HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

TRANSITION FROM GRADE 8 TO 9

Information for Parents and Students for the 2019-20 Academic Year

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8th Grade Parents Night

High School Auditorium

February 13, 2019 6:00 – 8:30pm

Introductory Session – Auditorium

Welcome to the High School and the 9th Grade Academic Program – High School Leadership Team and Department Heads

Small Group Sessions – 504, Auditorium and Library

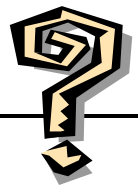
Parents will be divided into three groups and the Department Heads will move from one group to another every 20 minutes. The bell will ring to indicate changeover times.

Room 504	Session 1	Performing Arts and Visual Arts, Design & Tech.
(Pink)	Session 2	Humanities
	Session 3	Mathematics and Science
	Session 4	Romance Languages and Mandarin
Auditorium	Session 1	Romance Languages and Mandarin
(Green)	Session 2	Performing Arts and Visual Arts, Design & Tech.
	Session 3	Humanities
	Session 4	Mathematics and Science
Library	Session 1	Mathematics and Science
(Blue)	Session 2	Romance Languages and Mandarin
	Session 3	Performing Arts and Visual Arts, Design & Tech.
	Session 4	Humanities

1st Warning Bell for Seating: 5:55
Introductions / Presentation: 6:00-6:30 (Leadership team in the HS Auditorium)
Ending Bell: 6:30
To Session Rooms: 6:30 to 6:35 (5 mins)
Session 1: 6:35 to 6:55 (20 mins)
Session 2: 7:00 to 7:20 (20 mins)
Session 3: 7:25 to 7:45 (20 mins)
Session 4: 7:50 to 8:10 (20 mins)

Parents will be dismissed from the small groups at 8:10 PM and can come back to 504 for any further questions/clarifications until 8:30 PM.

High School Registration



Q: When does high school registration take place?
A: In February every year.

Q: What is the purpose of registration?
A: We build the master schedule based on the information obtained from the registration form. Student sign-ups help determine which courses will be offered the next school year and the number of sections of each course.

Q: When will we get information about the registration process?
A: There will be an 8th Grade Parents' evening about high school registration on Wednesday night, the 13th of February 2019.

Q: Is my child guaranteed they will be able to take the courses selected for grade 9?
A: Students are guaranteed they will be scheduled into their required (core) courses. Although every effort will be made to accommodate all requests, students are NOT guaranteed that their elective courses will be able to fit into their final schedule.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM AT HKIS

The High School Academic Program is a **FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM OF STUDY.**

In order to graduate from the High School at the end of the Senior Year, a student needs to meet all the minimum **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**.

The minimum number of credits a student must have in order to graduate is 22; however, most graduating students leave HKIS with between 26 and 28 credits, and the school counsels students to pursue four years of study in each of the five core academic areas (English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Modern Language).

- **1 CREDIT = 1 year of study**
- **½ CREDIT = 1 semester of study**
- **¼ CREDIT = ½ semester study, spread throughout the year**

These credits are chosen from courses for **REQUIRED CREDIT** and **ELECTIVE CREDIT**. The academic program at HKIS offers a wide range of choice.

- **REQUIRED CREDITS:** 18.

- **ELECTIVE CREDITS**: Minimum of 4, selected from the range of courses across disciplines.

In addition, students are required to:

- successfully complete an INTERIM for each year of attendance at HKIS
- successfully complete the SENIOR PROJECT during their senior year
- gain technology proficiency through their work in the HKIS 1:1 learning environment

As a basic guideline, the normal course load for Ninth Graders is

between 6¼ and 7½ CREDITS

CHOOSING 9TH GRADE COURSES

Listed below are the subject areas from which 9th Graders may choose courses:

Field of Study	9th Grade Courses	Numbers of Credits (Grade 9)	Overall Graduation Requirements (From Grade 9 to Grade 12)
REQUIRED COURSES IN 9TH GRADE			
English and Social Studies	**Humanities I** or **Humanities I in Action**	1 English 1 Social Studies	**4 English** **2 Social Studies**
Mathematics (Depending on placement)	**Algebra** or **Geometry** or **Geometry Honors**	1 Math	**3**
Science (Depending on placement)	**Biology** or **Physical Science** or **Chemistry Honors** or **Biology Honors**	1 Science	**2**

WELLNESS BLOCK			
Spiritual Exploration and Religion	**Spiritual Exploration 9**	¼ Religion	**1½**
Physical Education and Health	**Physical Education 9**	½ PE	**2**
Health and Well-Being	**Grade 9 Seminar: Transition to High School**	N/A	**N/A**
STRONGLY RECOMMENDED (REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION)			
Modern Languages (Depending on placement)	**French Spanish Mandarin**	1 Language	**2**
VADT & Performing Arts	**Visual Arts** or **Performing Arts**	½ -1 Visual and/or Performing Arts	**1½**

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON COURSES

REQUIRED COURSES FOR 9TH GRADE

Humanities

- All 9th graders take an interdisciplinary Humanities I course to fulfill their English and Social Studies credits. See the handbook for the two Humanities I options.
- Students become more proficient users of the writing process and learn to use writing as a learning and thinking tool.
- Students learn to use a variety of reading strategies to help them construct meaning from the texts they study.
- Students are encouraged to read widely for pleasure.

Mathematics

- The common American high school course sequence in mathematics is Algebra 1 - Geometry - Advanced Algebra - Pre-calculus.

- 8th Grade students are recommended for the high school 9th Grade program in Algebra I, Geometry/Geometry Honors, or Advanced Algebra Honors on:
  - a student's academic performance against course standards
  - standardized test score (MAP, AMC-8)
  - a student's approaches to learning
  - 8th grade teacher recommendation in consultation with the high school

- In principle, students requiring tutoring to pass a course should not be in Honors or otherwise accelerated.

- While we don't want to discourage able students from challenging themselves, it is very important to have a solid foundation in the beginning courses than to try to go too quickly on a shaky foundation. **Enrichment rather than acceleration** will lead to a very successful mathematics education.

- Students identified as honors candidates should not only have mathematical ability, but should have a **passion** for mathematics. **Motivation** and a keen **interest** are key factors.

- While a recommendation for Honors Chemistry requires a recommendation for Honors Geometry, enrollment in Honors Geometry is <u>not</u> required.

Science

- There are four science courses open to 9th grade students: Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry Honors and Biology Honors.

  - Students choosing between Biology and Physical Science should consider their interest in studying life sciences vs studying chemistry and physics next year.

  - Middle School teacher recommendation for placement into 9th Grade Biology Honors or Chemistry Honors is based upon the following criteria:

    i. Academic excellence demonstrated by achieving a majority of Meeting and Exceeding Expectations per standard (gaining ME or EE on the first attempt of the summative assessments).
    ii. Achieving "Consistently Meets Expectations" in the categories on the Approaches to Learning Rubric.
    iii. Demonstrating a keen interest in science consistently in class throughout the year.
    iv. Demonstrating self-motivation and independent learning with a mature attitude in science studies.
    v. High-level math ability is required for enrollment in Chemistry Honors. Students entering Chemistry Honors must also be recommended for Geometry Honors.
    vi. Student always adheres to the HKIS Honor and Integrity Code as outlined to them in the MS Handbook and by their 8th grade Science Teacher.

WELLNESS BLOCK

Spiritual Exploration and Religion

- Students are required to take Spiritual Exploration 9 (¼ credit) in Grade 9.

Physical Education

- All 9th grade students are required to take the ½ credit PE 9 course.
- Sport units in badminton, touch rugby and netball are designed to develop tactical game competency and to begin skill development from "where they are at" and proceed from there.
- Fitness units in aquatics, cardio training and resistance training are designed to establish fundamental knowledge and skills. The aquatics training includes stroke improvement and survival skills. The resistance training has a focus on body-weight exercises.
- The adventure unit has a focus on group development and problem solving.

Grade 9 Seminar: Transition to High School

- All 9th grade students are registered for Grade 9 Seminar.
- This course aims to build a bridge between middle school and high school by helping to personalize 9th grade for every student.

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

Modern Languages

- We encourage the study of a language other than one's own because such study enhances divergent thinking and encourages students to respect and understand other cultures and values. At the same time, it heightens awareness of students' own culture.
- The High school offers a broad scope of language study from beginner to advanced language and literature courses in three languages: French, Spanish, and Mandarin.
- Students may switch languages they wish to study when they register for 9th grade courses.
- All Mandarin students will need to take a placement test in March to finalize their registration.
- Students who have proven to have strong general academic skills and strength in the first Modern Language may take two languages at the same time. Special permission from their MS language teacher is required.
- Those students with a previous language background, but who are not enrolled in our MS program, will need to have an interview and take a placement test.

Visual Arts, Design and Technology & Performing Arts

- Students must earn 1½ credit in the Arts to meet the graduation requirement.

- Visual Arts, Design and Technology Foundation must be taken in order to open up all VADT courses.

- At least ½ credit must be earned in the Visual Arts, Design & Technology and ½ credit earned in the Performing Arts (music or drama).

9th Grade Humanities Courses - Home Learning Outline

Humanities I and Humanities I in Action	Home Learning: 2 Dragons - up to 60 minutes per class

What types of formative home learning tasks can I expect?

- The most common home learning task is **reading** articles and books to prepare for class. Reading at home is essential preparation for participation and understanding in your humanities class.
- Annotating articles, taking notes on books, preparing discussion questions, writing reflections, and becoming familiar with any new vocabulary is important.
- Focused **writing practice** and engaging in the writing process to hone your skills for summative assessments are essential to success in the humanities.
- Optional web links, videos and readings will be suggested at times. These resources will help you to better understand the material.

What academic skills and Approaches to Learning skills will help me be successful?

- The only way to improve your reading and writing is by reading and writing. As such, your formative work in humanities is very different than some other disciplines. You will not often be required to memorize and regurgitate information, but you will need to read closely, comprehend dense texts, synthesize ideas, and compose thoughtful analysis and reflection. Humanities is more like athletic or music practice, where you need to exercise repeatedly in order to improve your skills. Failing to put forth your very best effort in formative work forfeits valuable opportunities to practice, receive feedback, and improve your skills. Self-motivated learning and discipline are needed to succeed in high school humanities.

Spiritual Explorations 9	Home Learning: 1 Dragon - up to 30 minutes per class

What types of formative home learning tasks can I expect?

- There will be occasional articles to read or reflections to write, but most formative work in this class is called “home play” and asks students to engage in spiritual practices or small acts of kindness between classes to improve their attentiveness to others and their spiritual selves.

What academic skills and Approaches to Learning skills will help me be successful?

- An active interest in all aspects of your wellbeing (body, heart, and mind) and the wellbeing of others will help you be successful in this class.
- Curiosity about life’s biggest questions, openness to experience, non-judgmental awareness, and authentic engagement in the course are the most important approaches to learning in Spiritual Explorations.

9th Grade Science Courses - Home Learning Outline

Physical Science	Home Learning: 1 Dragon - up to 30 minutes per class. Note: this is only an average and represents time spent in focused study.

What types of formative home learning tasks can I expect?

- Assigned Practice sets are given weekly and the completion is recorded in Schoology. These sheets include an answer key. You can do the practice problems and check your work to know which areas you need additional support.
- Assigned lab analysis questions/reflections are to be completed individually after lab experiences in class. These are usually marked formatively and occasionally as a summative assessment.
- Unit objective sheets are provided with all learning targets at the beginning of unit. This could be used at home as a guide to what you should know/be able to do in the unit. This will help inform you of areas in which you need additional support.
- Optional web links, videos and readings will be suggested at times. These resources will help you to better understand the material.

What academic skills and Approaches to Learning skills will help me be successful?

- Math skills include: Graphing, basic algebra and unit conversions.
- Lab skills include: Collaboration, data collection and materials management.
- Organizational skills include: File management in Schoology and Google Drive.

Biology	Home Learning: 1 Dragon - up to 30 minutes per class. Note: this is only an average and represents time spent in focused study.

What types of formative home learning tasks can I expect?

Lab analysis questions, webquests, concept practice with answer keys. Additionally, students should be engaging in their own revision/preparation for the class which could include;

- Using class sets on Quizlet to become familiar with key terms
- Reviewing additional resources provided by the teacher such as supplemental PPTs, videos, and designated websites in order to better understand challenging concepts
- Using the Unit Overview with Learning Targets as a guide for what they understand in the unit and what they may need to further review.

What academic skills and Approaches to Learning skills will help me be successful?

- Basic lab skills and knowledge of lab safety and equipment.
- ATL's Self-motivated learning: Demonstrates initiative and independence, advocates for own learning, manages time well and meets deadlines.

Chemistry Honors	Home Learning: 2 Dragons - up to 60 minutes per class. Note: this is only an average and represents time spent in focused study.

What types of formative home learning tasks can I expect?

- Teaching Videos - You will regularly be asked to watch teaching videos and take notes on what you've learned. Each video is approximately 15 minutes long. Sample Teaching Video. On completing a video, you will be asked to put into practice what you have learned by working on related problems. This occurs on the same night as the video.

- Practice for Fluency - You will hear this phrase a lot in Chemistry Honors. It means to continue to practice a given skill until you are able to consistently and accurately perform it. Sample Worksheets. All answers are posted and it is expected you check your work as you go, using the answers to inform your learning and show you when to adjust your strategy. Your fluency is checked regularly through in-class formative quizzes. Each class has required problems to solve and further fluency practice is your choice.

- Completion of Formative Labs - these practice labs are done in class but may need completion at home. They give you experience and teacher feedback so you can be prepared for summative tasks.

- Summative Labs - This can include writing a lab report following the rubric given for the specific lab or completing an individual in-class summative based on the lab.

- Your own review. Concepts in this course spiral, meaning they return again and again woven into new topics. This helps keep them fresh in your mind but you may need to intentionally and regularly review past topics. Summative assessments are cumulative so keeping current and remembering what has passed is key.

What academic skills and Approaches to Learning skills will help me be successful?

- Chemistry Honors is a course in which most of the concepts have a mathematical basis. Strong problem-solving skills as well as motivation to embrace the challenges in solving problems is important. To take Chemistry Honors, you must be recommended by your 8th grade teacher for Math Honors.

- Initiative and Independence - Formative work isn't graded in High School therefore showing initiative and independence as well as advocating for your own learning is important. How much fluency practice YOU need is unique to you. There may be topics you need to keep practicing.

- Time management - Chemistry involves cumulative concepts that build. Gaps in formative practice cause new concepts to be much more difficult. Will you keep up with formative work day to day to build a strong foundation?

Biology Honors	Home Learning: 3 Dragons - up to 90 minutes per class. Note: this is only an average and represents time spent in focused study.

What types of formative home learning tasks can I expect?

- Sample series of homework assignments for class.
- Reading the textbook (sample chapter) taking notes on key terms/ideas, into notes.
- Reading and using the Unit Learning Targets as a guide for what they understand in the unit and what they may need to develop their biological understanding. In addition, using and/or creating your own slideshows to demonstrate a grasp of the complex concepts covered (sample slideshow used for review).
- Completion of formative work. Whether formally checked or not, all formative work will need to be completed, helping you to develop a deeper understanding of the topics covered.
- Completion of summative labs. This includes writing a lab report following the rubric given for the specific lab.
- Practice for fluency: Includes worksheets that include labs and simulations, reading and writing short reflections on reading. Synthesis of concepts for fluency may include developing a Mind Map of all the concepts on the Learning Targets for the Unit. Mind Maps might be more than one A3 page and should be done over a week period, nightly, versus a one time effort.
- Self-motivated review. Concepts in this course spiral, meaning they return again and again woven into new topics. This helps keep them fresh in your mind but you may need to intentionally and regularly review past topics. Summative assessments are cumulative so keeping current and remember what has passed is key. (ex. Proteins can act as an acid or a base, or their 3D structure can be denatured by changing pH, temp, or salinity).
- Teaching Videos - used occasionally to help develop fluency of concepts.

What academic skills and Approaches to Learning skills will help me be successful?

- Honors Biology is a course that requires proficient biological vocabulary to develop key conceptual understanding. Any study skills that help with developing vocabulary will aid students' understanding in the course.
- Initiative and Independence - Formative work isn't graded in High School but is expected for success in this course. Taking initiative to advocate for your learning and studying independently are useful learning habits. There may be topics you need to keep practicing.
- Time management - Biology is a very cumulative subject and gaps in formative practice cause new concepts to be much more difficult. Will you keep up with formative work day to day to build a strong foundation?

9th Grade Math Courses - Home Learning Outline

Algebra	Home Learning: 1 Dragon – up to 30 minutes per class

What types of formative home learning tasks can I expect?

- Practice problems from homework packet or other revision materials.
- Review and revision of material for formatives and summatives.

What academic skills and Approaches to Learning skills will help me be successful?

Academic Skills

- Being able to simplify and solve expressions and problems with positive and negative integers and fractions
- Knowing multiplication tables through 12
- Ability to graph points on a number line
- Ability to solve single-variable equations
- Ability to rewrite equations to solve for a variable

Approaches to Learning Skills

- Demonstration of respectful behaviour that contributes to a positive learning environment.
- Respectfully engaging with others and being active and productive in groups.
- Completing work on time and managing time well both in and out of class.
- Persevering when presented with difficult or challenging work.
- Advocating for oneself and seeking help outside of class when needed.

Geometry	Home Learning: 1 Dragon - up to 30 minutes per class

What types of formative home learning tasks can I expect?

- Complete practice problems from the text, worksheet or online resources.
- Read examples from the book in preparation for class.

What academic skills and Approaches to Learning skills will help me be successful?

- **Numeracy** - Student should have a good sense of how to work with positive and negative numbers, including fractions. They should also be able to apply the order of operations correctly.
- **Attention to detail** - Students should be able to review their work in order to find errors. They will be most successful if they are willing to take the time to communicate their work clearly.

- **Reflection & Self Advocacy** - Students should be able to reflect on their learning in order to identify areas that need attention. It is very helpful if, once these areas are identified, students can take the initiative to ask for help.
- **Responsibility** - Students should come to class prepared and with the required materials. Students should complete the daily work.
- **Communication & Collaboration** - Students should listen and be respectful of the views of others. Students should feel comfortable contributing their ideas to the group. Articulating their ideas will help to further develop understanding. Written communication is also important. It is best if students are willing to take the time to learn and apply proper mathematical notation.

Honors Geometry	Home Learning: 2 Dragons – up to 60 minutes per class

What types of formative home learning tasks can I expect?

- **Practice problems**
  Problems that are related to the content being studied in class are regularly assigned. The format of these problems include:
  - Textbook practice problems (at the end of each lesson or each chapter)
  - Online quizzes (the location or link will be given)
  - Worksheets (normally in the unit packet)

- **Problem-Solving Practice**
  These problems are normally given after each unit summative. These problems are not limited to the specific content being studied in class but will include prerequisite mathematical topics. This will help students review concepts learned previously and connect prior knowledge to new concepts.

- **Challenge problems**
  Synthesis, transfer, and/or application problems that require critical thinking and/or problem-solving.

- **Lesson Notes**
  Note taking is an effective learning tool. Students will be asked to complete some notes in the unit packet.

- **Reading**
  For some lessons, students will be asked to read the lessons/concepts:
  1. Pre-reading before class to have an initial idea about what will be introduced and to make connections with prior knowledge or
  2. reading the lessons/concepts after class to reinforce expected learning.

What academic skills and Approaches to Learning skills will help me be successful?

- **Self-motivation and interest in problem-solving**
  Students who enjoy solving mathematical puzzles and problems for fun, and can make connections between concepts they have learned will be good candidates for Honors class!

- **Good sense for seeing patterns**
  Seeing patterns is a skill that helps students connect what they already know to new concepts being learned.

- **Communication**
  Effective communication, both orally and in writing, of a student's understanding is vitally important. This process should begin with students organizing their thoughts in a rationale sequence.

- **Attention to Detail**
  Attention to detail is required when writing proofs, justifying answers and completing comprehensive projects.

- **Collaboration**
  Making effective contributions to class or group discussions is an important skill that supports learning and is an expectation in this class.