

Frequently asked questions for incoming freshmen

1. How do I enroll my child at Alameda High School?

To attend AHS, the student needs to live in Alameda High's attendance zone. If your student attends any of the following middle schools (Lincoln / Wood) and lives in the Alameda High attendance zone, they will be automatically rolled over to Alameda High.

If your student currently attends a school that is not an AUSD school, they will first need to be enrolled in Alameda Unified School District. To do so, please visit the AUSD homepage: www.alamedaunified.org and click on the 'Departments' tab. Then go to the 'Student Support Services' section. Click the 'Enrollment' tab to find out information on enrolling your student.

2. What are the hours of school at Alameda High?

School hours are from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm with a 40 minute lunch break on all days except Wednesday when school is released at 2:27 pm.

Students can go off campus for lunch but are expected to be on time for all classes. They get a 7 minute passing period between classes. If students get to school later than 8:30 am or if they are late to return after class, they have to serve lunch detention in the cafeteria.

3. What classes will my freshman take?

All 9th grade students will take 6 classes.

English, Biology, Physical Education, Navigating Life-Ethnic Studies (a semester each), Math and an Elective.

4. What classes are offered at Alameda High school?

Classes offered at Alameda High are listed on our course catalog. The catalog has descriptions for each class as well. To access the course catalog please go to the AHS website: www.alamedaunified.org and then click on the 'Students' tab. Under that tab locate the 'Course Catalog & Selection' section. The full catalog is on the right hand column. Resources for incoming students are posted by grade level depending upon enrollment status (already enrolled in AUSD or not currently enrolled in AUSD).

5. How will my student sign up for classes?

If your student is attending one of our feeder schools (Lincoln/Wood), they will receive a presentation from Alameda High Counselors. Counselors will explain graduation requirements and course offerings to students and give them a course selection form to take home. The form will need to be reviewed and signed by the parents/guardians and returned to the middle school. Elective class choices will need to be entered in Aeries. Instructions for entering classes are available on the Alameda High website under the 'Student' section–Course Catalog & Selection tab selecting "Already Enrolled in AUSD" incoming 9th grade.

<https://ahs.alamedaunified.org/student-resources/appointments>

For out of district families, the course selection form is available on the Alameda High website under the 'Student' section–Course Catalog & Selection tab selecting "New to AUSD" incoming 9th grade. After enrolling with Student Services, they will provide more information.

6. What math class will my student take?

Most 9th grade students will take Integrated Math 1.

Students who enrolled in Integrated Math 1 as 8th graders and are successfully completing the course with a grade of 'C' or better, can select to take Integrated Math 2 in 9th grade. Students are encouraged to repeat Integrated Math 1 in 9th grade if they don't have a solid foundation of the course.

7. Can my student take a summer math course and go to the next level?

Yes, students can take a summer math course to advance to the next level. Please read the document posted on our school's website under the 'Math' section in academics. <https://ahs.alamedaunified.org/academics/mathematics>

The document is titled, "If you are considering taking a summer math course in order to advance for the 2026–27 school year, read this document first".

Please note, students have to sign up for the next math level based on the course that they are currently enrolled in, not in anticipation of completion of the summer course. Please read the guidelines listed in the referenced google document very carefully.

8. What foreign languages are offered at Alameda High?

Languages currently being offered at AHS are Spanish, Mandarin and French.

Students who pass the first level of the language in 8th grade with a grade of 'C' or higher can sign up for the next level.

8 A) How do I determine what level of language to take in 9th grade?

If you are just beginning language you should start off at the first level. If you have completed the 1st level of the language in middle school, you may request the 2nd level for 9th grade. To request level 3 of a language due to prior knowledge or outside experience, the middle school language teacher can sign off on the student's course selection form. If you plan to take an outside language course over the summer to advance, you need to request the language level based on the course you are currently enrolled in. If you complete an outside summer course, you can request a schedule change in August upon showing a transcript for the completed summer course. If there is space in the next level course, we will update your schedule at that time.

9. What is the process for taking the 'Leadership' class as an elective?

Students interested in Leadership should choose it as their Primary choice in Aeries and rank it as their number '1' choice on the course selection form. Interested students will be provided an application during the classroom presentations held at the middle school. They will then be contacted at a later date for an interview.

10. How do freshmen sign up for Zero period?

The zero period class is a class that meets daily at 7:30 am. This means that the student will be at school for 7 classes. Priority will be given to students who request foreign language and Band/Orchestra. This provides students with the opportunity to continue with foreign language and music if they have been taking these classes in middle school. However, spaces are limited and spots will be assigned by computer lottery. Students need to check that they are interested in a zero period class. There is a check box on the course selection sheet.

11. What is SMART period?

SMART period is a student directed period that meets twice a week for 43 minutes. Students are placed in a Smart Period with one of their classroom teachers. During this time students can work on homework, request to see any of their teachers for additional help or make up a test. This is student directed time and students are encouraged to use this time efficiently.

12. How do students try out or sign up for sports?

Detailed information about sports is available on the Alameda High School website under 'Athletics'. <https://ahs.alamedaunified.org/student-resources/athletics>

13. Are there gender neutral bathrooms and/or locker rooms?

Yes, there are gender neutral bathrooms available across campus. If a student doesn't want to go to a gender specific locker room, they can request to change in a gender neutral bathroom. Please let your child's PE teacher know.

14. When will my child receive their schedule?

Your child will receive a copy of their schedule during freshman orientation in August. Freshmen will also need to attend a Link Crew day where they will meet an assigned Link crew mentor. These are upperclassmen who will help your freshman with the transition to high school by sharing their experiences and resources. Freshmen will get to tour the school and participate in fun activities to help them get to know their peers.

15. Can freshman take Advanced Placement (AP) or Honors (Hp) classes?

No AP (Advanced Placement) or Honors classes are available for freshmen. Beginning sophomore year, students will be given opportunities to take AP and HP classes.

16. How does my child audition for Band?

Freshman can sign up for 'Band' or 'Orchestra' as long as they have experience in music. Please refer to the course catalog for pre-requisites.

<https://ahs.alamedaunified.org/student-resources/counseling-office>

17. What if my child can't enter their elective selection in Aeries?

For currently enrolled AUSD students:

Aeries entries can only be made from student accounts. Alameda High must be selected as the next school. Students will select one Primary elective.

If your student is unable to submit their electives in Aeries, they need to return their course selection form to their middle school. Alameda High staff will enter the information in Aeries.

Students not currently enrolled in AUSD will not make entries in Aeries. You will return your completed course selection sheet as directed on the form.