STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT 125

TRANSITIONS

A GUIDE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN • CLASS OF 2030









A MESSAGE FROM STUDENT SERVICES



WELCOME, CLASS OF 2030!

Dear Stevenson High School Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the Patriot Family! We know that the transition from eighth grade to high school is both exciting and filled with many questions. Please know that members of the Student Services Division are here to help you navigate the high school journey as you explore the many classes, activities, programs, resources and other adventures that await.

The pages of this Transitions Guide are filled with information about the important events that will take place over the next several months to ensure a smooth transition to high school. The answers to many of your questions may be found in this guide. Please review this guide and the Incoming Freshman webpage carefully and mark your calendars with the dates of upcoming events.

For your information, you may always reach Stevenson High School by calling our switchboard at 847-415-4000 between 7:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on any school day. You may also contact departments directly. Many of these phone numbers may be found in this guide and are also located on our website.

Stevenson High School is a special place with countless opportunities inside our classrooms and beyond. We look forward to working with your family over the next four years.

Kind regards,

Sarah Bowen

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

2026 - 2027 SCHOOL YEAR

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Jan. 6	****Online Stevenson Enrollment begins**
Jan. 7, 8 & 13	Incoming Freshman Family Orientation
Jan. 9	Placement letter mailed home
Jan. 15	Summer School Registration begins
Jan. 15, 20 & 21	Incoming Feshman Course Selection Evenings
Jan. 23	****Freshman Year Course Selection Worksheets due**
Jan. 23	****Online Stevenson Enrollment due**
Jan. 28 - 29	Dance Placements
Jan. 30	Freshman Year Course Verifications mailed home
Mar. 18	Co-Curricular Fair
Mar. 20	Summer School Registration closes
April	Guitar Placements
April	Orchestra Placements
May 1	****Health Forms due**
May - June	****Annual Residency Verification due**
Mid-June/July	****Registration Fee Payment due**
June 2 - 25	Summer School - Semester One
June 29 - July 23	Summer School - Semester Two
June - July	Sports PREP Activities
July - August	Marching Band Summer Rehearsals
Late July	Band Camp (Exact dates to be announced)
Aug. 6	Welcome Webinar
Aug. 7	Fall Sports Registration Deadline
Aug. 10	Fall Sports Begin
Aug. 12	Freshman Orientation Day
Aug. 13	School Begins
Aug. 21	The Freshman Mixer

**** Indicates action is required**









View the most current academic calendar at: www.d125.org/academics/2025-26-academic-calendar.

Dates are subject to change. Please check the Stevenson website regularly for the latest updates.

ENROLLMENT AND COURSE SELECTION: THE PROCESS AT-A-GLANCE



COURSE SELECTION

On **Jan. 15, 20 or 21, 2026**, families are invited to virtual course selection evenings, during which time they may review course placement recommendations (mailed home in mid-January) and receive guidance in choosing classes for the upcoming school year. More information about which evenings families should attend will be provided at a later time.



ENROLLMENT

By **Jan. 23, 2026**, families must complete the online enrollment process via Infinite Campus. For more information about the necessary documentation for online enrollment, please visit **www.d125.org/incoming-freshmen**.



COURSE VERIFICATION

By **Jan. 23, 2026**, families must return the completed 2026-27 Incoming Freshman Course Selection worksheet via email. In late January, you will receive a Course Verification Confirmation via email which must be approved to complete the course selection process.



HEALTH FORMS

By **May 1, 2026**, required health forms must be completed and returned to the Nurses' Office. Forms are available at **www.d125.org/incoming-freshmen** and also printed for your convenience in your Incoming Freshman Family Orientation packet.



ANNUAL RESIDENCY VERIFICATION

Stevenson will conduct residency verification for all families starting in **April**. This process occurs automatically by comparing family names and addresses with electronic databases such as utility companies.

By **mid-May**, families whose residency we were unable to verify will receive an email with instructions on how to provide additional documentation.



FEES PAYMENT AND PERMISSIONS

By **July**, once residency has been verified, families must complete online registration (fees payment and permissions) for the upcoming school year via Infinite Campus.

SUMMER READING & PROGRAMS



SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

All incoming freshmen must read a designated book for their English class over the summer. At the beginning of the school year, students will be expected to participate in discussions, use evidence from their book in their writing and demonstrate (in various ways) that they have read the book.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of the summer reading?

- To promote reading for enjoyment.
- To increase reading skill. Studies show that the more you read, the better reader you become.
- To become acquainted with the general topics and themes of the course.

Should I annotate my book?

Your teachers encourage annotation while reading as a way to engage in active reading; however, it is not required for the summer reading assignment.

What questions should I keep in mind as I read?

- How does the main character change/mature over the course of the novel?
- What are the central conflicts the main character faces? How are they resolved?
- What lessons does the main character learn?
- What are some of the imporant ideas in the book?

Where can I find a copy of the book?

Barnes & Noble and Amazon are good resources, as well as the local libraries.

View the most current summer learning information at: **https://www.d125.org/academics/summer-enrichment/summer-reading**.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Stevenson High School offers a two-semester academic summer school program. Summer school is an extension of the school's regular academic program designed to provide students with opportunities to gain academic credit, receive enrichment or remediation and explore new interests.

Incoming freshmen may consider enrolling in summer school, as it facilitates the adjustment and transition to high school. About 70% of Stevenson's incoming freshmen enroll in summer school annually.

More information on how to register for summer school and PREP will be shared directly with families.

TECHNOLOGY



RECEIVING YOUR IPAD

All incoming freshmen receive an iPad which they keep until they earn a diploma with Stevenson. Students should expect to use these to access etextbooks, class assignments and communicate with their teachers.

Incoming freshmen attending summer school will receive their iPad in the classroom on their first day of summer school.

For students not attending summer school, iPads will be distributed on Freshmen Orientation Day.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- The District requires the school-issued iPad to be in a case. The school-issued case does not have a keyboard. You may choose to purchase your own case. Please check the model of the iPad before you purchase.
- The iPad is signed in to a Managed Apple ID. This provides 200 GB of iCloud storage.
- The iPad will not have access to the App Store, iMessage or FaceTime. All academic apps can be found in Self Service.
- The notetaking and annotation app used at SHS is Notability and is already installed on the iPad.
- Earbuds, headphones, Apple Pencils, Stylus and keyboards are all accessories that the District does not supply. If you choose to purchase your own, please check the model of the iPad before you purchase.
- Zoom is the available app for video chat with classmates. It is already installed on the iPad with your Stevenson Zoom account set up.
- Stevenson High School students utilize Google Workspace for Education and have a 50 GB storage limit for Google Drive, Gmail, and Google Photos with their "@students.d125.org" account.







STUDENT ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Stevenson students are given access to several different technology programs. Every student is provided with a network account, an email account, Canvas account, IRC account and an Infinite Campus account. Login information (account names and passwords) should be kept private at all times. Additionally, all freshmen will have the Student Guidebook downloaded onto their iPads.

The use of a Stevenson High School computer is intended to serve instructional purposes only -- playing games is not permitted. In exchange for the privilege of using the District's computers, computer network and internet access, students must consent to staff members monitoring such use.

To use the internet, a summer school student must have a signed Acceptable Use Guideline form (regarding access and use of the District Information Services systems) on file. For the school year, students will agree to acceptable use during the registration process. Inappropriate use of the District's computers, computer network and/or internet access may be considered gross disobedience or misconduct.

To view more detailed information about our technology services, including answers to frequently asked questions, please visit **www.d125.org/student-life/tech-services**.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR HELP

Students with questions or needing assistance with a school-issued iPad should visit the technicians at the SMARTdesk.

The SMARTdesk is located in the Link Lab building. During summer school, the SMARTdesk is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Special hours will be posted. During the school year, it is open on school days from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on late arrival days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special hours will be posted.

During the school year, computers are available for student use in the Information Learning Center (ILC) in the West Building (Room 2300/1300) or in the East Learning Center (Room 7026). Freshmen may use the desktop computers during study hall by asking a classroom teacher for a pass to one of the Learning Centers from study hall.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Co-Curricular activities are extremely popular at Stevenson. Ninety-three percent of the student body participate in at least one club, sport or activity by the time they graduate. Last year, more than 3,000 students performed almost 83,000 hours of volunteer work in school and community service clubs. Over half of the student body is involved in our vast intramural program. The theatre, dance, choral, orchestra and band programs boasted nearly 1,200 participants. More than 650 students participated in student government last year.

There are more than 140 clubs and activities that a freshman can participate in. Information about all of these activities can be found at: **www.d125.org/students/activities**.

Each freshman student will receive a Co-Curricular brochure in the Freshman Welcome packet that will be handed out during Freshman Advisory. Students are also invited to participate in activities through freshmen advisories. Club and sport announcements are announced during the Stevenson Network News (SNN) broadcast that starts each school day.

CO-CURRICULAR FAIR

The Co-Curricular Fair will be held in person on **March 18, 2026**. Students will be able to explore the opportunities available to them and a variety of groups will be represented so students will be able to learn about them and can ask questions. All incoming freshmen and their families are invited to attend and hear from coaches, club sponsors and current Stevenson students who represent over 45 Varsity teams, more than 140 co-curricular clubs and many intramural programs. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn about all that Stevenson offers.









For questions regarding Stevenson's co-curricular activities, contact Student Activities at **847-415-4462**.

PATRIOT ATHLETICS



LET'S GO TEAM

Fall Stevenson athletes must complete registration for the 2026 season by **Aug. 7, 2026**. Registration for winter and spring athletes is due five days prior to the tryout date.

The registration procedure requires the online Athletic Participation form to be filled out after a student's school registration, which must be done by **mid-June/July**. (Please allow a 24-hour processing period between school registration and athletic online registration).

REQUIRED FORMS FOR ATHLETES

- **The Athletic Participation Form** registers the athlete for fall, winter and spring sports for the 2026-27 school year and is available on the Stevenson Athletics' webpage: www.d125.org/athletics.
- **The Child Health Examination Form** is a doctor's confirmation that the athlete is physically able to participate in athletics. The athletic physical cannot be more than 395 days old during the time of athletic participation according to the Illinois High School Association (IHSA). This form is available on the Stevenson Health Services webpage at: www.d125.org/incoming-freshmen.

It is imperative that the student's physician circle "Yes" on the Child Health Examination form so the student is medically cleared to participate in interscholastic sports. Unregistered athletes will not be allowed to try out, begin practices or participate until all forms are completed, signed and on file in the Athletic Office. All athletes must be covered by some form of insurance in order to participate.









FINE ARTS



EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Stevenson High School Fine Arts Division provides much more than a classroom experience for our students and is comprised of the Dance, Music, Odyssey, Theatre and Visual Arts departments. Each department offers studio, non-performing and performing settings and maintains a well-balanced education that focuses equally on the process of learning as well as the product of our efforts.

We believe that the study of fine art is important to everyone at both the individual and societal levels. Students in the Fine Arts experience the actual application of knowledge and skills on a daily basis with culminating work often approaching or achieving professional levels.

As such, Stevenson Fine Arts students develop amazing work ethic, along with a high level of proficiency and sophistication of work. Such quality of work often results in scholarships and prestigious awards. Stevenson offers a rigorous fine arts curriculum that rivals many university programs in its scope. It challenges students to think creatively, encourages risk taking and enables students to apply their problem-solving skills beyond the classroom.

FINE ARTS OPPORTUNITIES

SPRING 2026

General Dance Company Auditions

Summer/Fall Color Guard

SUMMER 2026

Color Guard

Marching Band

FALL 2026

Fall Play Auditions

Marching Band and Color Guard

Dance Class and Transfer Student Placement Assessments

Dance Company Auditions: Repertory and Mélange

Fall Play

Musical and Auditions

Pit Orchestra and Auditions

Baroque Ensemble and Auditions

Jazz Ensembles (Instrumental)

Vocal Group Auditions: Polyphonics, Low Frequency, and Nothing but Tremble

Improv Comedy Team: The Failed Presidential Candidates and Auditions

Children's Play Auditions

One Acts Script Selection

Winter Play & Frosh/Soph Play Auditions

Winter Guard and Auditions

WINTER 2026-27

Dance Companies Auditions (Repertory and Mélange)

Winter Play & Frosh/Soph Play

Spring One Acts & Leadership Role Auditions

SPRING 2027

General Dance Company Auditions

Summer/Fall Color Guard Fall Play Auditions

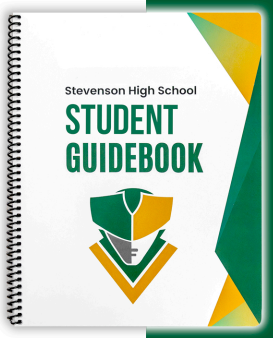
Music and Dance Class Placement Assessments







DISTRICT RESOURCES



STUDENT GUIDEBOOK

All freshmen will have the Stevenson High School Student Guidebook downloaded onto their school-issued iPads. This comprehensive resource supports the transition to high school by introducing students to Stevenson's mission, values and expectations. It outlines key school procedures, academic policies, behavioral guidelines, and student support services—helping students take ownership of their learning and personal growth. The guidebook also includes essential information on attendance, technology use, extracurricular participation and student rights and responsibilities.

STAY IN TOUCH

The Daily Digest is a daily newsletter published on school days for students and families about student life on campus. During the regular school year, it features a mixture of stories about students, club announcements, school events and varsity sports results. During the summer months only, the Daily Digest is sent in June and resumes as a daily publication at the start of the school year.



The Minuteman is a monthly newsletter published during the school year (not published during the summer months) for parents and guardians. It includes important updates and announcements from our Board of Education, as well as timely practical insights related to diversity, equity and inclusion; social emotional learning; and other ways for families to support their students' learning.



All current students and families are automatically subscribed to the Daily Digest and Minuteman newsletters.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Let's get social! Connect with us on social media, where you can find our official Stevenson accounts as well as a wide variety of accounts managed by our clubs, sports and classroom teachers.

Visit: www.d125.org/socialmedia

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How are my student's placements determined in English, mathematics, science and world languages?

Placements are determined based on a combination of a student's performance in eighth grade courses, conversations with the student's eighth grade teachers and benchmark data.

Stevenson's divisions may use a slightly different evidence-based process to arrive at placement recommendations, so please review the information for division-specific benchmark details available here: www.d125.org/student-life/incoming-freshmen.

Options are available for adjustment but parents/guardians and students should discuss this with the student's current teachers.

What if I have questions about my student's placement in English, mathematics, science, world languages, or special education?

You should contact the director of the specific academic department:

English	Kimberly Musolf 847-415-4326
Mathematics	Darshan Jain 847-415-4601
Science	Dr. Steve Wood 847-415-4401
Special Education	Traci Wallen 847-415-4834
Multilingual Learning	Justin Fisk 847-415-4701

What is a normal class load?

The typical school day consists of eight 47-minute periods. School begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:25 p.m. Freshmen may enroll in up to seven classes (including physical education or dance) but have the option to enroll in a study hall as opposed to a seventh class. Freshmen are assigned to a lunch/ Advisory period. Lunch periods are divided into two periods: 27 minutes for lunch and 20 minutes for Advisory.

What is Freshman Advisory?

Freshmen are assigned to an Advisory that meets Monday through Thursday for 20 minutes during their lunch period. Advisories are supervised by selected Stevenson teachers and upperclassmen who enjoy working with students in a less structured setting. The goal of Advisory is to make the transition to Stevenson as smooth as possible for all freshmen. School counselors visit advisories regularly to meet with their students. Additionally, deans and social workers visit advisories throughout the year to ensure students get to know other Student Support Team (SST) members.

Should my student take a full-period study hall or a seventh class?

We recommend that all students should consider the following before deciding:

- A study hall provides a structured time and place to work on homework assignments, get extra help in the learning centers or make up missed tests at the testing center.
- For a student involved in co-curricular activities, a study hall provides time for homework completion.
- A seventh class allows students to explore elective courses. Stevenson High School offers elective courses across many divisions. Course descriptions can be found in the Stevenson Coursebook, which is also available on the Stevenson website.

If undecided about what to do, remember that a student may start a semester with a seventh course and has approximately eight weeks in which to drop a course without suffering any penalty. Talk to a school counselor for more information.

Which courses should my student take for college?

All information pertaining to graduation requirements and college admissions can be found in the beginning pages of the Stevenson Coursebook. College admissions requirements vary from school to school. Some schools require fine arts, applied arts and/or world language courses. Any questions can be directed to your student's school counselor.

What if my student is having difficulties in a class?

If a student is having a problem in a class, all remedies start with the student talking to the teacher. Students are advised to make an appointment to meet a teacher during free time or a study hall period to discuss the difficulties. Students are also encouraged to meet with their school counselors. Counselors will share resources and supports available and assist students in developing plans to address their concerns.

Should my student take summer school courses?

Summer school is not required, but taking a summer school course allows a student to become familiar with Stevenson's academic policies and procedures and get to know other students. It may also allow a student to create space in their schedule during the school year for an elective course or study hall.

Are school counselors available over the summer?

Yes, students can email any course-related questions or request an appointment with a school counselor by emailing summercounselors@d125.org or calling 847-415-4080 over the summer break.

How do we learn about co-curricular activities?

Each student will receive a Co-Curricular Activities catalog in Freshman Advisory. Students are also invited to attend the annual Co-Curricular Fair in the Spring to discover all that Stevenson offers. In addition, club and sport meeting times are announced through the student announcements webpage on the Stevenson website and through the Stevenson Network News (SNN) morning announcements. For more information, visit: www.d125.org/students/activities.

Are there late afternoon buses for students involved in sports and student activities?

Monday through Friday, buses leave the Patriot Wellness Center from parking lot D at 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The route each bus will take is determined by the destinations of the students riding.

How do I contact my student's counselor?

Parents/guardians can always contact a school counselor by email or phone. One option available to freshman families is arranging a SCoPE meeting. Student Counselor Parent/Guardian Engagement (SCoPE) meetings will consist of a 30-minute meeting with the student, parent/guardian and counselor during which families will have the opportunity to share more information about their student's strengths, interests, goals and concerns. In addition, counselors will provide information about their role in helping students and families to navigate the high school experience as well as make the most of programs and resources offered to support students.

How does my student see their school counselor privately?

Students are able to arrange a meeting with their school counselor during the school day. Students are encouraged to make an appointment during a study hall, lunch period or before school. Appointments can be scheduled through the counselor's Calendly link or by emailing them directly.

What kinds of support services are available at Stevenson High School?

Students experiencing difficulties at Stevenson are referred to the individual's Student Support Team (SST), consisting of school counselor, a school psychologist, a dean and a social worker. Appropriate intervention strategies to promote student success are recommended at weekly SST meetings. More information can be found on the Student Services webpage as well as the Student Learning Program webpage.

Student Services:
www.d125.org/students/student-services

Student Learning Programs:
www.d125.org/academics/tutoring

Do all students need to take swimming?

Swimming is required for every freshman student enrolled in Physical Education. This does not currently include sophomores, juniors or seniors.

Are there any iPad restrictions?

The Stevenson iPads will be issued with a managed Apple ID. This will automatically disable these features: iMessage, FaceTime, purchasing through the app store, iTunes store, Book Store, HomeKit connected device and Apple Pay. Parents/guardians are encouraged to handle and view the Stevenson iPad and set any family household rules about iPads. The iPad is still property of the school until the student graduates. Students should not expect privacy on the Stevenson iPad. It is a tool for school, not a personal device. Parents/guardians are welcome to set additional restrictions on school-issued iPads using the options provided within the operating system. In the current iPad Operating System (iPadOS), there are many features for restrictions. For details about Apple's iPadOS restrictions, please visit this webpage: https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304.

Use of any third-party apps for restrictions of the Stevenson iPad will conflict with the district management of the iPad and therefore will not function. Parents/ guardians may request to have the district add restrictions and manage them. Inquiries for district management of restrictions can be emailed to our SMARTdesk Manager at smartdeskhelp@d125.org.

When is the first day of school for freshmen?

Freshman orientation is on **Wednesday, Aug. 12**. On that day, freshmen attend an orientation meeting in the morning and follow an abbreviated version of their schedule in the afternoon. Regular bus service is available on this day. The first day of school is **Thursday, Aug. 13**.

NOTES

NOTES

STAY CONNECTED

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Applied Arts
Computer Science, Engineering and Technology
Jacqueline King 847-415-4151

Athletics
D'Wayne Bates 847-415-4226

Communication Arts
Kimberly Musolf 847-415-4326

Fine Arts
Jon Grice 847-415-4751

Information Services
Doug Kahler 847-415-4301

Mathematics
Darshan Jain 847-415-4601

Multilingual Learning
English Language Learner (ELL)
Justin Fisk 847-415-4501

Physical Welfare
Abygail Austin 847-415-4229

Science
Dr. Steven Wood 847-415-4401

Social Studies
Brad Smith 847-415-4651

Special Education
Traci Wallen 847-415-4651

Student Activities
Dr. Dave Eddy 847-415-4461

Student Learning Programs
Brett Erdmann 847-415-4418

Student Services
Sarah Bowen 847-415-4701

COUNSELORS

Emin Ademi	847-415-4553
Danielle Aulisio	847-415-4516
Jenna Breuer	847-415-4543
Daniel Diambri	847-415-4532
Jorie Dwyer	847-415-4547
Jennifer Falk	847-415-4524
Amy Grove	847-415-4514
Megan Kelly	847-415-4510
Irina Kogan	847-415-4544
Stephanie Levenbrook	847-415-4521
Patty Martin	847-415-4525
Natalie Meiners	847-415-4515
Lindsay Puppolo	847-415-4571
Lisa Scanio	847-415-4526
Giuliana Scardina	847-415-4536
Ray Tad-y	847-415-4519
Dawn Timm	847-415-4540
Hector Vazquez	847-415-4541
Jaison Varghese	847-415-4518

POST-SECONDARY COUNSELORS

Sara Hanson	847-415-4505
Dan Miller	847-415-4509

DEANS

Kathy McCauley	847-415-4037
Oscar Rivera	847-415-4038
Dr. Sara Rogers	847-415-4024
David Schoenfisch	847-415-4035
Daryl Wallace	847-415-4065
Carla Wood	847-415-4062

NURSES

Kendra Ballardini	847-415-4030
Grace Difiglio	847-415-4028
Allison Hughes	847-415-4021
Aimee Morales	847-415-4020

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent
Dr. Eric Twadell 847-415-4101

Assistant Superintendent for Business
Sean Carney 847-415-4117

Principal
Troy Gobble 847-415-4106

Assistant Superintendent of Leadership and Organizational Development
Dr. Wendy Custable 847-415-4201

Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning
Dr. Ted Goergen 847-415-4461

Assistant Principal for Operations
Eric Ramos 847-415-4229

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