendation
English 9		1	
US History		1	
Mathematics		1	
Science		1	
Elective #1		1	
Elective #2		1	
Physical Ed/ Health	7000/7001	Lifetime Fitness/Health 1	REQUIRED

Total Credits = 7

◆ *LUNCH is added to all schedules.* ◆

List below two (2) courses to be used as alternates in case an elective above is not available or there is a scheduling conflict.

3.


	Course Number	Course Name
Alternative Class for Elective #1		
Alternative Class for Elective #2		

Please indicate intended Program Choice(s):

- World Language
- Advanced Technology Sequence
- Career & Technolgy Completer (Career Academy or Career Research & Development)

Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> IEP <input type="checkbox"/> 504
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4. Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____
 Print parent Name: _____ Daytime Phone: _____
 Parent E-mail: _____ Initials of School Counselor: _____

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1. Be sure to complete your student's information including the contact phone numbers and information for the parent. High schools may need this information to contact you to discuss scheduling issues that may occur later in the scheduling process.
 2. Be sure to accurately fill in the course name and number. Taking the time to do so helps to prevent your child from being placed in an incorrect class next year.
 3. Be sure to carefully fill in alternatives for electives to help ensure that your student will be placed in courses of his/her choice.
 4. Be sure to sign the form. Your signature is required for your student's registration form to be processed.

Any student not on or above grade level in reading and/or mathematics at the end of eighth grade will be required to participate in appropriate interventions, based on academic need as determined by the middle school principal. Interventions may include summer school and/or designated reading and/or mathematics intervention courses in ninth grade.

Suggested 9th Grade High School Electives for 2008-2009

Use the list below to help you complete your registration form for electives and alternates.

	Course Name	Course #
1	Art and Society	6003
2	Art 1 - Foundations of Studio Art	6000
3	Software Applications 1	4520
4	Software Applications 2	4511
5	Computer Science 1	450M
6	Drama 1	1690
7	Journalism 1	1500
8	Yearbook 1	1530
9	Food and Nutrition Technology	6510
10	World Language	depends on lang. selected
11	Band - concert, audition for other levels	6280
12	Music Theory	6110
13	Chorus	6351
14	Concert Choir	6301
15	Madrigals (audition required)	6361
16	Vocal Ensembles	6380
17	Piano 1	6495
18	Guitar 1	6490
19	String Orchestra (audition required)	6410
20	Music & Society	6100
21	Music Technology	6200
22	Introduction to Dance	7120
23	Intermediate Dance (audition req.)	7121
24	Junior Dance Company (audition req.)	7122
25	Technology Systems	6750

*See the *Catalog of Approved High School Courses* for a complete listing.

Understanding Grade Point Average (GPA)

Most colleges and universities consider the GPA of a student in comparison to his/her classmates as one of the criteria for admission. This comparison is called CLASS RANK.

GPA for class rank is calculated at the beginning of a student's senior year after six semesters of work have been completed. At this point, two GPAs will be determined - one with the traditional grade points (unweighted) and the second with weighted grade points for any designated honors or GT/AP courses that a student has completed. The following defines the different weighting systems:

Grade	Standard	Honors	GT/AP
A	4.0	4.5	5.0
B	3.0	3.5	4.0
C	2.0	2.5	3.0
D	1.0	1.0	1.0
E	0	0	0

Both Weighted and Unweighted GPA and Class Rank are listed on the student's transcript for the purpose of college applications.

Note: High school courses taken in middle school are reflected on the high school transcript but do not count toward GPA.



High School Vocabulary - What do you know?

Match each definition below with its corresponding vocabulary word on page 11.

1. A student with less than 5 credits; a 9th grader.
2. A student with 5 credits (1 is English); a 10th grader.
3. A student with 10 credits (2 are English); an 11th grader.
4. A student with 15 credits (3 are English); a 12th grader.
5. A unit given upon successful completion of a course. You need 21 of these, some in specified courses, in order to graduate.
6. A course you **MUST** take to graduate.
7. A course you choose to take **IF** your schedule has an opening.
8. A course that **MUST** be completed successfully **BEFORE** taking another course. Example: Spanish 2 before Spanish 3.
9. A document which certifies that you have successfully completed high school and have met the requirements of the Maryland State Board of Education (at least 21 credits).
10. Grade point average
11. Students' GPAs ordered from highest to lowest at the end of **JUNIOR** year.
12. One credit is required for graduation. (Band, Art, Music, Drama Dance, etc.)
13. This is a college-level course. Upon completion, a test may be taken and college credit given if the score is high enough. The acceptance of the test varies from college to college. Taking and successfully completing this course does not guarantee college credit.
14. This is a level of class for students who perform **VERY** much above grade level. Prerequisites are required.
15. A level of class for students who perform above grade level. Prerequisites are required.
16. An on grade level class.
17. Activities done outside the classroom such as sports, clubs, etc. **MANY** colleges look not only for good grades, but involvement in these activities too.
18. Minimum number of credits needed to graduate.

Word Bank

AP _____

Sophomore _____

Class Rank _____

Elective _____

Senior _____

Honors _____

GPA _____

Credit _____

Freshman _____

Diploma _____

GT _____

Fine Arts _____

Regular _____

Junior _____

Prerequisite _____

Required _____

Extracurricular _____

Twenty-one _____

(See answers on back cover.)

Answers from page 11

18	Twenty-one
17	Extracurricular
6	Required
8	Prerequisite
3	Junior
16	Regular
12	Fine Arts
14	GT
9	Diploma
1	Freshman
5	Credit
10	GPA
15	Honors
4	Senior
7	Elective
11	Class Rank
2	Sophomore
13	AP

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