

# Princeton High School

Program of Studies Night  
January 20, 2026

## Welcome!



# AGENDA

- Introduction to Princeton High School
- Graduation Requirements
- High School Schedule & Opportunities
- Content Area Information
- Athletic Information
- Course Selection Information/Course Requests

# Leadership

## ADMINISTRATION

- Cecilia Birge – Principal
- Lauren Freedman – Assistant Principal
- Rashone Johnson – Assistant Principal
- Erica Marotta – Assistant Principal

## SUPERVISORS

- Tiffany Brennan – Mathematics/Business
- Brian Dzbenski – PE/Health & Director of Athletics
- Jacqueline Katz – Science
- Patrick Lenihan – Visual & Performing Arts
- Crystal Riddick - Special Education
- Priscilla Russel - World Languages/ESL
- Keisha Smith-Carrington – Humanities (English & Social Studies)

# School Counseling Department



## School Counselors:

- Tom Filippone: A-Bre
- Dan DeStefano: Bro-De
- Paul Song: Di-H
- Rebecca McEvoy: I-Ma
- Adam Rothschild: Mc-R
- Reyhan Garcia: S-Ta
- Meghan Brennan: Te-Z

## Counseling Staff:

- Nipurna Shah: College and Career
- Diana Lygas: Dean of Students
- Michelle Simborski: Student Assistance Counselor
- Dr. Andrea Dinan: IDEAS Center/Service Learning
- Bethzayda Matos, Mental Health Counselor
- Ryan Stingel, Mental Health Counselor

## Child Study Team:

- Karen Albano
- Beth Dwyer
- Michelle Kotch
- Angela Stanton
- Kelli Wiggins

# NEW STUDENTS

**Are you moving to  
Princeton?**

Please call the PHS Registrar, Lori Scala, at 609.806.4282 to schedule an appointment.

**Are you coming to us  
from a private school?**

Appointments will be scheduled in April, after Spring Break.

Pre-register on the Princeton Public School website:

<https://www.princetonk12.org/quick-links/registration>

# Graduation Requirements

30 Credits (9th)

60 Credits (10th)

90 Credits (11th)

Total Credits - 120!



- Language Arts Literacy 20 Credits
- Mathematics 15 Credits
- Science 15 Credits
- US History 10 Credits
- World History 5 Credits
- World Languages 5 Credits
- PE/Health/DE Every Year
- Visual/Performing Arts 5 Credits
- 21st Century Life/Careers 5 Credits
- Financial Literacy 2.5 Credits
- Racial Literacy Requirement/PIRL
- Community Service (10<sup>th</sup> Grade)

# Graduation Requirements cont.

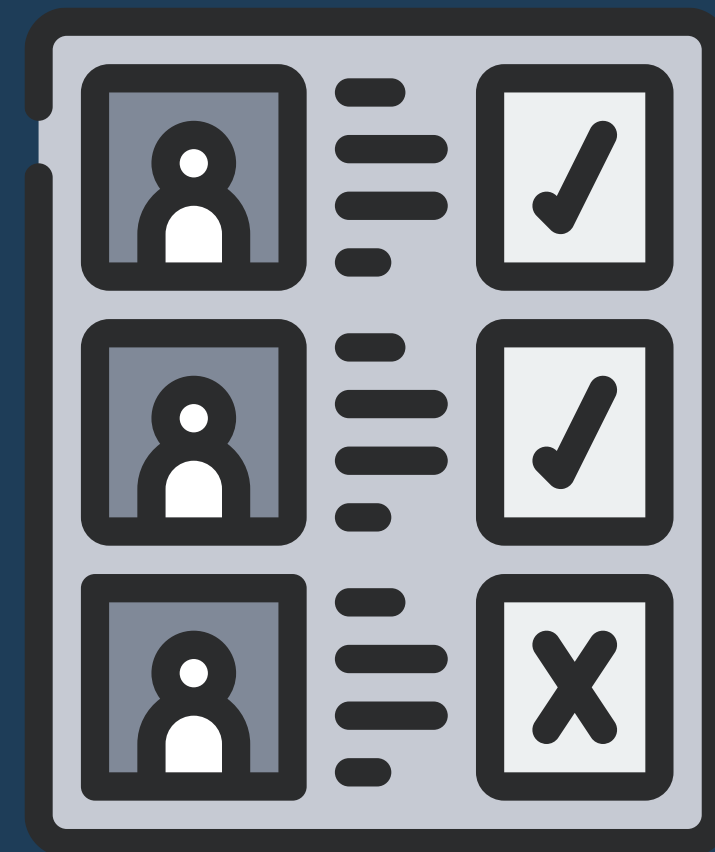
## NJGPA/NJSLA

- **Math**
- **English**



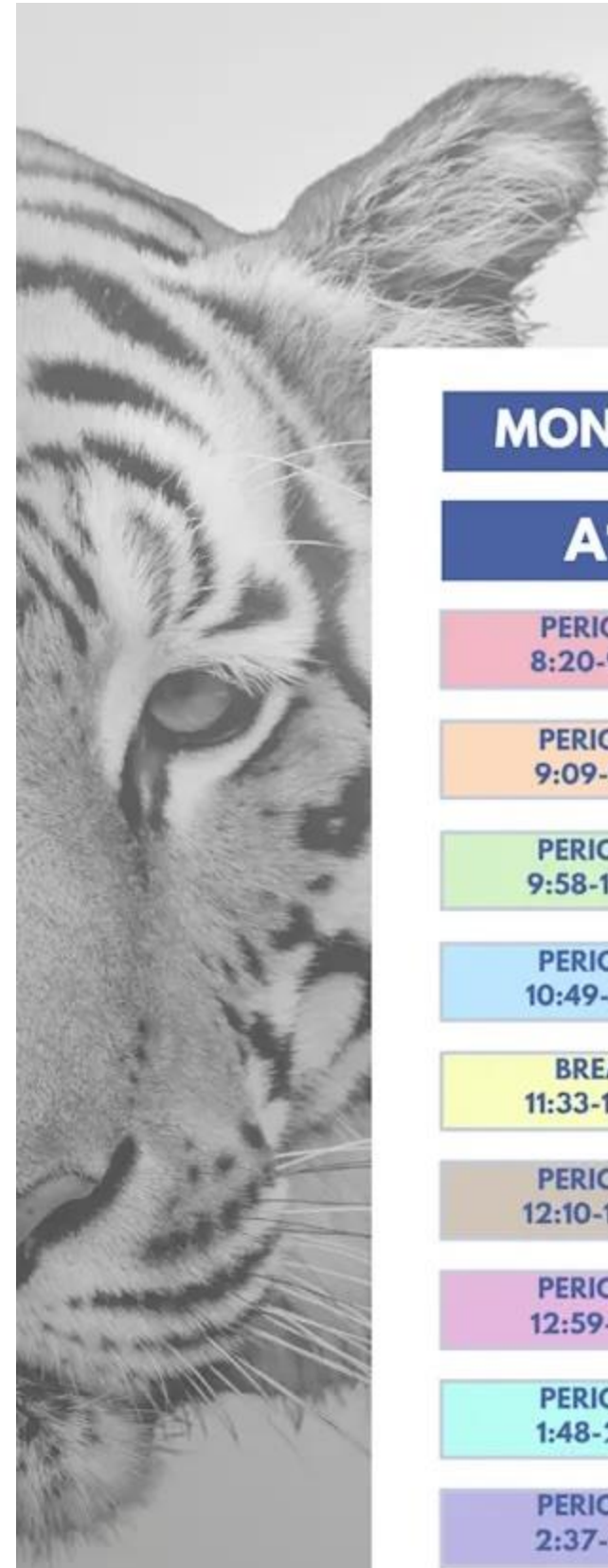
## Attendance

- **Full Year Course = 18 absences**
- **Half Year Course = 9 absences**
- **3 lates / 3 MPI = 1 absence**



# DAILY SCHEDULE

# PHS BELL SCHEDULE 2025-2026



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>A1</b>	<b>B2</b>	<b>B3</b>	<b>TIGER DAY</b>	<b>A4</b>
PERIOD 1 8:20-9:04	PERIOD 2 8:20-9:42	PERIOD 3 8:20-9:42	PERIOD 1 8:20-8:58	PERIOD 4 8:20-9:04
PERIOD 2 9:09-9:53			PERIOD 2 9:03-9:41	PERIOD 1 9:09-9:53
PERIOD 3 9:58-10:44	PERIOD 4 9:50-11:13	PERIOD 1 9:50-11:13	PERIOD 3 9:46-10:26	PERIOD 2 9:58-10:44
PERIOD 4 10:49-11:33			PERIOD 4 10:31-11:09	PERIOD 3 10:49-11:33
BREAK 11:33-12:05	BREAK 11:13-11:49	BREAK 11:13-11:49	BREAK 11:09-11:40	BREAK 11:33-12:05
PERIOD 5 12:10-12:54	PERIOD 8 11:54-1:16	PERIOD 7 11:54-1:16	PERIOD 5 11:45-12:23	PERIOD 8 12:10-12:54
PERIOD 6 12:59-1:43	PERIOD 6 1:24-2:46	PERIOD 5 1:24-2:46	PERIOD 6 12:28-1:06	PERIOD 5 12:59-1:43
PERIOD 7 1:48-2:32			PERIOD 7 1:11-1:49	PERIOD 6 1:48-2:32
PERIOD 8 2:37-3:21	CLUBS/FOCUSED LEARNING LAB 2:51-3:21	COMMUNITY SERVICE 2:51-3:21	PERIOD 8 1:54-2:32	PERIOD 7 2:37-3:21
44 MIN (5 PASSING)	82 MIN (8 PASSING)	82 MIN (8 PASSING)	TIGER TIME/PEER GROUP 2:37-3:21	44 MIN (5 PASSING)
			38 MIN (5 PASSING)	

# Mercer County Technical Schools

## Full Day/4-Year Technical Programs

☐ Health Science Academy

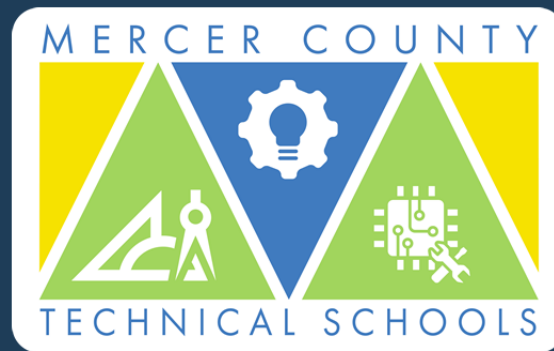
<https://www.mcts.edu/academics/health-science-academy>

☐ STEM Academy

<https://www.mcts.edu/academics/stem-academy>

☐ Culinary Arts Academy

<https://www.mcts.edu/academics/stem-academy>



## Shared Time Technical Programs

Variety of Programs that share time with PHS

- Junior and Seniors
- Programs from Auto to Culinary to Architecture to Graphic Design

Earn up to 13 college credits through MCCC (12th Grade Career Prep ONLY)

- Advertising to Pre-Engineering to Music Technology

Myth: Kids who attend MCTS can't/don't/won't go to college

- Fact: On average, 90% of MCTS shared-time students indicate that they will continue their education after high school. Nearly 100% of full-time students attend college

# Princeton University: High School Program



- Junior and/or Senior year
- Minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA
- A- or higher in all courses in that content area
- High SAT/AP scores
- Students have exhausted our course offerings in a content area
- Teacher recommendation
- Princeton University reserves the right to change pre-requisites at any time

# Department Presentations

- Tiffany Brennan – Mathematics/Business

- Brian Dzbenski – PE/Health & Director of Athletics

- Jacqueline Katz – Science

- Patrick Lenihan – Visual & Performing Arts

- Crystal Riddick - Special Education

- Priscilla Russel - World Languages/ESL

- Keisha Smith-Carrington – Humanities (English & Social Studies)



# Humanities Department – English



## Required Courses (4):

- 9<sup>th</sup>: English I
- 10<sup>th</sup>: English II
- 11<sup>th</sup>:
  - English III or
  - AP English Language & Composition
- 12<sup>th</sup>:
  - English IV or
  - AP English Literature & Composition

*Note: Students may be recommended for supplemental support in 9th grade (English Plus\*) and/or 10th – 12th grades (English Plus – Advanced).*

## Electives:

21st Century Literature (May be listed as Contemporary Literature in PowerSchool)

Creative Writing\*

Elements of Cinema

English Plus\*

English Plus - Advanced

Filmmaking\*

Game Design

Great Books

Journalism I/II\*

Literature and Social Justice

Media Studies\*

Multi-Media Special Effects\*

Philosophy

Public Speaking\*

Video Production I/II\*

***\*Students in 9th grade may enroll.***

# Humanities Department – Social Studies



## Required Courses (3):

- 9<sup>th</sup>: United States (US) History I
- 10<sup>th</sup>: US History II or APUSH
- 11<sup>th</sup>: World History & Cultures or AP World History

## Electives: (9th grade students may not enroll.)

- Accelerated Sociology (Dual Enrollment Course: Sociology 101 at TCNJ)
- AP African American Studies
- AP European History
- AP Government and Politics
- AP Human Geography
- Africa
- Contemporary Crisis and Current Events
- Human Behavior
- Latin America
- Middle East
- Racial Literacy
- Russia
- World Religions

## Humanities Department (cont.)



For further questions regarding the Humanities Department (English and Social Studies) contact Keisha Smith-Carrington:

[keishasmith@princetonk12.org](mailto:keishasmith@princetonk12.org)

Reminders:

- March recommendations are initial placements.
- Recommendations and course placements will be reviewed and adjusted based on continued performance in *current* courses.

# Mathematics and Business Departments




**UNDERSTAND**  
*and* **PERSEVERE**




**MP1:** I can make sense of problems and not give up when trying to solve them.

**LOGIC** *and* **REASONING**



**MP2:** I can use words, numbers, logic, and reasoning skills to help me solve problems.

**JUSTIFY** *and* **CRITIQUE**




**MP3:** I can justify my strategies and evaluate if the ideas of others make sense.

**MODEL** *with* **MATHEMATICS**




**MP4:** I can clearly show my work using diagrams, words, symbols, and pictures.

**STRATEGICALLY**  
*Use* **TOOLS**



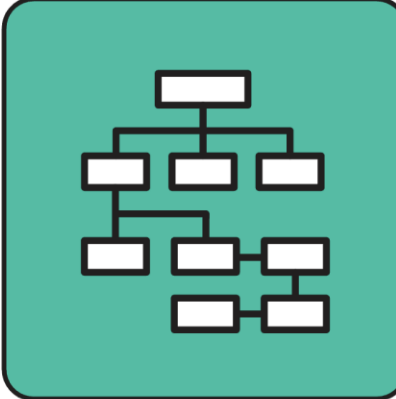
**MP5:** I can select and use the appropriate tools to help me solve problems.

**ATTEND** *to* **PRECISION**



**MP6:** I can review my calculations and strategies to see if they are correct.

**UTILIZE**  
**STRUCTURE**



**MP7:** I can use the structure of a problem to help me find the answer.

**UTILIZE**  
**PATTERNS**



**MP8:** I can find and use mathematical patterns to help me solve a problem.

# Mathematics and Business Departments



	Mathematics			Computer Science	
8th grade:	Algebra I	Algebra II Accelerated or Geometry Accelerated		Completion of Algebra 1	
9th grade:	Geometry	Geometry Accelerated or Algebra II Accelerated		Python	AP CS Principles
10th grade:	Algebra II	Precalculus Accelerated		JAVA	
				Obj. Oriented Programming: JAVA	
11th grade:	Precalculus	AP Statistics	AP Calc. AB or BC	AP CS A: JAVA	
12th grade:	AP Statistics	AP Calculus AB	Multivariable Calculus & Linear Algebra		

# Mathematics and Business Departments (cont.)

□ For further questions regarding math and business (including computer science courses) contact

Tiffany Brennan: [tiffanybrennan@princetonk12.org](mailto:tiffanybrennan@princetonk12.org)

□ Reminder:

- Course recommendations are based off prerequisite requirements stated in the Program of Studies.
- Information regarding rising 9<sup>th</sup> Graders' summer math opportunities and computer science placement can be found on the PHS website and counselors' Canvas pages.

# Science Department



## Three Dimensional Learning



# Science Department



## Course offerings

**Updated Graduation Requirement:** At least 15 credits in evidence-based science courses that develop proficiency with the full range of grades 9-12 NJSLS for science, which shall include the disciplines of physical science, life science, Earth & Space sciences, and engineering, technology and applications of science.

Biology I	Chemistry I	Physics I	<b>4th Year Options:</b> Bioethics of Genetics Forensics Organic Chemistry Anatomy & Physiology Sustainable Environmental System Planetary Science La Horticultura Adv. Innovation Engineering AP Science Course
Biology I	Integrated Science	Chemistry I or Physics I	
Biology I	Environmental Science	Integrated Science	

### Three-year Research Program:

- Applications are opened in December—teacher recommendation, writing sample, problem-solving task
- 9th and 10th graders can apply

# Science Department



8th graders take a placement test in February. Results will be shared prior to scheduling in March.

Other science opportunities- Science Olympiad, Science Bowl, Content-specific Olympiads, Odyssey of the Mind, volunteer/service and others!

Any questions, contact Jackie Katz at 609-806-4280 x 3660 or [jacquelinekatz@princetonk12.org](mailto:jacquelinekatz@princetonk12.org)

# World Language Department



## World Languages/ESL

- We offer 6 languages: Spanish, French, Latin, Italian, Mandarin and Japanese.
- One year state mandated requirement, although the recommendation is for three to four years in one language.
- Students receive a placement recommendation from their 8<sup>th</sup> grade world languages teacher. Counselors will place students with this recommendation, not higher or lower. Teachers will re-visit these recommendations mid-May. Any changes will go through Mrs. Russel.
- Beginning levels of language are open to all students who have not studied that language.

# World Language Department



- ❑ Students who have proficiency in Latin, Mandarin, Japanese or Italian and wish to study these languages, should contact Mrs. Russel by email soon to arrange a placement interview with the appropriate teacher at the high school.
- ❑ Students may choose two languages to study.
- ❑ Students coming from schools other than PMS, Charter or Cranbury must have a placement evaluation prior to registering for a language.
- ❑ ESL classes are based on placement testing or on ACCESS scores. Each department offers classes with supports for ELLs.

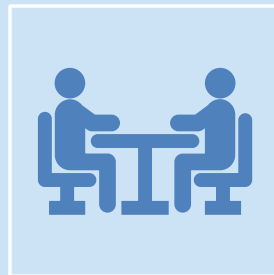
# World Language Department



## Dual Language Immersion (DLI)



- DLI students will have a proficiency evaluation in February to determine appropriate placement.



- *La Horticultura*, a course cross-listed with science, is open to all students who speak Spanish.

# Visual & Performing Arts Department



## Visual & Performing Arts

- One year (5 credits) required for graduation; many students elect more than the minimum.
- Wide range of courses available, from introductory to advanced. All courses are full year courses.

### Visual Art

- Studio Art I

### Theatre

- Drama I: Acting; no audition required **--OR--**
- Drama I: Musical Theatre; no audition required
- Drama II is an option for freshmen with extensive experience. Please email [juliannakrawiecki@princetonk12.org](mailto:juliannakrawiecki@princetonk12.org) to schedule a private audition.

### Dance

- Dance: No audition required

# Visual & Performing Arts Department



## Music

- Band: 6 different bands; placement audition required; directors will visit PMS, Cranbury, and Charter Schools during the school day in February/March for auditions.
- Orchestra: no audition required for Repertoire Orchestra, but audition is required for Sinfonia; e-mail [robertloughran@princetonk12.org](mailto:robertloughran@princetonk12.org) to schedule a private audition.
- Choir: Chorale I (Soprano/Alto) or Chorale II (Tenor/Bass); no audition required.

# Special Education Department

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

- PHS offers a continuum of Special Education Services for students.
- Students are enrolled in Special Education Classes based on their current IEP.
- Your student will be assigned a high school case manager before the end of their 8th-grade school year. Your students' current case manager and 9th-grade case manager will work together to deliver a seamless transition.
- Please contact me via email at –  
[crystalriddick@princetonk12.org](mailto:crystalriddick@princetonk12.org)
- **Crystal Riddick**, Supervisor of Special Education (Grade 6 – Age 21)  
609.806.4200 x 3526

# Athletic Information

- All student are required to use their district issued email accounts to correspond to coaches and staff.
- All students who played a varsity sport in their previous school who transfer into the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade at Princeton High School may be required by the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) to sit for a period of 30 days.
- All 9th grade students are all academically eligible for a fall sport. At mid-year, students are required to maintain a minimum 15 credits.
- All student athletes are required to register for their sport of interest online through the PHS athletics website. Students are required to take & pass an ImPact Test once every two years.
- All 8<sup>th</sup> grade Princeton Middle School (PMS) students should take the Impact Test when it is offered at PMS during the school day in June. Impact Test dates held over the summer will be posted on the athletic website and are taken remotely. Students are required to register for the test through the PHS Athletics website.
- Physical Forms that are printed out from the PHS athletic website must be completed by your child's physician and are required to be uploaded to your family account. All instructions available on the PHS athletic website under the link "Register For Your Sport"
- Pre-season begins the first week in August, so be careful with summer vacation plans! Games are schedule during winter and spring recess periods! Please plan accordingly!
- All students interested in pursuing D1, D2 or D3 schools, should consult with their school counselor to complete all course work for NCAA clearinghouse eligibility.

# Example of 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Requests

- **English I**
- **Mathematics**
- **Biology I**
- **US History I**
- **World Language**
- **PE & Health 9**
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century/Arts/Financial Literacy**
- **Additional Elective**

# Course Selection in PowerSchool

- **Use the Parent/Student Portal to input your requests**
  - **PMS: use your current portal**
  - **Cranbury & PCS: will need to setup accounts in PRINCETON'S PowerSchool system.**
  - **You are entering *requests*. What you see in PowerSchool is not your *schedule*!**
- **Portals will be open from February 9 – March 9**
- **Please request 8 courses and 3-5 "alternate" requests.**

# Course Selection in PowerSchool

- **When selecting courses:**
  - **Look at the prerequisites in the Program of Studies**
  - **Make sure the course is open to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students**
  - **If a recommendation is required, please discuss with your teachers first!**

















# PowerSchool Sample



## Welcome to the Princeton High School Class Registration System for 2026-2027

We are excited to welcome you to Princeton High School! This is where you will request courses for 9th grade. Students must select a minimum of seven courses, and can select a maximum of eight courses. In addition to these "core" courses, students should select 3-5 alternate courses. 9th grade students that only select seven courses will be assigned to a Learning Lab. It is strongly recommended that students and families review the Program of Studies before entering course requests. The Program of Studies can be found by going here: <https://www.princetonk12.org/princeton-high-school/students/program-of-studies>

[View course requests](#)

<b>English Grade 9</b>	Click the edit button to request a course →	 
English I is a 9th grade requirement. Number of requests to generate : 1		
<b>Science Grade 9</b>	Click the edit button to request a course →	 
Please choose a Science course. Number of requests to generate : 1		
<b>Math Grade 9</b>	Click the edit button to request a course →	 
Please choose a Math course. Number of requests to generate : 1		
<b>United States History I</b>	Click the edit button to request a course →	 
US History I is a 9th grade requirement. Number of requests to generate : 1		
<b>World Languages</b>	Click the edit button to request a course →	 
Please choose a course in the World Languages Department. Number of requests to generate : 1		
<b>PE and Health Grade 9</b>	Click the edit button to request a course →	 
Physical Education is a 9th grade requirement. Number of requests to generate : 1		
<b>2nd World Language Request (IF DESIRED)</b>	Click the edit button to request a course →	 
Students are not required to take more than one world language course, so this field should only be used for students that want to take a second world language course as one of their 8 courses in a given school year. Number of requests to generate : 1		
<b>Full Year Electives</b>	Click the edit button to request a course →	 
Please choose up to two full year electives to meet 10 credit requirement. You may choose from here or from semester electives or any combination as long		



# Course Request Timeline

Activity	Date(s)
Enter course requests in PowerSchool	February 8 – March 8
PHS counselors meet with students at PMS	March 10 - 13
PHS counselors meet with students at The Cranbury School	March 23
PHS counselors meet with students at Princeton Charter School	March 25
Requests for course changes after March 28th will be held and considered based on space availability.	March 28 - June 5, 2026

# Changes to Course Requests

**Changes to course requests submitted after March 27th will be held and considered on a space-available basis!!!!**

## **Once Schedules are Released:**

- Email your counselor to make an appointment
- Contact your counselor for:
  - Correction of an incomplete or incorrect schedule
  - Need to fulfill district and/or state of New Jersey graduation requirements
  - Alteration of a schedule due to failure of a course
  - Alteration of a schedule as a result of summer school

# Proactive > Reactive

**Changing your schedule once you receive it has limits!**

**If you want to make a change after school starts, we have to get approval from your parent/guardian, teacher, and department supervisor!**

**A student who is allowed to withdraw from a year or semester course at any time after the deadline will be removed from the class roster. A record of Withdraw (W) will be maintained throughout the remainder of the year and recorded on the student's permanent transcript.**

# Schedule Changes

Deadline	Schedule Change Desired/Grade Transfer
The 9th day of school for a semester course and/or the 18th day of school for a full-year course*	Drop/Add without penalty <i>(Note: dropped classes will not appear on the transcript)</i>
Before the end of Q1	Grades Will be Dropped for Level Changes
First day of Q2 through the last school day before winter break	Grade in New Course = Grade in Previous Accelerated Course + 10 points
Last Day Before Winter Break <i>December 23, 2026</i>	No More Schedule/Class Changes

\*For various reasons, students cannot be added into new courses after these dates.

# Schedule Changes

**Schedule changes will NOT be made for the following reasons:**

- **Class during the AM/PM session**
- **Course selection based on a "trial period"**
- **Course choice based on a preferred teacher**



# **Orientation**

**New Student Orientation (9th Grade)**

**August 24, 2026**

**Transfer Student Orientation (10th – 12th Grade)**

**August 27, 2026**

**More information to follow!**

# Contact Us

<https://www.princetonk12.org/princeton-high-school>

To e-mail:

**Firstname**lastname@princetonk12.org

To call:

609.806.4280