



Preparing for High School

Class of 2025

NISD High Schools

8th graders attend one
of four high schools
depending on zoning or
academy acceptance.





**Performance
Acknowledgements**

**Distinguished Level of
Achievement**

Endorsements

Foundation High School Program

**Your
PGP**

**Creating Your Personal Graduation Plan
(PGP): Begins with the Foundation High
School Program.**

Graduation Requirements

This chart and other information regarding high school academic planning is located on the district website:

https://www.nisdtx.org/departments/guidance_and_counseling_programs/high_school_academic_planning

Subject Area	Foundation with Endorsement	Distinguished Level of Achievement
English Language Arts	Four credits: - English I - English II - English III - Advanced English credit	Four credits: - English I - English II - English III - Advanced English credit
Mathematics	Four credits: - Algebra I - Geometry - Advanced math credit - Advanced math credit	Four credits: - Algebra I - Geometry - Algebra II - Advanced math credit
Science	Four credits: - Biology - IPC, Chemistry, or Physics - Advanced science credit - Advanced science credit	Four credits: - Biology - IPC, Chemistry, or Physics - Advanced science credit - Advanced science credit
Social Studies	Three credits: - World Geography or World History - US History - US Government (0.5 credit) - Economics (0.5 credit)	Three credits: - World Geography or World History - US History - US Government (0.5 credit) - Economics (0.5 credit)
Physical Education	One credit	One credit
Languages Other Than English	Two credits in the same language	Two credits in the same language
Fine Arts	One credit	One credit
Speech	0.5 credit	0.5 credit
Elective	6.5 credits	6.5 credits
Endorsement	At least one of the following endorsements is required. See next page for the detailed NISD Endorsement Guide.	
Arts and Humanities Endorsement	Includes courses directly related to World Language, English Literature, History, and Fine Arts	
Business and Industry Endorsement	Includes credits directly related to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Architecture and Construction, Arts, Audio Visual, Business and Management, Hospitality and Tourism, Information Technology, and Marketing	
Public Services Endorsement	Includes credits directly related to Education and Training, Human Services, and Health Sciences	
STEM Endorsement	Includes credits directly related to Science, Technology, Computer Science, Engineering, and Advanced Math	
Multidisciplinary Endorsement	Allows a student to select credits from the curriculum of each endorsement area and earn credits in a variety of advanced course from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the distinguished level of achievement.	
Total Credits	26 credits	26 credits

Potential High School Credits Fulfilled in Middle School

- ☐ **Algebra I Pre-AP** (1.0 credit)
Fulfills Algebra I requirement for graduation
- ☐ **Art I** (1.0 credit)
Fulfills fine art requirement for graduation
- ☐ **Geometry Pre-AP** (1.0 credit)
Fulfills Geometry requirement for graduation
- ☐ **Principles of Human Services**
(1.0 elective credit)
- ☐ **Professional Communications** (.5 credit)
Fulfills speech requirement for graduation
- ☐ **Project Lead the Way (PLTW)**
Design & Modeling and Automation & Robotics
(.5 elective credit) – and/or – Computer Science for
Innovators and Makers/Medical Detectives
(.5 elective credit)
- ☐ **Spanish I Pre-AP** (1.0 credit)
Fulfills a LOTE requirement for graduation



NISD Advanced Academic Courses

Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, Northwest ISD will be changing the name of all Pre-Advanced Placement courses to **Honors**. This change will not affect the quality of the curriculum or the instruction provided by our teachers. The courses will continue to prepare students for Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Credit, and OnRamps courses.

Gifted and Talented (GT)

Secondary students identified as gifted and talented are served through GT Honors courses. In 9th grade, specific GT courses are available in the areas of English and social studies.

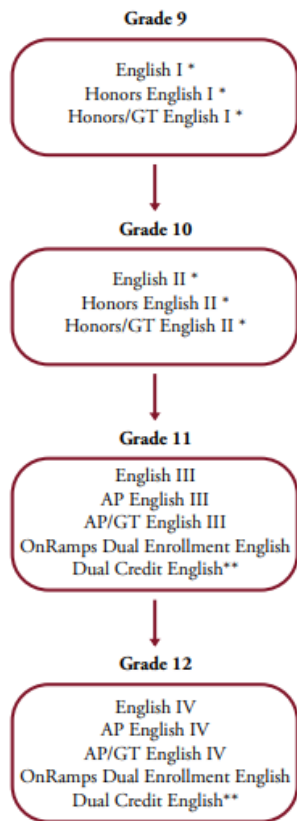
Benefits of Advanced Courses

College admissions: Colleges look for students who have completed rigorous coursework (Honors, Honors/GT, AP, and Dual Credit)

While in high school, students will have the opportunity to earn college credit through AP courses and Dual Credit courses.

Students with higher level courses are generally more prepared for college level work and more likely than their peers to complete a college degree on time.

NISD English Course Sequence: Four Credits

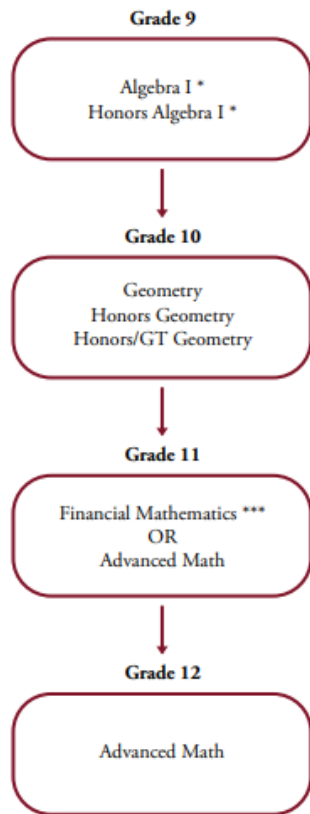


*Denotes that the course requires an End of Course Test (STAAR)

**See Online or Off-campus Dual Credit Opportunities in the Academic Planning Guide

Depending on the student's graduation plan and endorsement, a student may satisfy the fourth English credit by completing other approved English courses.

NISD Math Course Sequence: Four Credits



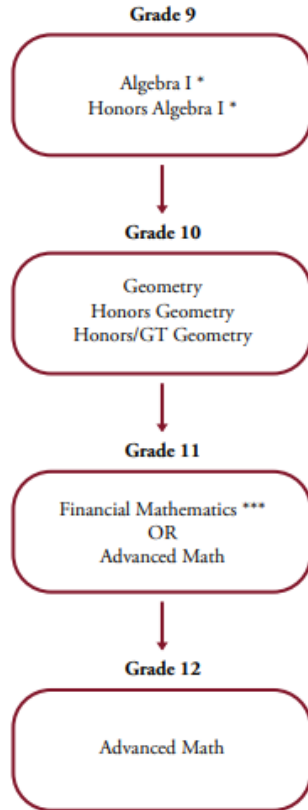
*Denotes that the course requires an End of Course Test (STAAR)

**See Online or Off-campus Dual Credit Opportunities in the Academic Planning Guide

***This course is not an advanced math and does not meet NCAA eligibility for student-athletes.

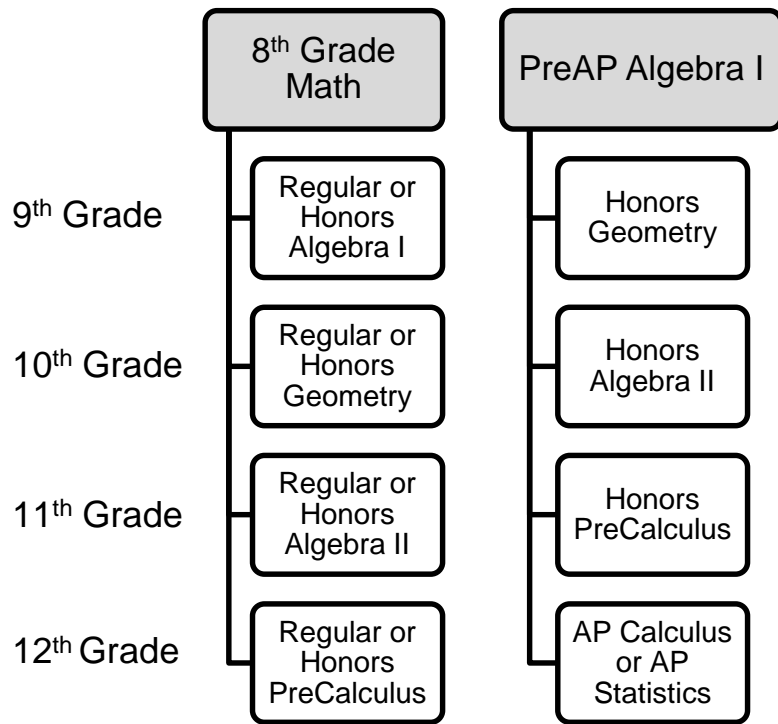
A student may not receive credit for the same course twice. If a student successfully completed Algebra I PreAP in middle school, then he/she must register for the next math course, Geometry.

NISD Math Course Sequence continued...



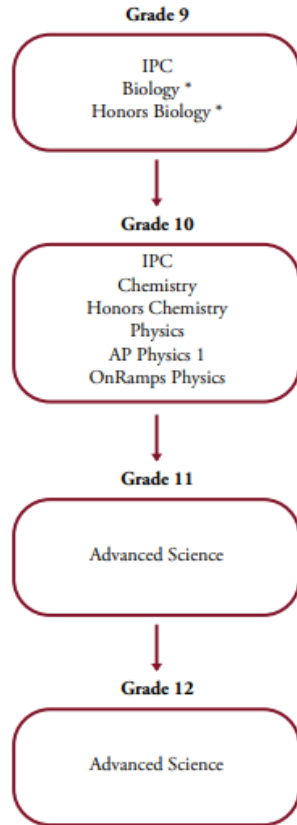
Advanced Math Courses:

- Algebraic Reasoning
- Algebra II, Honors Algebra II, Honors/GT Algebra II, or OnRamps College Algebra
- Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR)
- Precalculus, Honors Precalculus, or OnRamps Precalculus
- OnRamps Statistics
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Statistics
- Dual credit courses



Specific Examples of Math Sequences

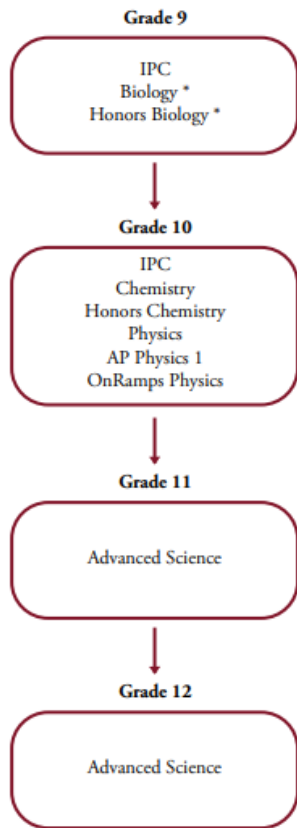
NISD Science Course Sequence: Four Credits



*Denotes that the course requires an End of Course Test (STAAR)

**See Online or Off-campus Dual Credit Opportunities in the Academic Planning Guide

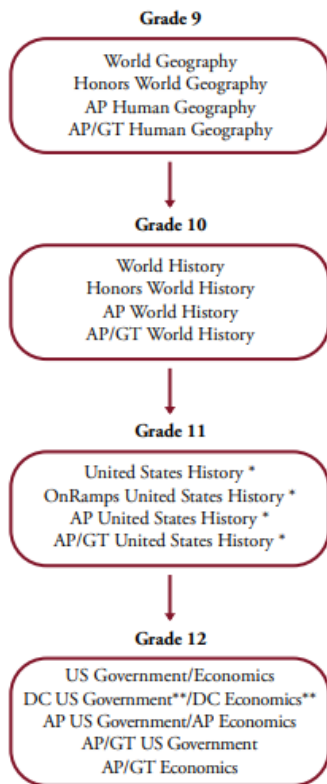
NISD Science Course Sequence



Advanced Science Courses:

- Chemistry or Honors Chemistry
- Physics or OnRamps Physics
- Earth and Space Science
- Environmental Systems
- Advanced Animal Science
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Forensic Science
- Scientific Research and Design
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Physics 1
- AP Physics C: Mechanics
- AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
- AP Environmental Science
- Dual credit courses

NISD Social Studies Course Sequence: Three Credits



*Denotes that the course requires an End of Course Test (STAAR)

**See Online or Off-campus Dual Credit Opportunities in the Academic Planning Guide

Students are highly encouraged to complete FOUR credits in social studies. Four credits in social studies are required for the multidisciplinary endorsement.

NISD Language Other Than English (LOTE) Course Sequence

Spanish

Spanish I & Spanish I Honors
Spanish II & Spanish II Honors
Spanish I-II for Spanish Speakers
Spanish III Honors
Spanish III Honors for Spanish Speakers
Spanish IV AP Language and Culture
Spanish V AP Literature

French

French I & French I Honors
French II & French II Honors
French III Honors
French IV AP Language and Culture
DC French I
DC French II

German

German I & German I Honors
German II & German II Honors
German III Honors
German IV AP Language and Culture

American Sign Language

American Sign Language I
American Sign Language II

Computer Science

Computer Science I
Computer Science II
OnRamps Computer Science I
AP Computer Science A

Students must complete two credits of the same Language Other Than English (LOTE).

A student who successfully completes Spanish I PreAP in middle school should register for Spanish II or Spanish II Honors for 9th grade.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers requires an oral and written fluency test.

ASL and Computer Science may not be accepted by a college/university as a world language; check prospective college admission expectations.

NISD Physical Education Options: One Credit Required

- **Athletics** – Students will select the specified sport and not a generic athletics class. If a student participates in more than one sport, choose the sport that occurs first in the school year.
- **Band, Color Guard, or Drill Team** – provides 1.0 fine art credit (full year) AND .5 PE credit (fall only); completing two years of one of these activities will provide 1.0 PE credit. Students can earn a maximum of 1.0 PE credit through these activities.
- **Cheerleading I** – provides 1.0 PE credit for the first year; subsequent years are local credits and do not count toward state graduation credits.
- **Dance I** – provides 1.0 fine art credit and 1.0 PE credit (Aerobic Fitness). Athletes who take Dance I cannot be awarded additional PE credit.
- **Football Athletic Trainer** – All start by being enrolled in Football. Subsequent years will be Sports Medicine I, II, and III.
- **PE courses**

NISD Athletic Options



- Baseball (B)
- Basketball (B,G)
- Cross Country (B,G)
- Diving (B,G)
- Football (B)
- Golf (B, G)
- Soccer (B, G)
- Softball (G)
- Swimming (B,G)
- Tennis (B,G)
- Track (B,G)
- Volleyball (G)
- Wrestling (B,G)

B = Boys
G = Girls

Available Physical Education Courses

01

Aerobic Fitness
(1.0 credit)

02

Foundations of Personal
Fitness: Strength & Tone
(1.0 credit)

03

Individual/Team Sport
(1.0 credit)

04

Outdoor Education
(.5 credit)

Fine Arts: One Credit Required



- Art I
- Band I (includes Color Guard/Winter Guard)
- Choir I
- Dance I or Drill Team I (Drill Team is by audition only)
- Floral Design (Grades 10-12 only)
- AP Music Theory – Must read and write basic music notation and have basic skills in voice or instrument; to be taken concurrently with Band, Choir, Orchestra.
- Orchestra
- Theatre I
- Technical Theatre I

Endorsements: Another Piece of the Puzzle



What is an Endorsement?

A coherent sequence of electives in a specific area of interest. These electives may be taken through an academy or through a specified Program of Study (POS). There are FIVE endorsements:

- Arts and Humanities
- Business and Industry
- Multidisciplinary Studies
- Public Services
- STEM

Arts and Humanities Endorsement

See the [NISD Endorsement Guide](#) for additional details

Arts and Humanities Options:

- **Additional social studies credits** – Complete five social studies credits
- **Fine Arts** – Complete four fine arts credits from one or two disciplines in the fine arts
- **World Language (4)** – Complete four levels of the same language in a language other than English
- **World Language (2+2)** – Complete two levels of the same language in a language other than English and two levels of a different language in a language other than English
- **Additional English credits** – Complete four English credits from specified list

Business and Industry Endorsement

See the [NISD CTE Programs of Study Guide](#) for additional details



Business and Industry Options:

Complete a CTE Program of Study (POS)

Programs of Study available include:

- Accounting and Financial Services
- Advanced Manufacturing and Machinery Mechanics
- Animal Science
- Applied Agricultural Engineering
- Architectural Design
- Business Management
- Culinary Arts
- Design and Multimedia Arts
- Digital Communications
- Engineering (STEM Academy only)
- Entrepreneurship (Business Management & Entrepreneurship Academy only)
- Networking Systems
- Plant Science
- Programming and Software Development

Business and Industry Endorsement

See the [NISD CTE Programs of Study Guide](#) for additional details



Business and Industry Options

Complete a CTE Program of Study (POS)
continued:

- Aviation (Flight)*
- Aviation Maintenance*
- Drone (Unmanned Flight)*

*Aviation and Aeronautics Academy only

Complete a Business and Industry – English option:

- Debate
- Newspaper

Multidisciplinary Endorsement

See the [NISD Endorsement Guide](#) for Additional Details

Multidisciplinary Options:

- **Additional core classes*** – Complete four credits in each area: English, math, science, and social studies. *Completed courses must include English IV and for science, Chemistry and/or Physics.
- **AP and/or Dual Credit** – Complete four credits in Advanced Placement (AP) or dual credit from English, math, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English, or fine arts
- **Advanced CTE Courses** – Complete four advanced CTE courses from within one endorsement or among multiple endorsements.

Public Service Endorsement

See the [NISD CTE Programs of Study Guide](#) for additional details



Public Service Options:

Complete a CTE Program of Study (POS)

Programs of Study available include:

- Biomedical Science (Biomedical Sciences Academy only)
- Cosmetology and Personal Care Services (Cosmetology Academy only)
- Early Learning
- Family and Community Services
- Healthcare Diagnostics
- Healthcare Therapeutic
- Teaching and Training

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Endorsement

See [NISD Endorsement Guide & the CTE Programs of Study Guide](#) for additional details

STEM Options require the completion of Algebra II, Chemistry, Physics and one of the following options:

STEM Math – Complete two additional advanced math credits

STEM Science – Complete two additional advanced science credits

Complete a CTE Program of Study (POS)
Programs of Study available include:

- Advanced Manufacturing and Machinery Mechanics
- Animal Science
- Applied Agricultural Engineering
- Architectural Design
- Aviation (Flight) (Aviation and Aeronautics Academy only)
- Biomedical Sciences

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Endorsement

See the [NISD CTE
Programs of Study Guide](#)
for additional details



STEM Options require the completion of Algebra II, Chemistry, Physics and one of the following options:

Complete a CTE Program of Study (POS) continued:

- Drone (Unmanned Flight) (Aviation and Aeronautics Academy only)
- Engineering
- Healthcare Diagnostics
- Healthcare Therapeutic
- Networking Systems
- Plant Science
- Programming and Software Development

Distinguished Level of Achievement



01

Must meet all **Foundation High School Program** requirements

02

Must meet the requirements for an **Endorsement**

03

Must meet the requirement of completing **Algebra II** as one of the advanced math courses

Examples of math sequences:

Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and PreCalculus

Algebra I, Geometry, Algebraic Reasoning, and Algebra II

Performance Acknowledgements



Students may earn performance acknowledgements for outstanding performance in the following areas:

- Dual credit courses
- Bilingualism and bi-literacy
- AP testing
- ACT, PSAT, or SAT
- Earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license

See the [NISD High School Academic Planning Guide](#) for details regarding Performance Acknowledgements.

Thinking Ahead: Automatic College Admission

Students who rank in the top 10%* of their graduating class are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas.

To be eligible for this automatic admission, students must complete the Distinguished Level of Achievement.

*UT Austin – top 6% currently




Thinking Ahead: How is class rank determined?

Class rank includes grades earned in courses under the following subject matters:

- English
- Math
- Science
- Social studies
- Languages other than English

Only the Grade Point Average (GPA) used to determine class rank is calculated on a weighted scale.

Level 2 - Regular		Level 3 - Gifted and Talented/Honors		Level 4 - AP, Dual Credit, and OnRamps Courses	
Grade	Grade Points	Grade	Grade Points	Grade	Grade Points
100	5.0	100	6.0	100	7.0
99	4.9	99	5.9	99	6.9
98	4.8	98	5.8	98	6.8
97	4.7	97	5.7	97	6.7
96	4.6	96	5.6	96	6.6
95	4.5	95	5.5	95	6.5
94	4.4	94	5.4	94	6.4
93	4.3	93	5.3	93	6.3
92	4.2	92	5.2	92	6.2
91	4.1	91	5.1	91	6.1
90	4.0	90	5.0	90	6.0
89	3.9	89	4.9	89	5.9
88	3.8	88	4.8	88	5.8
87	3.7	87	4.7	87	5.7
86	3.6	86	4.6	86	5.6
85	3.5	85	4.5	85	5.5
84	3.4	84	4.4	84	5.4
83	3.3	83	4.3	83	5.3
82	3.2	82	4.2	82	5.2
81	3.1	81	4.1	81	5.1
80	3.0	80	4.0	80	5.0
79	2.9	79	3.9	79	4.9
78	2.8	78	3.8	78	4.8
77	2.7	77	3.7	77	4.7
76	2.6	76	3.6	76	4.6
75	2.5	75	3.5	75	4.5
74	2.4	74	3.4	74	4.4
73	2.3	73	3.3	73	4.3
72	2.2	72	3.2	72	4.2
71	2.1	71	3.1	71	4.1
70	2.0	70	3.0	70	4.0

A scenic view of a paved road winding through a desert landscape. The road is dark asphalt with a white dashed line down the center and white concrete curbs on either side. The surrounding terrain is arid, with sparse green and brown shrubs. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains under a hazy, orange-tinted sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and open.

**As you plan ahead, do not
hesitate to ask questions! Your
NISD school counselors are
here for you.**

Dr. Jamie Farber
NISD Director of Guidance and
Counseling