

Questions and Answers about High School

- **Help! I don't understand transcripts, credits, and graduation requirements!**
 - Beginning in the fall of 9th grade, student coursework is tracked through transcripts to make sure that students obtain enough credits and meet all the requirements in order to graduate. Students receive credit for each class they take and pass, and credits are monitored for students receiving special education services as well as students in general education. Students must earn a minimum of 25 credits in order to graduate from FFCHS. Student Grade Point Averages (GPA) will also be tracked. It is important for students to understand their grades impact them in a different way beginning in high school, and that failing grades can result in loss of credit, summer school, and even additional years of high school. That said, special education staff at the high school work with students and families on a consistent basis to help make sure students are on the right track!
- **What do people mean when they refer to "transition" in high school?**
 - Students who have an active IEP can receive special education services until the age of 21. The services are individualized and designed to support students with opportunities for continuing education or career awareness, exploration, and preparation. The goal is to support students as they prepare to transition into community living and employment.
- **Will my high school student get lost in such a large building?**
 - Students become familiar with the larger high school environment within a matter of days. The school also offers a couple of opportunities to help support this transition. Freshman orientation which takes place before the first day of school includes a tour of the building among other things. Individual tours are also available on request.
 - Classroom teachers are required to monitor the hallways before their planning periods. In addition, there are 2 campus security guards, 2 student deans, 4 Assistant Principals and 2 School Resource Officers who routinely monitor the hallways. Not only does this staff presence allow for an increase in student monitoring, it makes staff more accessible.
- **What support will my student have as he or she transitions to the high school?**
 - Students entering the high school in 9th grade participate in Student to Student. Student to Student's mission is to provide support for transitioning students at Fountain-Fort Carson High School by building relationships, helping them find their way, and providing them with accurate information about the community and academics.

- **Will my high school student have a homeroom period?**
 - At the high school, students have a Trojan Advisory Period (TAP). TAP provides students with an opportunity to meet with the same staff member once a week for approximately 50 minutes. Students are grouped by grade level and every student has an advisor who follows them throughout their years in high school. Students have the benefit of specific advisory curriculum that is suited to their age and grade level that fosters workplace readiness, study skills, conflict resolution, time management, preparation for careers and post-secondary education and relates to the district and school mission and goals.

- **What is the school's work study program?**
 - Students earn credit by being placed to work in a community-based setting in order to explore career interests and/or to develop workplace skills needed to successfully gain employment.

- **How will my student get to and from the high school?**
 - It is important to ask the high school about transportation-depending on your address your student will either be able to access general education busing (and will have an assigned bus stop) or will be in a walking zone. Special education transportation decisions are made on a case-by-case basis for 9th grade students based on student safety. These decisions will be made by the IEP team (including you) at the transition IEP meeting.

- **What does lunch look like at the high school?**
 - There are two set periods for lunch which are called A-Lunch and B-Lunch. Students' 4th period class determines which lunch they are assigned and is noted on their schedule. Students must attend the lunch specified on their schedule. Students can either pay for their lunch with cash or set up a personal account which can be accessed through their student identification card.

- **What activities can my student participate in outside of academics?**
 - There are a variety of extracurricular activities offered at the high school ranging from athletics to after school clubs that tap into the interests and needs of almost every student.

- **Who teaches special education classes?**
 - The science, social studies, and language arts departments offer classes that are co-taught within the general education setting by a special educator and a general education teacher. These courses are selected for students based on the needs identified in their IEP by the IEP team (including you).

- **What is a Learning Strategies class?**
 - This class is designed to teach students organization, note-taking and test taking strategies. These activities will be completed through mini-lessons at the beginning of class. Students will be allowed to work on assignments and activities in other academic classes for a majority of the class period.

- **Any additional things I need to know?**
 - The Resource Exchange (TRE) is a local organization that serves children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If your student falls into one of these categories it is important to put his or her name on their list early to insure supports when he or she transitions out of high school. The current waiting list is over 7 years, so get on the list early! The phone number for more information is 719.380.1100.