

Scheduling/Course Request Frequently Asked Questions

What is a teacher recommendation and how does it affect what classes I sign up for?

We value teacher recommendations as they have the most direct experience with you as a student. We use a combination of your class level desire, your teachers' recommendations, and your family's input when deciding what courses you take.

What do I do if I have questions about how to get more information/support on Course Selection?

You can sign up to see your counselor using our Google Form Sign Up system on the HHS counseling website. We have our caseloads divided up by your LAST NAME. Please make sure to put a good way for us to get back in touch with you (phone number or email that you use).

When will I find out if I have been accepted into an Academy and/or Special Programs?

Coordinators from the STEM Academy and Fine Arts Academy will be reaching out to you soon to inform you of the status of your application. If you applied to an Academy or AVID it is ok to go ahead and select the courses that are expected in those programs. You will also be selecting additional electives that could take the place of STEM Innovations, AVID or the Fine Arts Community Learning course if you are not enrolled in those programs or change your mind. Your counselor will assist with this process as well.

Will summer school be an option this year?

Right now, we are unsure about what the structure or availability of summer school will be. When there is more concrete information, we will make it available.

I'm in the Dual Immersion program, what classes can I take at HHS?

As a student in the Dual Immersion Program, you have some options of courses to take at HHS. You do not have to take these courses, but are encouraged to continue building your dual language skills. Next year, you can take Spanish 5 Honors and/or Environmental Science in Spanish Honors.

How do I figure out what Spanish level I should take if I speak Spanish at home?

We determine your placement based on a short assessment/survey. Your counselor may have you complete this if we do not have a teacher recommendation for your Spanish course.

Why do I need to pick "Backup Classes/Extra Electives"?

We do our very best to ensure you get your top choice electives in your schedule. However, sometimes the schedule just doesn't allow for everything to fit perfectly. Therefore, we ask that you put some thought into your backup electives so that you will be happy with those classes because they could end up in your schedule if your top choices are not available.

What do I do if I am taking a class in middle school for high school credit and I don't want that grade to count for high school?

You have one opportunity when you are transitioning from middle to high school to have your middle school high school credits not count towards your GPA and to remove these grades from your

transcript. In order to have those grades removed you will need to submit the form sent to you in your final report card from THMS or SKMS. However, if you are removing a class needed for graduation (such as Algebra 1) you will need to retake that class in high school.

How does the JROTC class work? Do I have to enter the military?

You do NOT have to join the military if you take JROTC. JROTC is a class with a focus on leadership, learning your rights as a citizen, community service, and other skills involving teamwork. There is a requirement to participate in physical training each week and to wear the issued uniform once a week which is loaned to each student without charge.

Why can't we take Health and PE 10 as a 9th grader?

Health and PE10 includes Driver's Education. The state has set guidelines for students taking this course in 10th grade or later. It also makes the most sense to take PE10 when you are around 15 or 16 so it aligns with when you would get your driver's permit and/or license.

[Frequently Asked Questions about Transitioning to High School](#)

Many questions on this topic can be answered by watching the Family Orientation Video (see link above).

Will I be in classes with upperclassmen?

For some of your classes like electives, yes. For most of your core classes (English, Math, History, and Science), you will be with other 9th graders.

If I don't pass any SOLs as a freshman, do I still advance to the next grade?

Yes! The way that you move forward to the next grade is by earning credits. The number of credits you need to be considered a 10th grader, is 6. However, you must earn 5 total verified credits (passing the SOL and the course) in order to graduate.

How does the A/B schedule work?

At HHS we have a HYBRID schedule, that means that some classes meet every other day for a whole year (those are the A day / B day classes). We also have Semester classes that meet every single day until the end of the semester, then you would get a new class during that block for the second semester. No matter what kind of schedule you take, you will still have 8 classes in your schedule for a school year.

What is the average class size?

Class sizes vary by subject area and room size. Classes do have caps based on state guidelines and in most cases the caps are firm. Many classes are between 20-25 students.

What are some class expectations? Are they harder or easier than middle school?

Many students feel like there is more homework in high school than in middle school. You have a little bit more freedom and responsibility in high school. Teachers are available and eager to help you, but

they also want you to learn how to advocate for yourself. You will also use your school e-mail, and other technology platforms more.

Are there ways to get help if we don't understand something or are not doing well in a class?

We offer after school tutoring Monday-Thursday called ACE tutoring. Your teachers also want to help you! Don't be afraid to ask questions. Your counselor can help you talk to your teachers too!

We can help you to prioritize and make a plan to succeed.

Do I have to retake any classes that I fail?

Yes, in high school if you do not pass a class that you need for graduation (like your core classes, PE, Econ and Personal Finance) will need to retake that course.

Where do you go in the morning before the bell rings?

You are welcome to walk the hallways, sit in the cafeteria, go to the library or meet up with a teacher or counselor.

How does lunch work? Where do you sit for lunch? Do you have to go to lunch? Can you leave and go out for lunch?

We have 4 lunches, A, B, C, and D lunch. Your lunch is based on what class you have during 3rd block. You can sit at either the auditorium commons or the gym commons. If you finish up lunch or have work to do, you can go to the library. HHS is a closed campus. That means that students are not allowed off of the premises during the school day unless being signed out by a parent / family member for an appointment or if you are sick and need to go home.

Are there specific hallways for specific grades?

No there are not. It's important to get to your class in the most direct route, however you may find that certain stairwells are more crowded than others. Keep that mind as you may take a longer route, but you may get to your class more quickly because you are avoiding a lot of student traffic.

Can we carry our bookbags from class to class?

Yes.

How many minutes are between classes?

This year there are 7 minutes between classes. We have tested it, and it is enough time to get to where you need to go!

What happens if I'm late to a class?

We have a tardy policy that notifies parents if a student is late to school or to an individual class. Several tardies result in after school detention, Saturday School, or other consequences.

Can students use cell phones? When & Where?

Students are able to use cell phones during class changes and at lunch. During class, students should have their cell phones put away and turned off.

How often do you get to see your friends?

It depends. You get to see your friends in the morning before 1st block, in between classes if you have classes near theirs and / or after school if you stay for a club / sport / activity. You may or may not have lunch with your friends, but don't worry, you will also make new friends.

Is there going to be a Fall Orientation for students?

Yes, typically there is a one-day orientation event the week before school starts to orient new students and 9th grade students to HHS. Stay tuned for more information! We look forward to seeing you then!