



Dutchtown High School

NINTH GRADE
ACADEMY
HANDBOOK

WELCOME MESSAGE



Dutchtown High
School

It is back-to-school time! I hope you have enjoyed a peaceful and relaxing summer break. I am excited that you and your scholars will be joining the Dutchtown High School family this fall. Dutchtown High School has a reputation for excellence, and we look forward to you and your scholar being part of this tradition. This past school year, we increased in four areas on our EOC, maintained a 91% graduation rate while having the largest graduating class in Henry County and had an increase of students receiving scholarships. Our counseling team was recognized for their efforts of leading an extraordinary counseling program. In athletics, we won a State Championship in Track & Field and had 12 of our athletic programs advance to State Playoffs. The Sound of Dutchtown was the only high school band across the USA that was chosen to perform in France for the D-Day Memorial Activities. They were amazing! They were so great that they received an invitation to Hawaii in the Winter of 2024 to commemorate Pearl Harbor's Anniversary. It is certainly a great time to be a BULLDOG!

The Ninth Grade Academy at Dutchtown is grounded in the school's larger purpose - To Educate. To Encourage. To Empower. To ensure your scholar's success, we spent the better part of the past two years preparing for the opening of the new academy. Teachers were recruited and selected with your scholars in mind. These teachers spent their summer attending training, researching best practices, collaborating on engaging lessons, and developing systems to provide wrap-around support for all scholars.

Our theme for the Ninth Grade Academy for the 2023-2024 school year is "What's in your BAG?" BAG stands for Behavior, Attendance, and Grades. Research indicates that these three areas have a clear connection with students being on-



Nicole Shaw
Principal

track for graduation. Throughout the school year, scholars will be asked "What's in your BAG? Is your BAG packed for graduation?" These two questions will guide our Student Led Conferences, as well as provide the focus for our Parent Universities. Our goal is for 100% of the Class of 2027 to be on-track for graduation at the end of their ninth grade year. Success takes a TEAM. We look forward to working with you, your scholars, and the Dutchtown community to support the continued success of our incoming ninth graders.

We will have a Ninth Grade Orientation on July 31st from 10:30am-12:00pm. This will provide you and your scholars with an opportunity to learn more about DHS and the Ninth Grade Academy, meet the team teachers, and become acclimated to the Dutchtown Way.

As we begin our 2023-2024 school year, I want you to know, I BELIEVE in our students, parents, and faculty. It is because of this belief that I know we are going to have a GREAT year. Your scholar's journey to success begins here at DHS.





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Welcome to the Ninth Grade Academy at Dutchtown High School!

VISION

The **vision** of the Ninth Grade Academy is for students to become prepared and acclimated to high school by developing their academic, interpersonal, social, and emotional skills.

MISSION

Our mission is to provide high school freshmen a more personalized, engaging, and responsive learning environment with the intended purpose of ensuring a successful transition from middle to high school so that students may graduate on time and have a rewarding high school experience that will prepare them for post-secondary options.

The Ninth Grade Academy at Dutchtown High School provides students with a bridge between middle and high school, using a team concept to ensure students receive academic and social-emotional support during this important transition. Additionally, the Ninth Grade Academy has a dedicated assistant principal, counselor, and program coordinator who work alongside teachers, students, and parents to meet the unique needs of the students.



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ABOUT THE **ACADEMY**

2023

The Dutchtown community is one of the fastest growing areas in Henry County. With enrollment upwards of 1900 students, there was a need for more space to accommodate our scholars. Using SPLOST funds, construction started on the new ninth grade wing. Early on, it was decided to use this new space for a dedicated Ninth Grade Academy.



Superintendent Mary Elizabeth Davis, Board Chair Annette Edwards, Vice Chair Sophie Pope, and Principal Nicole Shaw celebrated the completion of the new Ninth Grade Academy wing at Dutchtown High School in April of 2023. The new facility includes 14 classrooms, 2 science labs, 2 teacher workrooms, a science prep lab, and 2 administrative offices. With over 26,000 square feet of additional space, the new wing will accommodate approximately 500 additional students at DHS.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Dutchtown High
School

Principal

Mrs. Nicole Shaw

Assistant Principals

Mr. Ben Avery

11th and 12th Grade Administrator (Last names N-Z)
ACCESS Testing / Milestones Chair / Safety Plans / SST & 504 (Last names N-Z)
Departments: ESE, ESOL, and ELA

Dr. Rachel Burden

10th Grade Administrator (Last names N-Z)
Communication / CCRPI Co-Chair / EOPA Testing / MTSS / STEM
Departments: CTAE, Fine Arts, and Mathematics

Mr. Darryl Clark

10th and 11th Grade Administrator (Last names A-M)
PSAT / Milestones Co-Chair / SST & 504 (Last names A-M)
Departments: Social Studies, JROTC, and PE

Dr. Jamilla Martin

12th Grade Administrator (Last names A-M)
FTE / Master Schedule / Events and Activities / AP Testing / Graduation
Departments: Science and World Languages

Mrs. Yolanda Peek

Ninth Grade Academy Administrator
MAP Testing / Governor's Honors Program / TKES / Parent University / Vertical
Alignment Meetings

Athletic Director

Ms. Amber White

Counseling Staff

Mr. Wallace Corker
Ms. Monique Edwards
Mrs. Timica Johnson
Dr. LaNekia Pruitt
Dr. Marcia Teemer

Graduation Coach

Mrs. Pamela Brown-Henry



Dutchtown High School
2023- 2024
DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

Students dismissed from Commons	8:05								
Warning Bell	8:10								
Instructional Focus	8:15 – 9:00								
Class Change	9:00 - 9:06								
1st Block	9:06 - 10:25								
Class Change	10:25 – 10:31								
2nd Block	10:31 – 11:49								
Class Change	11:49 - 11:55								
3rd Block/Lunch	11:55 - 1:50 (class time + lunch) <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>11:55 - 12:20</td> <td>1st Lunch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12:25 - 12:50</td> <td>2nd Lunch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12:55- 1:20</td> <td>3rd Lunch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1:25 - 1:50</td> <td>4th Lunch</td> </tr> </table>	11:55 - 12:20	1st Lunch	12:25 - 12:50	2nd Lunch	12:55- 1:20	3rd Lunch	1:25 - 1:50	4th Lunch
11:55 - 12:20	1st Lunch								
12:25 - 12:50	2nd Lunch								
12:55- 1:20	3rd Lunch								
1:25 - 1:50	4th Lunch								
Class Change	1:50 – 1:56								
4th Block	1:56 – 3:15								



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ACADEMICS

Block Schedule

Classes are scheduled using a 4x4 block schedule. Classes are approximately 80 minutes in length, and students will be enrolled in four classes per semester, for a total of eight classes per school year.

Grading Scale

Students will be evaluated using the following scale:

90-100=A

80-89=B

74-79=C

70-73=D

Below 70=F

Graduation Requirements (Board Policy IHF(6))

English/Language Arts - 4 units required

Mathematics - 4 units required

Science - 4 units required

Social Studies - 3 units required

CTAE/Modern Languages/Fine Arts - 3 units required

Health and Physical Education - 1 unit required

Electives - 4 units required

Total Credits Required: 23 credits

Promotion Requirements (Board Regulation IHE-R(1))

The number of credits earned by a student will determine grade level assignments in subsequent years. These required credits for promotion are minimum expectations and should not limit a student's aspirations within each grade level. All students entering 9th grade in 2020-2021 and beyond shall be promoted based on the following earned units:

- Promotion to 10th grade: 5 credits
- Promotion to 11th grade: 11 credits
- Promotion to 12th grade: 17 credits

CTAE Pathways at DHS



Dutchtown High
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Agriculture

Audio, Video, Technology & Film

Business

Early Childhood Education

Engineering and Technology

Health Science

Information Technology

JROTC

Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Enforcement

Marketing

Nutrition and Food Science

Work Based Learning

Sample Ninth Grade Schedules

Schedule A:

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
1	Algebra I	1	9th Grade English
2	Spanish I	2	Biology
3	World Geography	3	Health/PE
4	Theater Fundamentals	4	Acting I

Schedule B:

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
1	9th Grade English	1	Biology
2	Algebra I A	2	Algebra I B
3	Beginning Band I	3	Beginning Band II
4	Health/PE	4	World Geography



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WHAT MAKES THE NINTH GRADE ACADEMY AT DUTCHTOWN DIFFERENT?

Communication

Every strong relationship is founded on communication. In order to keep parents and families informed, we will communicate information about the Ninth Grade Academy in the following ways:

- Ninth Grade Academy website (located on the DHS website)
- Ninth Grade Academy newsletter (monthly)
- Calling posts (weekly)
- Social media posts (Instagram and Twitter)
- Remind posts (sent by team teachers)

Partnership

We believe that it takes a team – teachers, parents, administrators, students, and the community – working together to achieve the goal of having 100% of our ninth graders on track for graduation at the end of their freshman year. Therefore, we are committed to partnering with our parents, families, and community to provide a successful educational experience for our scholars.

Parental Involvement

Besides student success, parental involvement produces other benefits for students (Henderson, A.T. & Berla, N., 1994):

1. Higher grades and test scores
2. Higher achievement in reading
3. Better attendance and more homework done
4. Higher graduation rates
5. Greater enrollment in post-secondary education
6. Students exhibit more positive attitudes and behavior
7. Negative student behaviors, such as alcohol use, violence, and antisocial behavior decrease as parent involvement increases

Parents are encouraged to make a commitment for 5 volunteer hours during the 2023-2024 school year. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Attending curriculum night
- Chaperoning field trips
- Participating in spirit night or family night events
- Volunteering in your scholar's classroom
- Attending Student-Led Data Conferences
- Volunteering to work the gates or concessions at school-sponsored events



Parent Resource Center

The Ninth Grade Academy Parent Resource Center is located in room 133 on the ninth grade wing. This space provides parents with access to Internet-capable computers, printers, and information about school and community resources.

S.A.M. Program

The Senior Academic Mentor Program provides an opportunity for senior leaders at Dutchtown High School to work closely with an assigned group of ninth graders in the academy. Seniors will meet with their mentees twice a month during Instructional Focus, checking in with their mentees about their behavior, attendance, grades, and successes while providing advice about how to make the most of their high school career.

Freshman Seminars

Dutchtown High School is dedicated to preparing our scholars for their future. One Friday per month, scholars will have the opportunity to learn from leaders and entrepreneurs in the community about various career opportunities. The overarching theme for the 2023-2024 Freshman Seminars is "Leading and Serving for a Better Future."

Experiential Learning

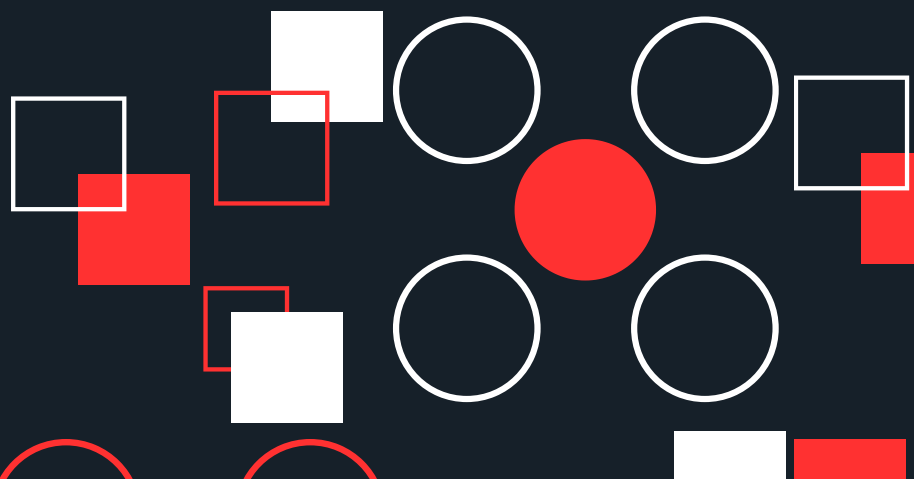
Not all learning occurs inside a classroom. As such, the Ninth Grade Academy will provide scholars with opportunities to experience hands-on learning in the real world through quarterly Experiential Learning Trips.

Instructional Focus

Instructional focus (IF) is a 45 minute block each day that provides teachers with an opportunity to receive remediation and enrichment. Students will rotate between their four classes (Monday-1st block, Tuesday-2nd block, Wednesday-3rd block, Thursday-4th block, Friday-1st block). The Freshman Seminars will occur during IF.

Student-Led Conferences

It is important that students know their data. Quarterly, we will hold student-led conferences where students will share their BAGS data and their plans for success with parents and team teachers.





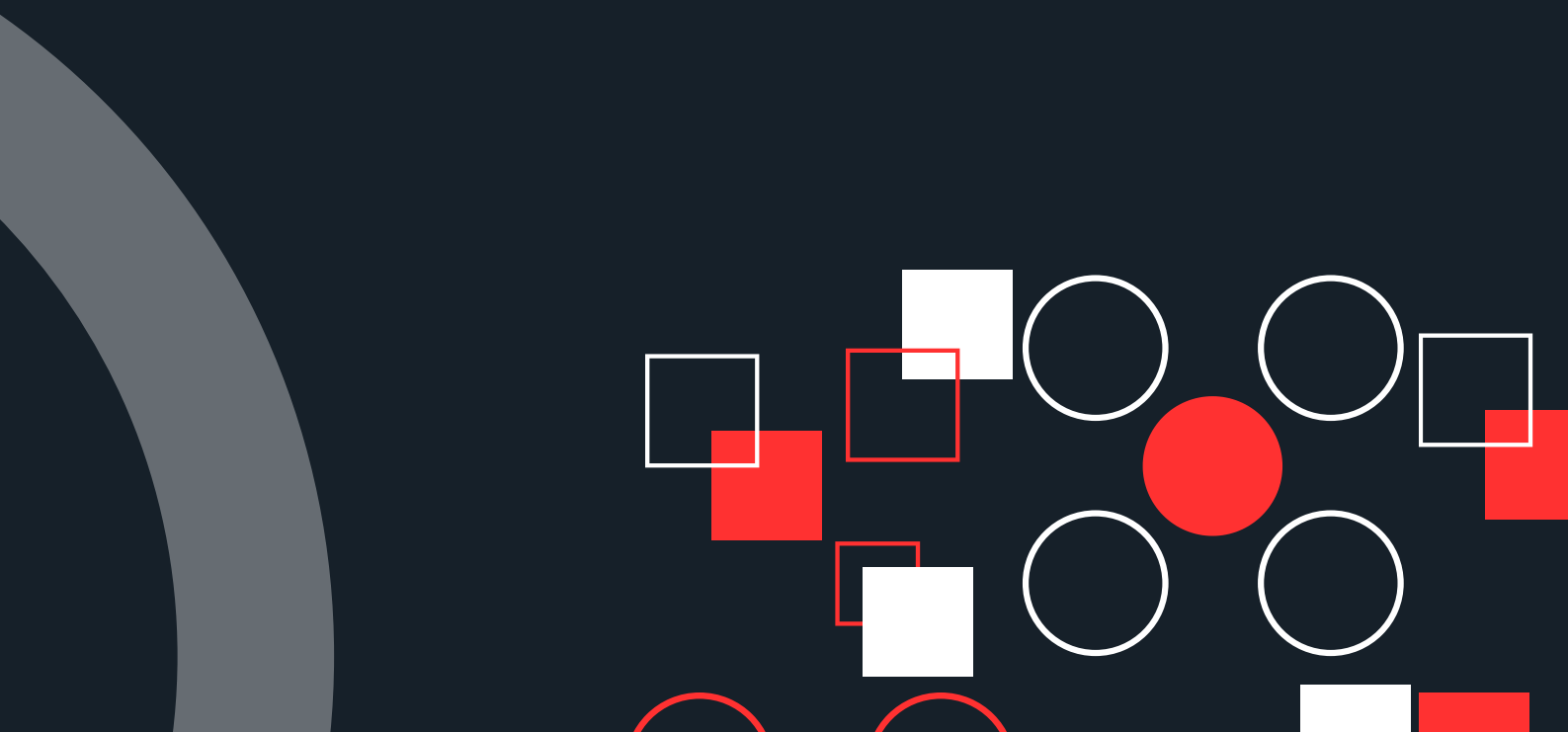
Dutchtown High School

“What’s in your BAG?” Each team of teachers in the Ninth Grade Academy will meet bi-weekly to review what is in their students’ BAG and to develop a plan of action for students who are struggling in one or more of the following areas:

Behavior – Researchers have found that after the first suspension in a student’s ninth-grade year, an additional suspension increased their odds of dropping out by 20% (Balfanz et al., 2014). Therefore, the Ninth Grade Academy at Dutchtown High School is committed to providing students with academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support to promote positive behavior and academic success.

Attendance – The number of unexcused absences quadruple from 8th to 9th grade (Allensworth, 2013). School attendance is a powerful predictor of student outcomes. In fact, irregular attendance can be a better predictor of whether students will drop out of school before graduation than test scores, according to the US Department of Education (2021). If students are not attending class, they are missing opportunities to learn and decreasing their chance of being on-track to graduate.

Grades – Students who are on-track at the end of their 9th grade year—earn at least a quarter of the credits needed for four-year graduation and receive no more than one “F” in a core course—are as much as four times more likely to graduate from high school than their off-track peers. In fact, the 9th grade on track metric is more predictive of a student’s likelihood of graduating than race, ethnicity, poverty level and prior test scores combined. (Allensworth, 2013)



Getting Involved at Dutchtown High School

Clubs and Organizations at DHS

Academic Team
National Art Honor Society
African American Student Union
National Beta Club
Air Force Junior ROTC
National Honor Society
Art Club
National Spanish Honor Society
Band - The Sound of Dutchtown
Newspaper
Book Club
Peer Facilitation
Chorus
Peer Mediation Team
Code Red Step Team
Science National Honor Society
DHS Ambassadors
Sign Language Club
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
Sisters of Virtue
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Spanish Club
French Club
Spanish National Honor Society
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
StarZ Dance Team
Future Farmers of America (FFA)
Student Government Association (SGA)
HOSA
Technology Student Association (TSA)
International Club
Work Based Learning
Mathematics Team
Yearbook

Getting Involved at Dutchtown High School

Athletics at DHS

Ms. Amber White, Athletic Director

Fall

Cheerleading - Ms. Brooke Spaulding
Cross Country - Mr. Wallace Corker
Fast-Pitch Softball - Mr. Adrian McLendon
Football - Mr. Niketa Battle
Girls Flag Football - Mr. Antonio Wesley
Volleyball - Ms. Kimberly Benson
One Act Plays - Ms. Danielle Lockhart
Literary - Dr. Joanna Anglin

Winter

Boys Basketball - Mr. Wallace Corker
Girls Basketball - Mr. Joshua Pierce
Competitive Dance - Ms. Ebonee Usher
Swimming - Ms. Erin Haley
Wrestling - Dr. Nicholas Samuels

Spring

Baseball - Mr. Adrian McLendon
Golf - Mr. Jonathan Williams
Gymnastics - Ms. Natoria Shine
Lacrosse - Mr. DeAndre Montgomery
Soccer (Girls and Boys) - Mr. John Zeiler
Tennis (Girls and Boys) - Ms. Kimberly Monroe
Track and Field - Mr. Calvin Gibson

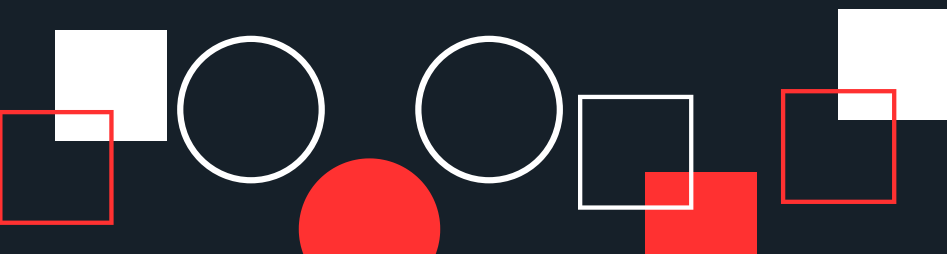




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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name	Position / Description	Email
Yolanda Peek	Assistant Principal	yolanda.peek@ henry.k12.ga.us
Dr. Joanna Anglin	Program Coordinator	joanna.anglin@ henry.k12.ga.us
Dr. Marcia Teemer	Ninth Grade Counselor	marcia.teemer@ henry.k12.ga.us
Dr. Nicholas Samuels	Mental Health and Wellness Facilitator	nicholas.samuels@ henry.k12.ga.us
Phalese Powers	Student Support Facilitator	ppowers@ henry.k12.ga.us





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SCHOOL INFORMATION



+770-515-7510



<https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/152268>

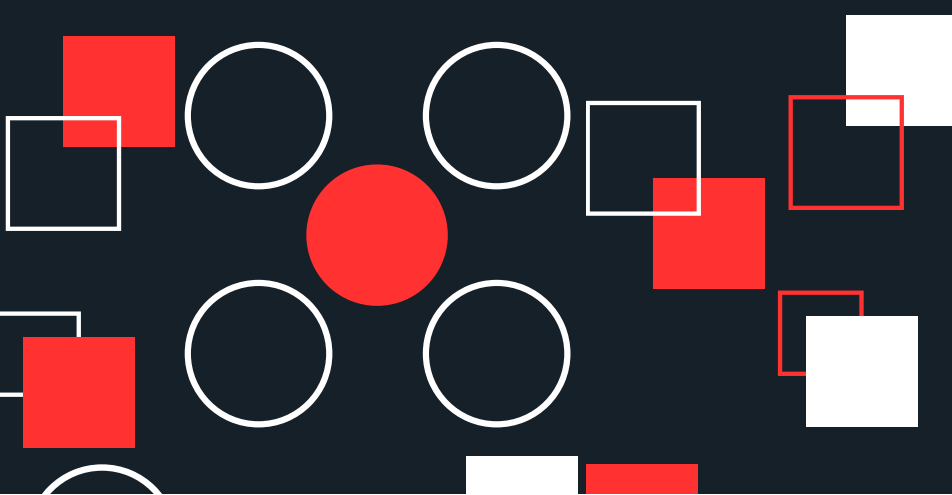


149 Mitchell Rd, Hampton, GA 30228

School Hours

Start Time: 8:15am

End Time: 3:15pm





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**YOUR JOURNEY
TO SUCCESS
STARTS HERE!**