



RISING FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

*Chopticon High School
Class of 2029*

A photograph of Chopticon High School building during sunset. The building is a two-story brick structure with several windows. The name "CHOPTICON HIGH SCHOOL" is visible on the facade. In the foreground, there is a paved area with a white circular line, possibly a basketball court. A blue light pole stands to the right of the building. The sky is a mix of blue and orange from the setting sun.

1. How can you get involved at Chopticon?

2. Why is it important to step out of your Comfort Zone?

Involvement = Success

• Student involvement:

- Attendance
- Academics
 - Be proactive not reactive
 - Effort > intelligence
 - Build a relationship with adults
 - Teachers
 - Counselor
 - Administrator
- Extracurriculars
 - Athletics
 - Programs
 - Clubs

Better Attendance

Better Grades

Better Behavior

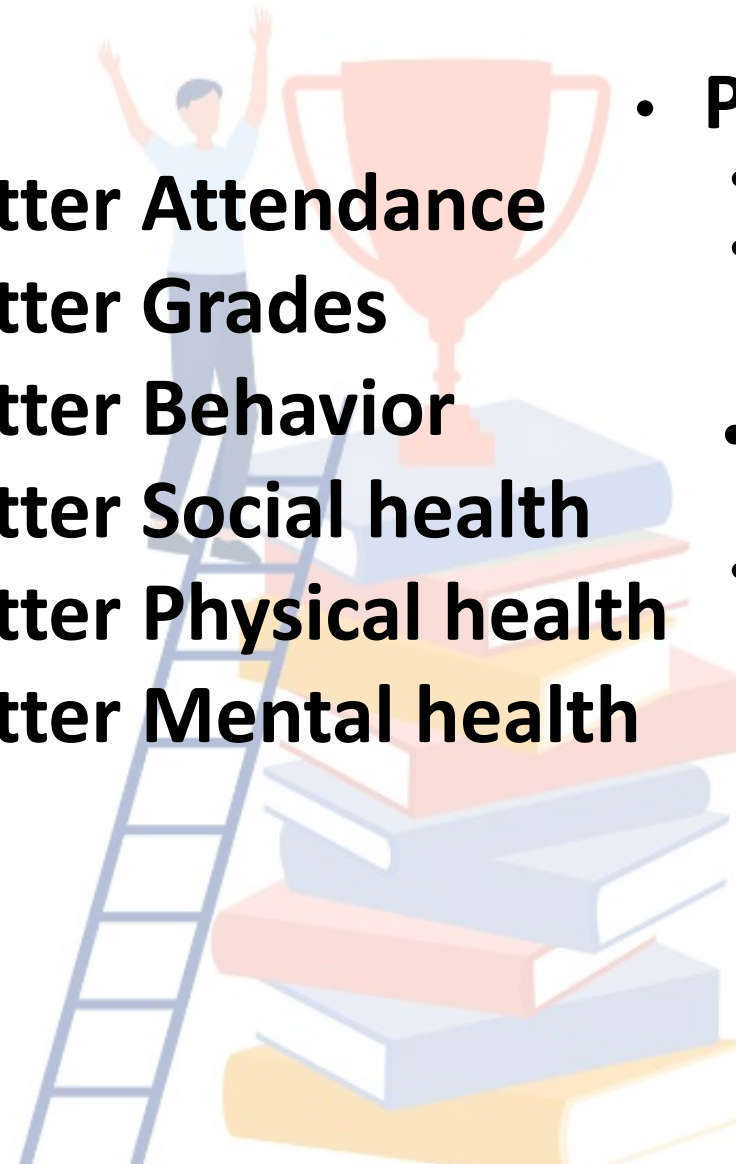
Better Social health

Better Physical health

Better Mental health

• Parent involvement:

- Get your student to school
- Ask how school is going
 - Check HAC weekly
 - Ask about their social life
- Attend extracurriculars when appropriate
- Build your own relationship with adults
 - Teachers
 - Counselor
 - Administrator



What is preventing you from getting involved and being successful?

Anxiety

Feeling anxious means feeling worried, uneasy, or fearful. It can be a normal reaction to stress, like when you're facing a difficult problem or making an important decision

A red banner with white text that reads "#1 GET INVOLVED!". The number "1" is significantly larger than the other text.

**#1
GET
INVOLVED!**

A crowd of students sitting in bleachers, some wearing red and white athletic gear.

It is normal.

Anxiety and struggle is a part of learning and growing.

Learn to work through what makes you anxious rather than avoiding it.

You are going to struggle, and that is a good thing.





Growth Zone

Get Involved

Better Attendance

Better Grades

Better Behavior

Better Social health

Better Physical health

Better Mental health

Anxiety Zone

Learning Zone

Comfort Zone

Anything that feels safe and comfortable

Uninvolved

Feel Nervous
Overwhelmed
Stressed
Lack confidence
Worried how you look

Feel powerful
Build Confidence
Ask Questions

Remember:
- It is normal.
- Anxiety and struggle is a part of learning and growing.

Meet New People
Try new Clubs, sports, activities

Be a Brave and work through it

Academy OF FINANCE

St. Mary's County Public Schools

Contact School Counselor for more information



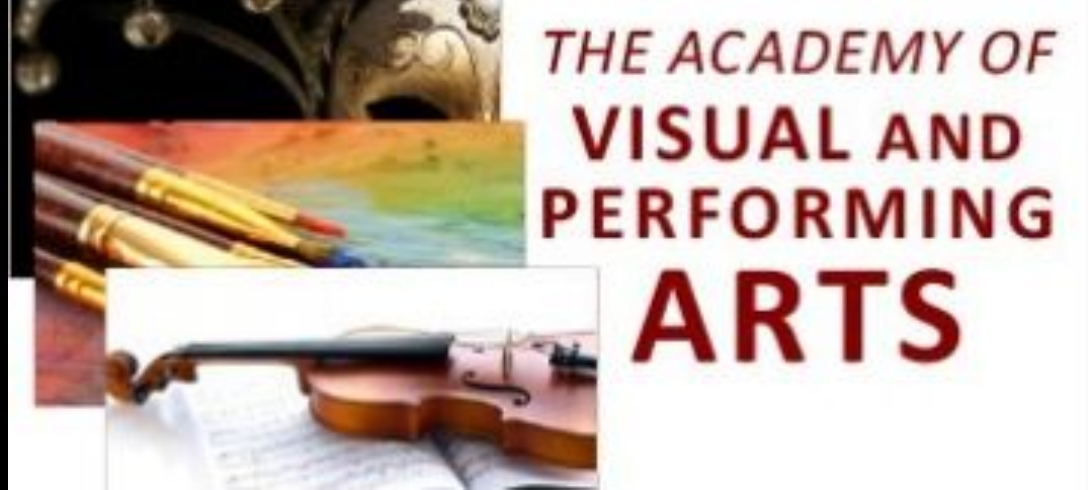
Field trips to NAS Patuxent River to explore career opportunities



Academy of Finance students played financial literacy games with the children who came to the STEAM Festival at the fairgrounds



Visiting the Baltimore Zoo to learn about careers and creating enrichments for the animals



This academy supports our population of talented youth who excel in the Arts. Students participating in the AVPA will have a choice of one of three areas of focus: music, theatre, or visual arts. The AVPA is housed at Chopticon High School.

Academy Applications for the 2025-26 school year will be available in April 2025.





State Champions - 3rd Place at Nationals



Photography by otis

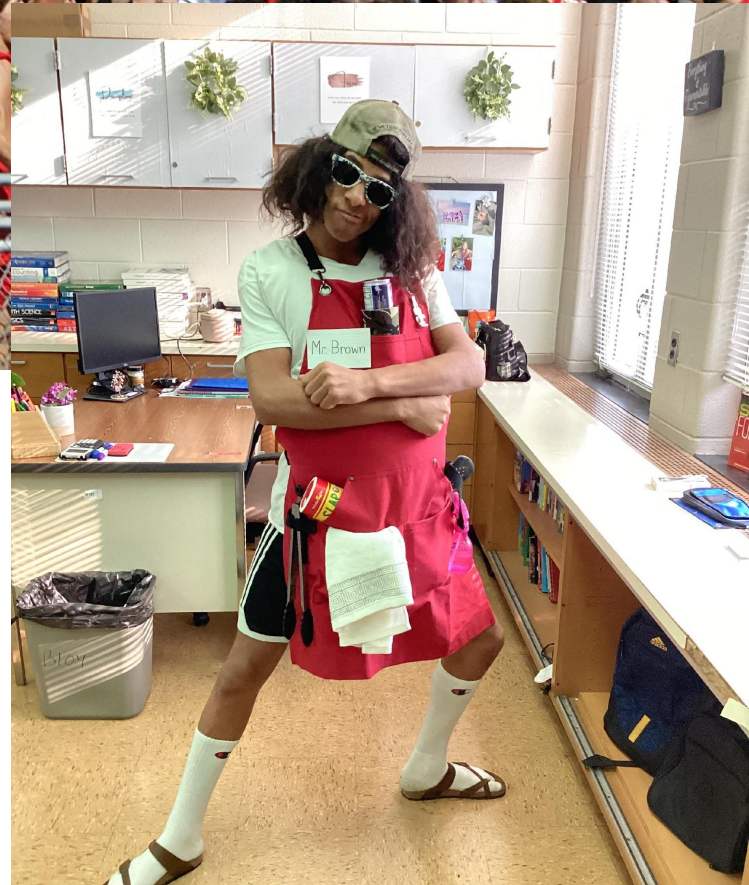


Photographs by Jotiss





**Spirit
Week!!!**



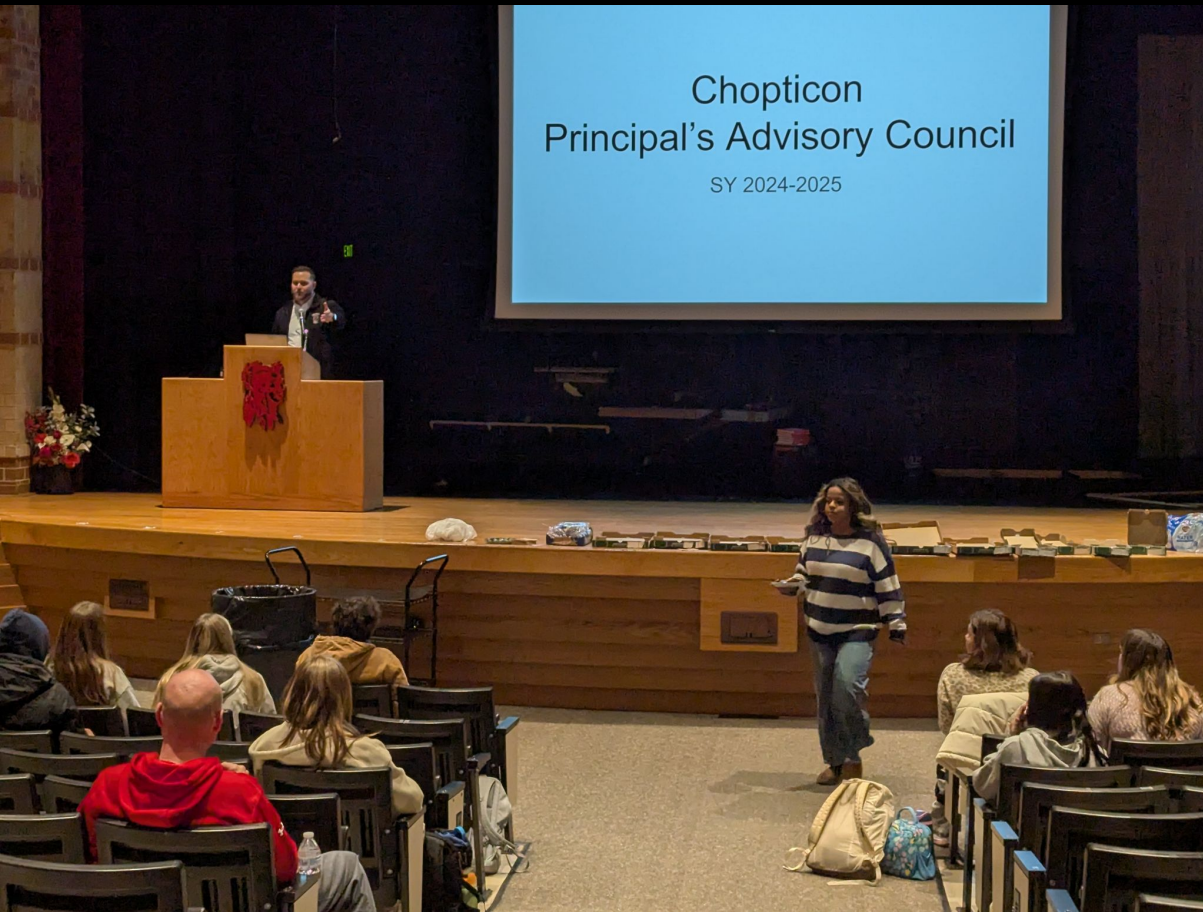
Staff vs. Student Basketball Game



Staff

Students

Principal's Advisory Council



Superintendent's Student Leadership Advisory Council



Career Fair



Pride Time- One Hour Lunch



Chopticon Pride Time Clubs 2025

- Animation Club
- AVPA Performing Arts
- AVPA Visual Art
- Basketball Club
- Bead Weaving
- Braves Buddies
- Board Games/Cards
- Book Club
- Braves Tennis Club
- Ceramic Club
- Chess Club
- CHOICE Club
- CCC
- Class of 2028
- Class of 2026
- Crochet/Knit Club
- Disney Movie Club
- Environmental/Recycling Club
- Envirothon
- Fantasy Football Club
- FBLA
- FCA
- Future Teachers
- GSA
- Intramurals Unit
- Jazz Club
- Marvel Sitcom Club
- Math Tutoring
- Mock Trial Club
- Model United Nations
- MTSS Student Committee
- National Art Honor Society
- Reading/Silent Club
- Sci- Fi Movies
- Softball Club
- Student Diversity Club
- Student Government Association
- Video Game Club
- Weight Room
- Yearbook
- ROTC Events/Clubs



Photography by [unclear]







CHOP WINS

Varsity & JV Boys Basketball Over Leonardtown





Chopticon High School

Athletic Opportunities at Chopticon

FALL SEASON

- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Football
- Golf
- Corollary Cycling
(Oct/Nov)
- Soccer
- Volleyball

WINTER SEASON

- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Indoor Track and Field
- Corollary Bowling
(Jan/Feb)
- Swimming
- Wrestling

SPRING SEASON

- Baseball
- Lacrosse
- Corollary Bocce
(April/May)
- Softball
- Tennis
- Outdoor Track and Field

Regional Champions 2024!



Regional Champions!



SMAC Champions 2024!

SMAC Champions 2024!



SMAC Champions! 2025

SMAC Champions!



Colton Longobardi, 800M Run and Carson Mandis, Shotput

Corollary Sports



Involvement = Success

• Student involvement:

- Attendance
- **Academics**
 - **Be proactive not reactive**
 - **Effort > intelligence**
 - Build a relationship with adults
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Better Attendance

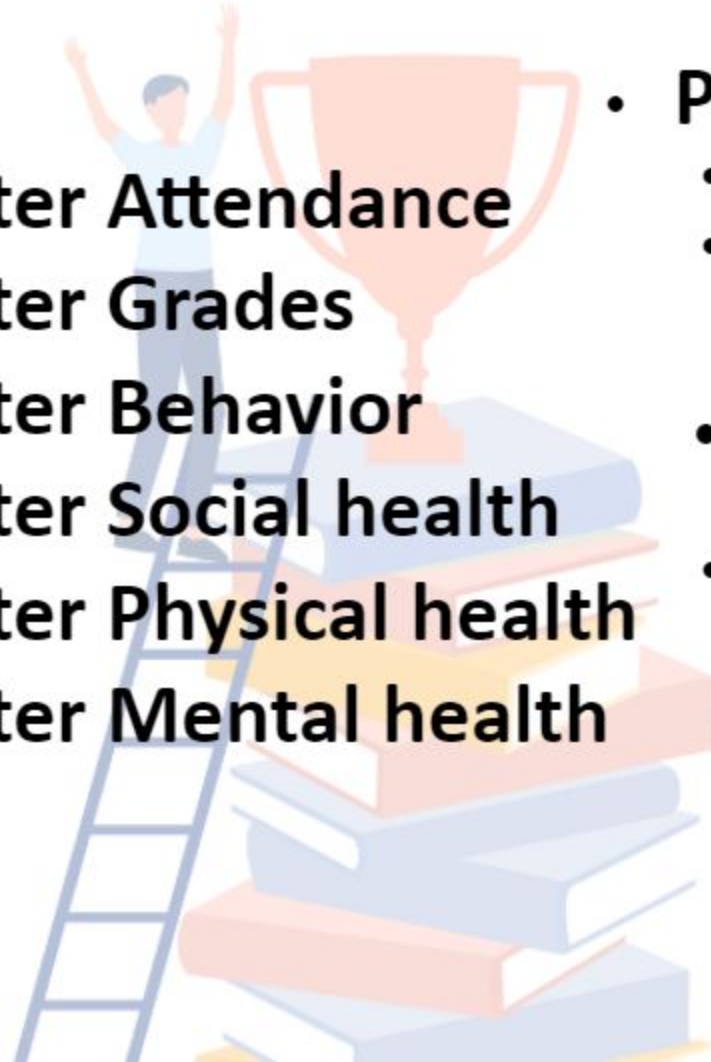
Better Grades

Better Behavior

Better Social health

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 - Administrator



CLASS OF

2020

Welcome!





St. Mary's County Public Schools

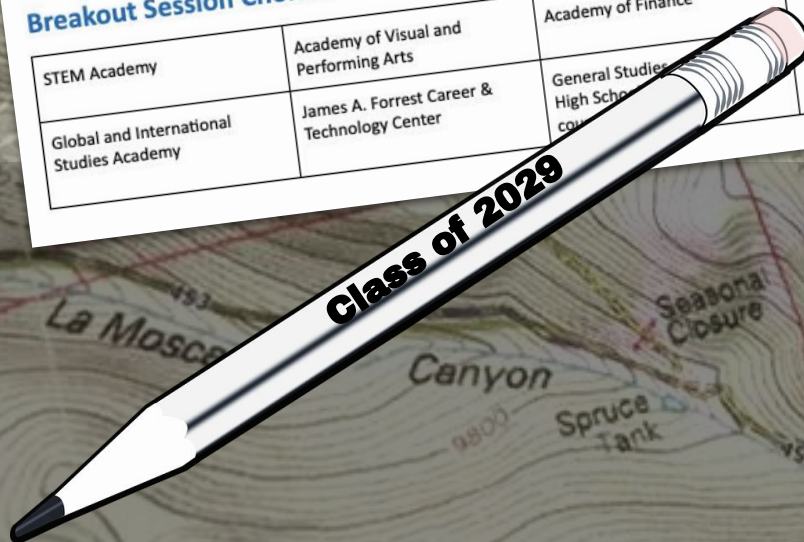
Grade 9 Course Selection

9th Grade Course Worksheet:

Course Name	Course Number
English	
Mathematics	
Social Studies	
Science	
Elective (choose one: PE/Health, Technology Credit, Fine Arts, World Language)	
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Elective (choose one: PE/Health, Technology Credit, Fine Arts, World Language)	

Breakout Session Choices: Circle the two Breakout Sessions you would like to attend.

STEM Academy	Academy of Visual and Performing Arts	Academy of Finance	Virtu...
Global and International Studies Academy	James A. Forrest Career & Technology Center	General Studies High School	ch...



St. Mary's County Public Schools

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PATHWAYS





Choose your path to success!



CHOOSE YOUR PATH

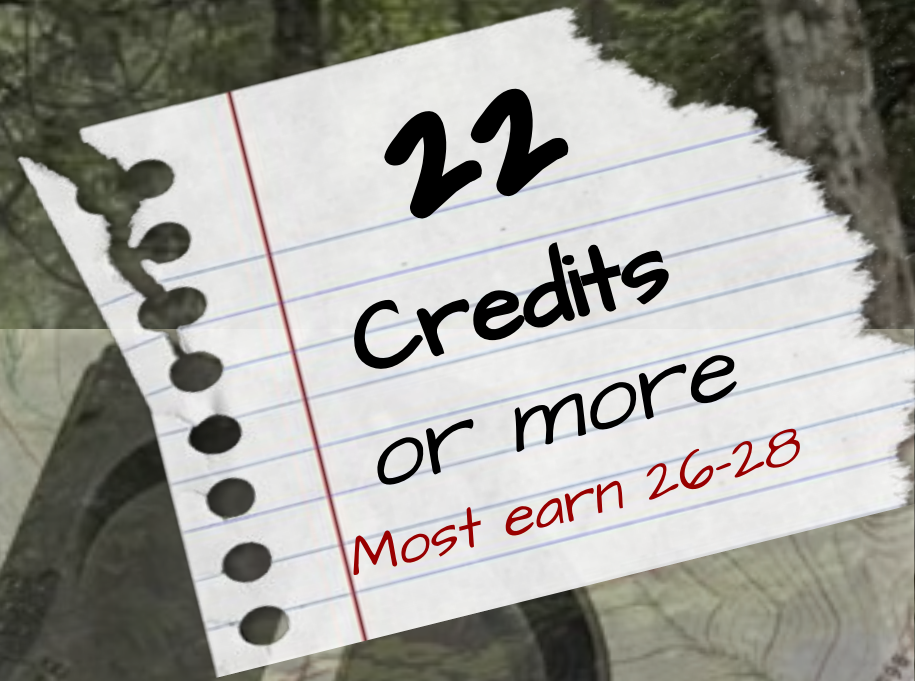
SOME CHOICES ARE MADE FOR YOU.
... SOME ARE NOT



CHOOSE WHAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU.

COURSE	UNIVERSITY SEQUENCE	CTE
English	4	4
Math	4	4
Science	3	3
Social Studies	3	3
PE/Health	1.5	1.5
Technology Education	1	1
Fine Arts	1	1
World Language	2	
CTE		4
Electives	2.5	.5
TOTAL	22	

LET'S START WITH THE "CORE"



WHAT IS A CREDIT?

Earning Credit

- ✓ Pass the class - A, B, C, or D
(if you earn an F, you repeat the class)

Grade Weights and Grade Point Average (GPA)

- ✓ $A=4$ $B=3$ $C=2$ $D=1$ $F=0$
- ✓ GPA of 2.0 for athletic eligibility
- ✓ Cumulative GPA is used to calculate class ranking and graduation recognitions

EARNING CREDIT + GPA



CORE REQUIREMENTS



English
4
Credits

Grade 9 Options:

- Freshman English
- Freshman English (H/Pre-AP)

Mathematics
4
Credits

Grade 9 Options:

- Algebra 1 (Core), (Comp.)
- Geometry (H), (+Alg 2)
- Algebra 2 (H), (+PreCalc)

Science
3
Credits

Grade 9 Options:

- Earth/Space Science
- Biology (H)

Social Studies
3
Credits

Grade 9 Options:

- US History
- US History (H)

CORE REQUIREMENTS



1
Fine Arts

Credit

Grade 9 Options:

- Music
 - Band
 - Strings
 - Orchestra
 - Chorus
 - ... and more
- Visual Arts
 - Digital Arts
 - Visual Arts
- Theatre

1.5
PE/Health

Credit

Grade 9 Options:

- Health Education
- Physical Education

1
Technology
Education

Credit

Grade 9 Options:

- Computer Science Principles*

*Most students will have met this requirement in Grade 8 with Foundations of Computer Science

USM

University System of Maryland Completer

Requirements:

- Complete the core credits
- Complete 4 credits in Math
 - Must include:
 - Algebra I, Geometry, Alg 2, and non-trivial Algebra
- Complete 2 credits in the same World Language
- Complete electives as appropriate

PATHWAYS

CTE

Career & Technology Education Completer

Requirements:

- Complete the core credits
- Complete 4 credits in an approved CTE program sequence
- Complete electives as appropriate

OR

Dual Completer

- Complete University Pathway
- Complete Career and Technology Pathway

-AND-

Take state Assessments

- ✓ English 10
- ✓ Algebra 1
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Science

← DETERMINES COLLEGE/CAREER
READINESS (CCR)

← TESTS COUNT FOR 20% OF
FINAL GRADE

Complete

- ✓ Student Service Learning
- ✓ Web-based Portfolio

OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ ADVANCED
- PLACEMENT (AP)
- ✓ DUAL ENROLLMENT
- ✓ CTE COURSES
- APPLY TO AN ACADEMY

MORE CHOICES



CHOOSE YOUR PATH



St. Mary's County Public Schools

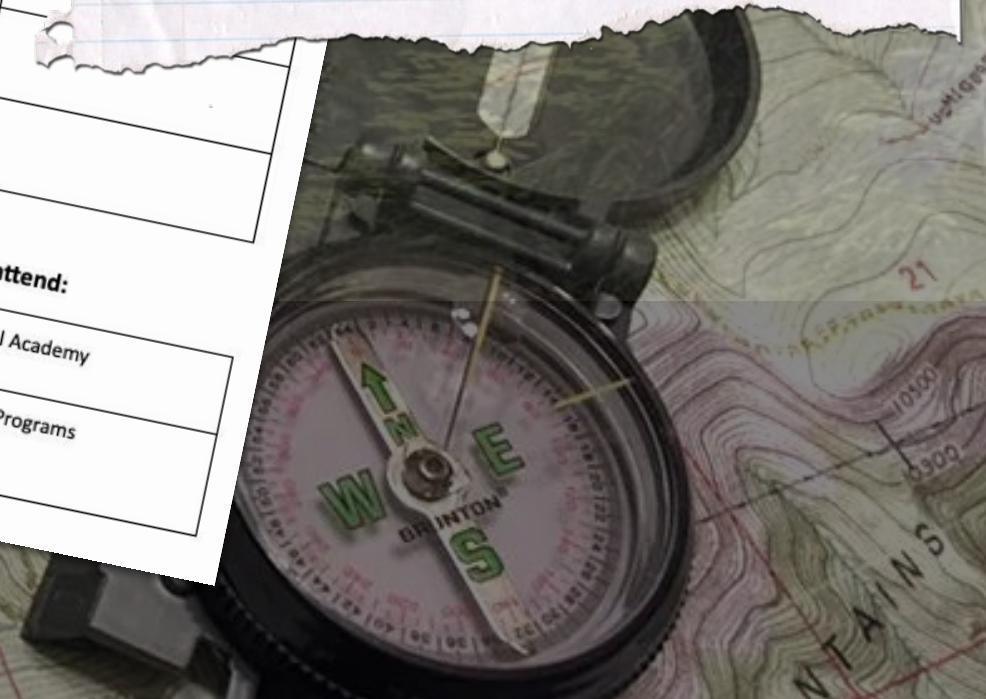
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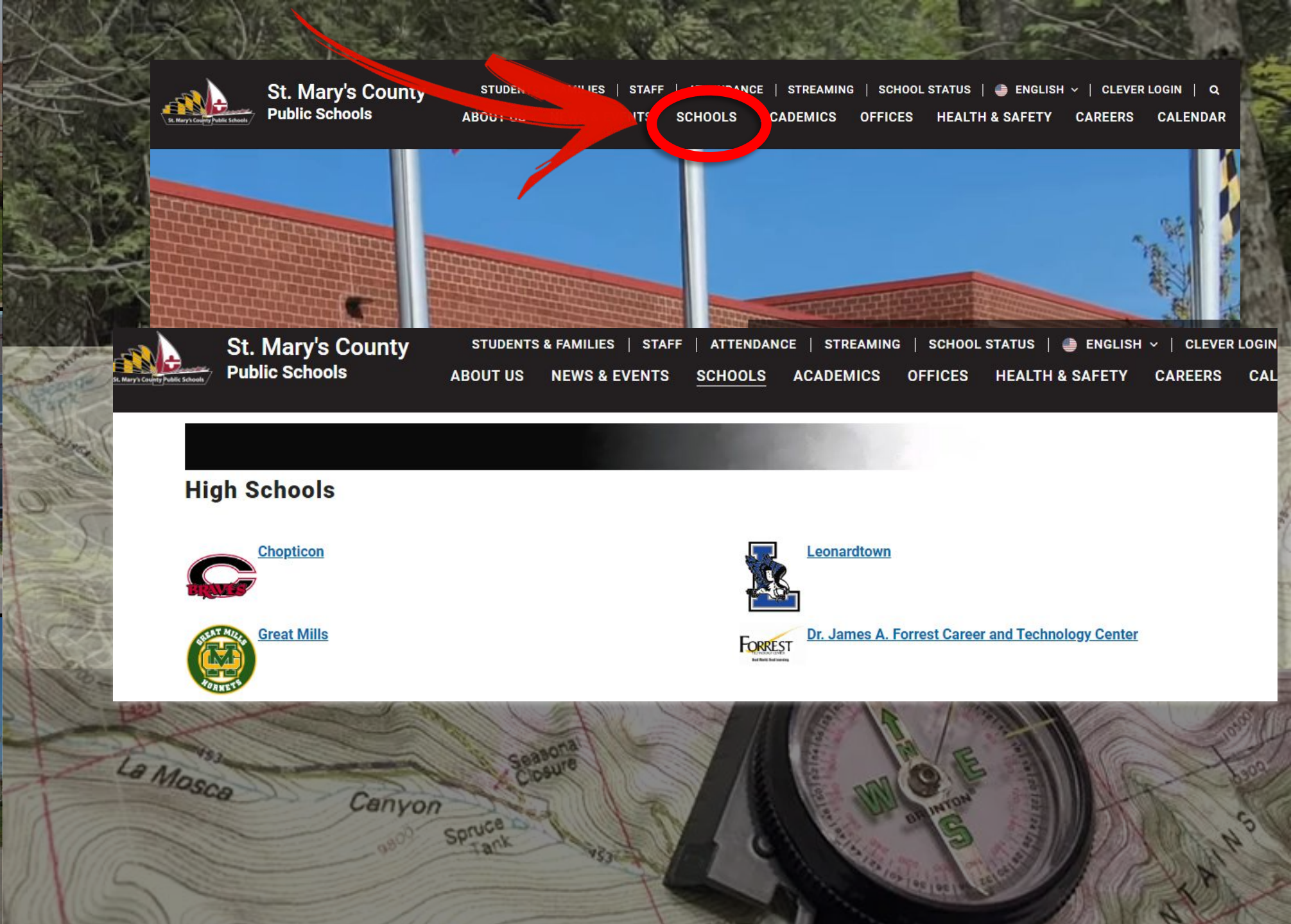
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Breakout Session Choices: Circle the two Breakout Sessions you would like to attend:

STEM Academy	Academy of Visual and Performing Arts	Academy of Finance	Virtual Academy
Global and International Studies Academy	James A. Forrest Career & Technology Center	General Studies - Welcome to High School/Q&A with counselors	School Programs

Make your plan





High Schools

 [Chopticon](#)

 [Leonardtown](#)

 [Great Mills](#)

 [Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center](#)



St. Mary's County Public Schools HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PATHWAYS



Choose your path to success!



Academies & Pathways

Online at: www.smcps.org/academies

Academy of Finance

The Academy of Finance (AoF) is offered at all three SMCPSS high schools. AoF students develop professional skills, receive specialized instruction with a focus on business, finance, and management, and gain an awareness of the marketable skills needed to be successful in those fields. Students acquire practical skills via field experiences, internship opportunities, and course projects. AoF is a CTE completer pathway as well as an academic academy program.



STEM

Housed at GMHS, the STEM academy is a rigorous program of study emphasizing the core areas of mathematics and science with an infusion of technology and engineering. The curriculum includes dedicated research classes founded upon the application of mastered material, integrated contemporary technologies, and extensive problem-solving experience. AP courses are incorporated to provide experiences for rigor and college/career readiness.



Academy of Visual and Performing Arts

SMCPSS's signature art program, the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) is located at CHS. This academic academy strives to support talented students who exhibit desire and motivation to pursue higher levels of achievement and learning in the arts. Students participating in the AVPA chose one of five focus areas (Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Theatre, or Visual Arts) to which academy coursework and projects are tailored.



Global International Studies

Students choosing to enroll in the Academy of Global and International Studies (GIS) are prepared to take on a rigorous humanities-based curriculum. Located within LHS, GIS provides a rigorous, engaging education that prepares today's graduates to meet the challenges of life in a global age. Students participating in the GIS program have an opportunity to learn about world cultures, current affairs, history, and languages.



St. Mary's County Public Schools

CHOOSE YOUR PATH



QUESTIONS?

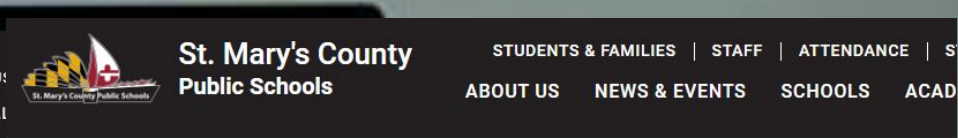
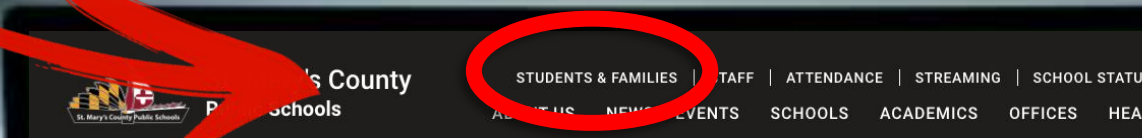
EMAIL US...

ClassOf2029@SMCPS.org

VISIT

WWW.SMCPS.ORG

CLICK ON THE
STUDENTS + FAMILIES
TAB



→ HEALTH & SAFETY RESOURCES

↓ GENERAL RESOURCES

[IT Helpdesk](#)

Request technology assistance

[Password Recovery](#)

Need password assistance? We can help!

[Home Access Center \(HAC\)](#)

Check on your grades & classes

[Digital Textbooks & Online Resources](#)

Info on new on-line text books

[Kindergarten Registration](#)

Learn more about our kindergarten program and registration

[Elementary Standards-Based Report Cards](#)

Info on the how and why of report card standards

[Rising Freshmen Orientation](#)

Info about prepping for freshman year

[Student Service-Learning \(SSL\)](#)

Integrating service to benefit the larger community

[Student Handbooks](#)

Navigating the school system as a student

[Program of Studies](#)

Guide to high school courses and programs

[Specialized Intervention Services Data](#)

Specialized Intervention Services Data Report

[Report an Absence](#)

Report a student absence for any school

[Lunch Menus](#)

What's for lunch?

[My School Bucks](#)

Add money to your lunch account

MORE INFORMATION



School Info Night for Multilingual Families
April 30, 2025, 5:30 PM
Lexington Park Library

*Noche de Información Escolar
para Familias Multilingües*

1730 a 1900 (5:30-7pm)

miércoles 30 de abril

En la Biblioteca Pública de Lexington Park

21677 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Blvd, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Let's hear from students!



"IT WILL BE OK"
STUDENTS' TOP 12
THINGS TO KNOW

*Chopticon High School
Class of 2029*



PRESENTERS



SOFIA FRAGA- 12TH GRADE

BENJAMIN HOFFMAN- 12TH GRADE

MOLLY HOFFMAN- 10TH GRADE

DELIA VALLANDINGHAM- 9TH GRADE



12.

CHOPTICON PRIDE

Participation

Respect

Integrity

Determination

Encouragement

11. POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR TEACHERS

- **Better connectivity in a academic environment**
- **Letters of Recommendation**
- **Fosters an overall more engaged and involved classroom setting**



9. ANY ADULT WILL HELP YOU!

- GRADE LEVEL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
- SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
- ALL EDUCATORS
- SAFETY + SECURITY
- SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS
- NURSES
- BUILDING SERVICE WORKERS
- FOOD SERVICE STAFF
- TECHNOLOGY + MEDIA STAFF
- SCHOOL BANKER
- COLLEGE + CAREER LIAISONS



8. WHEN IN DOUBT, REACH OUT!
ASK QUESTIONS!



7. SET GOALS FOR YOURSELF.

... academically and socially

**MINDSET IS
WHAT
SEPARATES THE
BEST FROM THE
REST.**

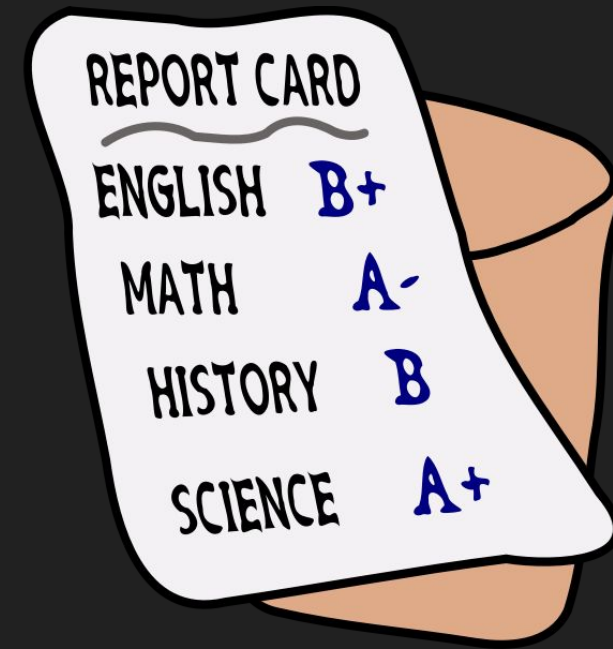
6. USE YOUR TIME WISELY

- 7 Classes
- 1 hour Pride Time
- Homework
- Hallway Exchange (4 minutes)



5. KEEP YOUR GRADES UP!

- GRADES COUNT
- GRADES OPEN DOORS TO:
 - PLAYING SPORTS
 - PARTICIPATING IN AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES
 - AND MOST IMPORTANTLY... YOUR FUTURE!



4.

GET INVOLVED!

- clubs
- special events (pep rallies, Braves Cup, Dodgeball Tournaments, Staff vs Student Basketball games, etc)
- Spirit Week



3.

GET INVOLVED!

- Sports

BE OPEN TO ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES

AND

TRY SOMETHING NEW!



2. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

HEALTHY HABITS LEAD TO
HEALTHY MINDS
BODIES!

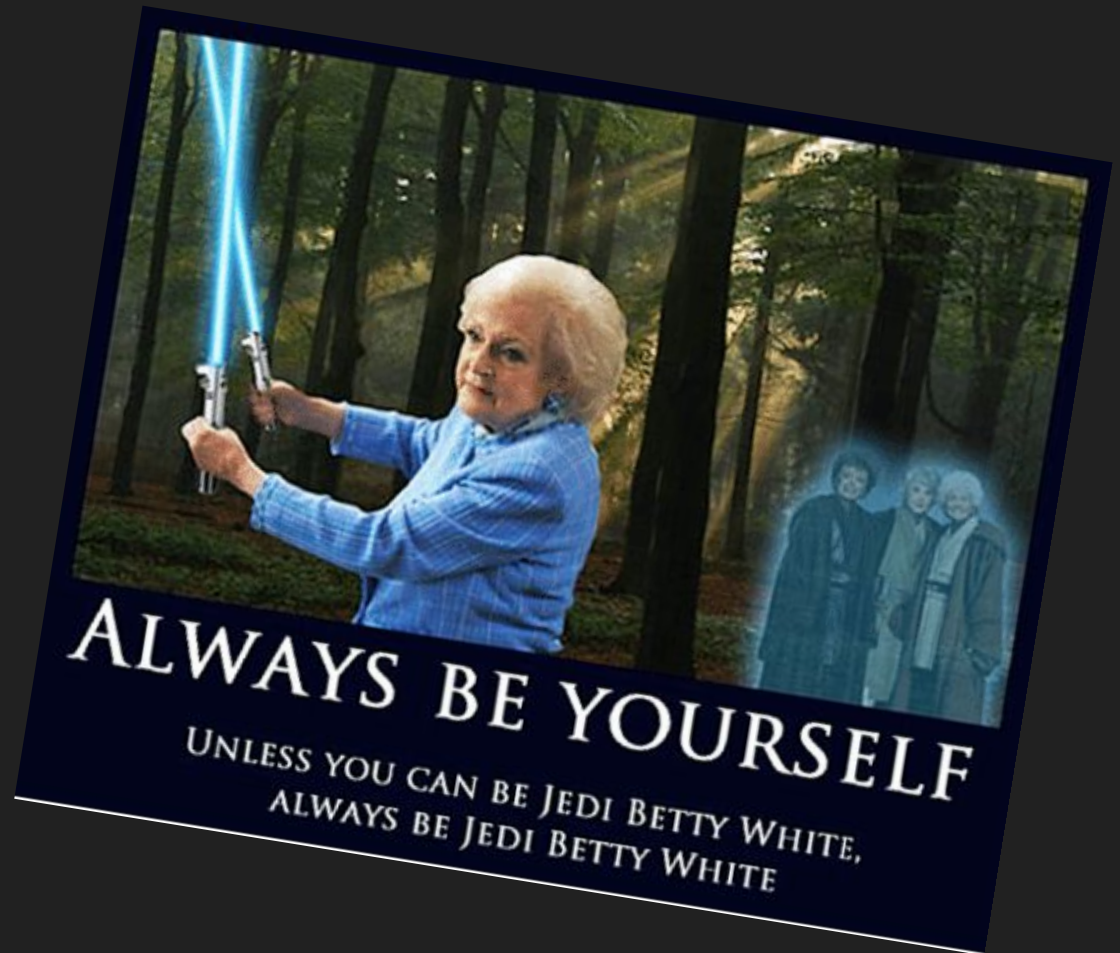
How's everything going? You taking care of yourself?

Me:



1. BE YOURSELF!

be yourself
trust yourself
love yourself



TIME WILL FLY BY... WE PROMISE YOU'LL BE OKAY

- ENJOY YOUR TIME
WHILE YOU'RE HERE
- DON'T TRY TO GROW UP
TOO FAST





"IT WILL BE OK"
STUDENTS' TOP 12
THINGS TO KNOW

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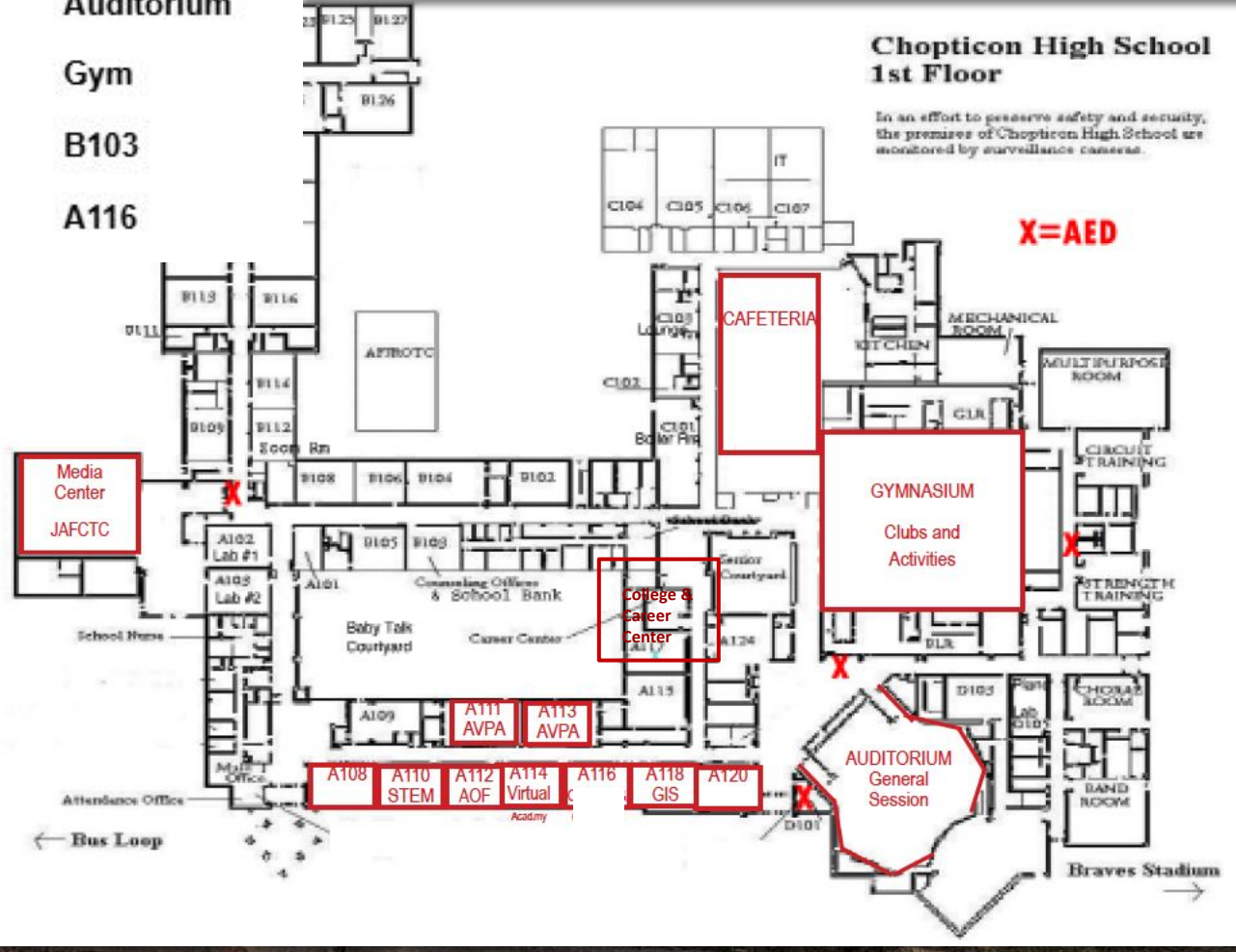


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- GIS (Global and International Studies Academy)
- AVPA (Academy of Visual and Performing Arts)
- AOF (Academy of Finance)
- JAFCTC (James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center)
- General Studies and Q&A with School Counselors
- School Programs (Clubs and School Activities)
- College & Career Center
- AP Course Information

- A110
- A118
- A111 & A113
- A112
- Media Center
- Auditorium
- Gym
- B103
- A116

6:45-7:05
Breakout Session 1

7:10-7:30
Breakout Session 2



Band /
Marching
Band

Chorus

Bravehouse
Productions

Mock
Trial,
MUN

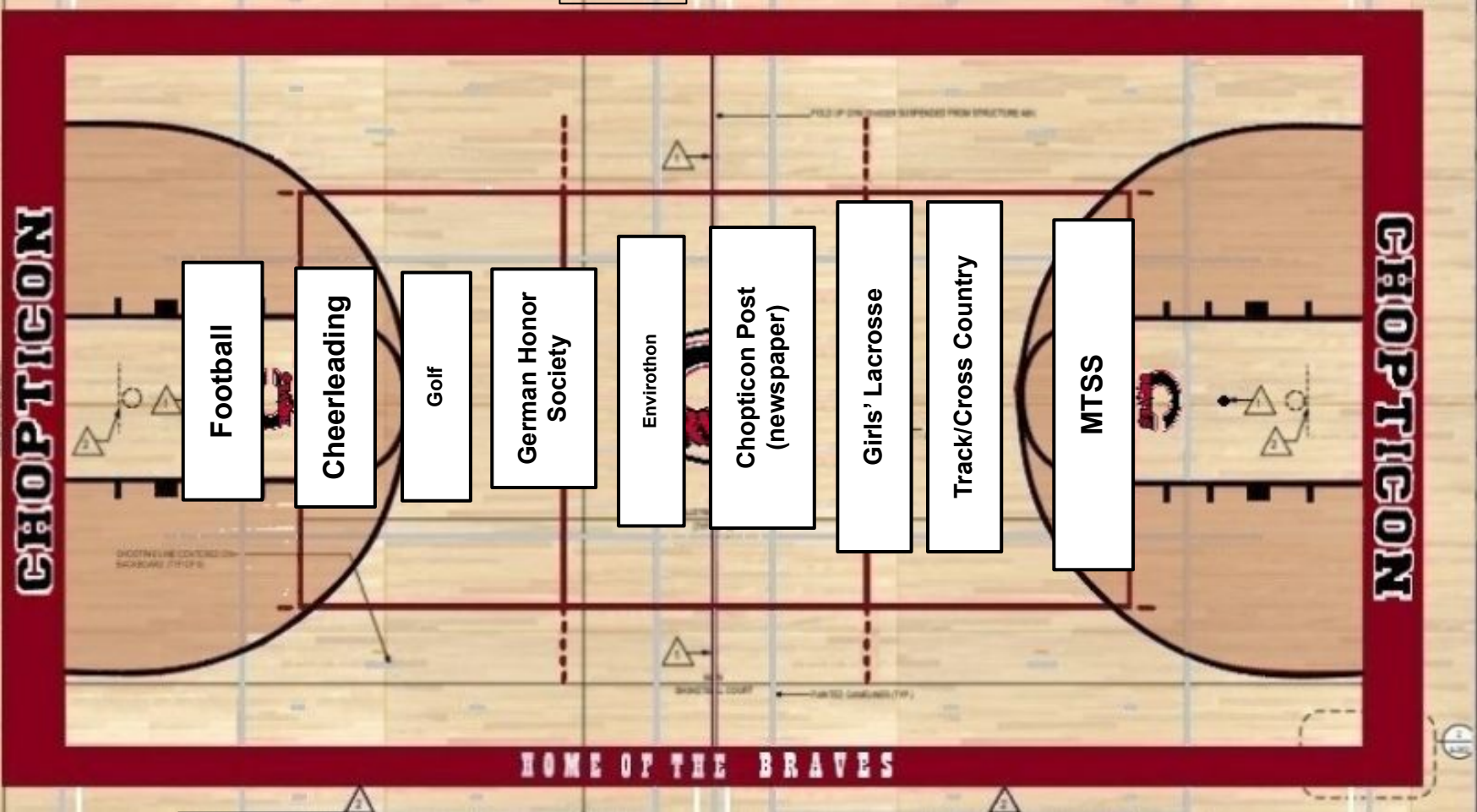
SGA

MTSS

AFROTC

Orchestra

CHS Booster Club



Boys
Basketball

Girls
Basketball

Field
Hockey

Volleyball

Softball

Swim
Team

Girls'
Soccer

Boys
Soccer

Wrestling

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