Navigating through

High School Registration

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

GLENELG HIGH SCHOOL
LEARNING FOR LIFE.
DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS IN A COMMUNITY THAT V
SCHOLARSHIP, CITIZENSHIP, AND DIVERSITY.

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; encourage your child to self-advocate and communicate with teachers. Check teacher websites, sign up for electronic communication from the school.

- 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?

- Attend PTA meetings and volunteer in school activities.

- Access Naviance to view electronic catalog and your student's course plan. (Contact your school counselor if you need access.)

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
English	**4 credits**
Mathematics	**3 credits*** • 1 in Algebra I • 1 in Geometry
Science	**3 credits** • 1 in biology • 2 that must include laboratory experience in any or all of the following areas: earth science, environmental science, life science, physical science
Social Studies	**3 credits** • 1 in U.S. History • 1 in local, state, national government • 1 in World History
Other Requirements	
Fine Arts	**1 credit**
Physical Education	**1/2 credit** including Lifetime Fitness
Health	**1/2 credit** including Health OR Current Health Issues
Technology Education	**1 credit**
Program Choice	**2 credits** in world language** OR **2 credits** in American Sign Language*** (must complete both ASL I and II to meet the requirement. These courses may not meet all colleges' entrance requirements.) OR **2 credits** in an approved Advanced Technology Program OR **4 or 5 credits** in a Career Academy (state-approved Career and Technology Education Completer program)
Electives	**1-3 credits** in any courses beyond the above requirements
Students must also meet attendance, service-learning and Career Preparation requirements.	

Note: See Catalog of Approved High School Courses for assessment requirements for graduation.

* All students must graduate with a credit with instruction in algebra and one credit with instruction in geometry. For the graduating class of 2018 and later, students must be enrolled in a mathematics course in each year of high school (for a maximum of four years unless a mathematics course is needed to meet graduation requirements in additional years).

** Students who received credit for Spanish I or French I based on work in middle school before the 2015-16 school year, still need to earn at least 2 credits in World Language for this program choice option.

*** Students must complete both ASL I and II in high school to meet the graduation requirement.

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, and course numbers.

Name : Super Student   Grade: 9   ID: 001234567
Homeroom: A215   Counselor: Helpful, Ms.

Period 1:	US History	B110
Period 2:	Algebra I	A214
Period 3:	English 9 Honors	B122
Period 4A:	Dance I	A209
Period 4B:	Designing Technology Solutions	E102
Period 5:	Earth and Space Science	B112
Period 6:	Lifetime Fitness	GYM

Sample Registration Form

(*Counselors will guide students to help them understand course offerings.*)

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High School
REGISTRATION
GRADE 09

1.

NAME:_____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY:_____ ZIP:_____

List below the seven credits to be taken during the school year. Read the notes below before completing the registration form.

2.

Dept	Course Name, Number and Level		Credit	Teacher Recommendation
English 9			1	
US History			1	
Mathematics			1	
Science			1	
Elective #1			1	
Elective #2			1	
Physical Ed/ Health	PE-900-8/ HE-900-8	Lifetime Fitness/ Health	1	**REQUIRED**

Total Credits = 7

❖ *LUCNH is added to all schedules.* ❖

List below two 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 #1		
Alternative #2		
Alternative #3		

Please indicate intended Program Choice(s):

❏ World Language

❏ Advanced Technology Sequence

❏ Career and Technology Completer (Career Academy or Career Research and Development)

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Check if applicable:

❏ IEP

❏ ESOL

❏ 504

</div>

4.

Student Signature: _____   Parent Signature: _____

Print Parent name: _____   Daytime Phone: _____

Parent e-mail: _____   Initials of School Counselor: _____

</div>

This is a sample course registration form. You will receive a copy of this document with current teacher recommendations. Please fill in the elective choices for 9th grade with your child.

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. You can use the *Catalog of Approved High School Courses* and Naviance to help you. 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

The courses below are some of the options a 9th grader may choose to complete his/her schedule. Ninth graders are encouraged to take their Fine Arts or Technology requirement.

Course Name	Course #
Art I - Foundations of Studio Art	VA-400-1
*Exploring Computer Science - Honors	CT-400-1
Principles of Java Programming GT	CT-465-1
Theater Arts I	DT-410-1
Journalism I	LA-840-1
Yearbook I	LA-870-1
Food and Nutrition Technology	CT-910-1
World Language	depends on language selected
Band - concert, audition for other levels	MU-400-1
Music Theory I	MU-460-1
Chorus	MU-410-1
Concert Choir	MU-510-1
Chamber Choir (audition required)	varies by level
Vocal Ensembles	varies by level
Piano I and II	MU-470-1, MU-570-1
Guitar I, II and III/IV	MU-430-1, MU-530-1, MU-830-1
String Orchestra (audition required)	varies by level
Music Technology	MU-450-1
Dance I	DT-400-1
Dance II, III (audition required)	DT-500-1, DT-600-1, etc.
Junior Dance Company GT (audition required)	DT-730-1
*Foundations of Technology	CT-800-1
*PLTW Introduction to Engineering Design GT	CT-805-1
Foundations of Fashion and Interior Design	CT-900-1

*Meets the Technology Education requirement. See page 7 of 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, in addition to many other factors.

GPA 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, GT or 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 senior 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 who has earned less than 5 credits; a 9th grader.

2. A student who has earned at least 5 credits (1 is English); a 10th grader.

3. A student who has earned at least 10 credits (2 are English); an 11th grader.

4. A student who has earned at least 14 credits (2 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. GPA will be used for academic eligibility for extracurricular activities, National Honor Society, honor roll, and for any other activity requiring the reporting of grade point average.

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. Courses offered for students with exceptional ability. The courses prepare students with the knowledge and skills required to meet state content standards.

15. Courses for students capable of and interested in progressing through course material with more depth and rigor. Students will learn the knowledge and skills required to meet state content standards.

16. Courses for students who have grade level skills. The courses prepare students with the knowledge and skills required to meet state content standards.

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   _____

Weighted GPA   _____

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	Weighted GPA
2	Sophomore
13	AP

HOWARD COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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