William A. Shine

Great Neck South High School

Registration Booklet



2026 - 2027

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES



It should be clearly understood that the availability of courses listed in this program booklet is subject to recommendation by the administration of the school district and to final action and authorization by the Board of Education as the Board of Education develops its school budget for the 2026-2027 school year.

"The Great Neck Union Free School District, 345 Lakeville Road, does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the educational programs or activities which it operates, and it is required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 not to discriminate in such a manner. This policy of non-discrimination includes the following areas: recruitment and appointment of employees; employment pay and benefits; counseling services for students; access by students to educational programs, course offerings and student activities."

Important Decisions:

Probably no decision you make in high school is more important than the course of study you should follow. Since about half your program consists of "electives" you should be careful in selecting subjects that fit your abilities, interests, and future plans. Even in the case of required subjects, there is some possibility of choice.

At The High School:

Teachers and counselors devote much time in helping you and your family reach sound decisions about courses. At the high school, a special period of time is given over to Program Planning. In addition, your present classroom teachers outline subject offerings in their respective departments. Counselors discuss graduation requirements and registration procedures in group meetings. Personal conferences are scheduled with each student to complete the registration form.

Registration:

Following this period of discussion and deliberation, registration occurs. If you or your parents have questions about the program selected or wish to make changes, a period of several weeks is devoted to further discussion culminating in **final course selection by February 27, 2026.**

You are wise if you take advantage of advice from your classroom teachers and your counselor. Consider the academic load you are planning to undertake, as well as the nature of the specific subjects.

You do yourself a disservice if you make assumptions that are unwarranted--for example, if you believe that certain subjects are required of all colleges or for certain careers, or if you neglect to consider subject selection in a very serious way. **Because of the many opportunities for thorough appraisal both of yourself and of available programs, the subjects you select by June 1, 2026 are expected to remain unchanged, unless there is failure in June.**

GREAT NECK GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduating Class of 2027 and Beyond*



SUBJECTS

English	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Foreign Language	1 credit
Health	1 credit
Art/Drama/Music**	1 credit
Physical Education	2 credits
Electives	3 credits

Minimum Total Required **22.0 credits**

Regents Examination Requirements for the Class of 2027 and Beyond

Regents Diploma

English	Score 65 or better on Comprehensive English
Math	Score 65 or better on any Mathematics Regents
Science	Score 65 or better on any Science Regents
Social Studies	Score 65 or better on Global History **and** US History & Gov't. Regents*

Advanced Regents Diploma

English	Score 65 or better on Comprehensive English
Math	Score 65 or better on all three Mathematics Regents
Social Studies	Score 65 or better on Global History **and** U.S. History & Gov't. Regents*
Science	Score 65 or better on Physical Science **and** Life Science Regents
Foreign Language	Score 65 or better on any FLACS Checkpoint B Exam



*Fulfills NYS Requirements. To see NYS Requirements click here:
https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/dipreqflyer.pdf

**All courses that are credit bearing, graded and listed under the Art Department and Performing Arts Department count towards the Art/Drama/Music graduation requirement.

Policies and Guidelines

A. The minimum student load requirement for grades 9, 10, 11, 12 is 6 units, plus Physical Education. (This requirement may be met by regular class attendance, independent study, remedial assignments, or other approved alternatives.)
B. Choosing some electives other than the traditional college preparatory subjects can develop a well-balanced program and provide interesting and valuable experiences.

Special Schedule Arrangements

A. Nassau Tech (BOCES) - Requests for admission to the Nassau Tech programs will be considered at any time with the approval of the counselor.

B. "Released Time" and "Open-End" Arrangements--Requests for released time from school for any reason will be considered until the first day of school in the high school. Preference will be given to those requests submitted before August 15 of each year. Emergency situations will be considered on an individual basis.

Great Neck Public Schools Schedule Correction/Change Practices (Revised 2021)

Schedule Changes: All schedule changes will follow procedures posted on each school's guidance website. Typically, students may add a new course to their schedule within the first two (2) weeks of the start of the course, replacing one (1) elective course with another shall be done within the first two (2) weeks of the start of the course.

****Dropping a Course**: Provided that the resulting schedule maintains the course load required by state law and Board of Education Policy, a student may drop a full-year course up until the mid-point of the 2nd marking period, and a half-year course up until the mid-point of the first quarter in which that course is taken. Students will not be permitted to drop a course after these deadlines.

****Course Level Changes—High School:** Students may change course level (for example, AP to Honors, Honors to Regents) up to the mid-point of the 2nd marking period. Students will not be permitted to change course levels after this deadline. Grades will not follow from one level course to another. *NOTE: Students who remain in an Advance Placement course but who do not sit for the corresponding examination will have the AP course designation removed from their transcript and be assigned the course grade which they otherwise would have received.*

Course Level Changes—Middle School: Students may change course level (for example, Regents to Non-Regents) up until the end of the 2nd marking period. Students will not be permitted to change course levels after this deadline. Grades will not follow from one level course to another.

Exceptions: Exceptions to the add/drop deadlines may be made for ungraded and support classes such as study skills unless these courses are required by State Law, Board of Education Policy, Individualize Education Plan, or 504 accommodation.

In cases of compelling educational need, these practices may be overridden by the building principal in consultation with the teacher, department head, and guidance counselor.

****Please note that College Board is charging a $40 unused exam fee per course dropped after their November 15th exam order deadline. Therefore, students that drop an AP course after November 15th will be charged a non-refundable College Board fee of $40 per course.**

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE CORRECTION/CHANGE PROCEDURES

We are committed to following a protocol that will provide consistency throughout the school. Any changes in a student's course load will include consultation with a parent and will be subject to availability.

Schedule Correction/Change Days: (approximately one week before school commences).

A. Students will make corrections/changes during their scheduled appointments. Appointments can be scheduled as explained below.
B. All students must be enrolled in at least six credits plus PE each semester. We urge each student to schedule a lunch period each semester.
C. **Requests for specific teachers will not be considered.**

There will be a separate date for **new** students. New ENL students will be scheduled for a placement exam before school begins. Please contact the guidance office for an appointment.

1. Instructions for Requesting a Schedule Correction/Change Appointment: During the first or second week of August, a Parent Link message will be sent indicating that schedules are available on the Parent/Student Portal.

After reviewing your schedule, students may request a phone meeting with their school counselor only to address a scheduling error:

- Placement in an incorrect course or level not recommended based on school criteria.
- Change an elective class (Available elective courses will be based on class size and periods offered).
- Change a course level (Example AP English to Regents English: Please note that placement/recommendations for higher level core courses are made by teachers/Department Chairs only).
- Replace Study Hall(s) with elective(s) (Available elective courses will be based on class size and periods offered).
- Add a lunch period (Only permissible if a lunch period is not already on their schedule).

To request a schedule correction/change phone appointment, students should complete and submit the google form provided in the parent link message. Please note that appointments will only be made using this form. Appointments will not be made over the phone. Students will be limited to ONE appointment per student and only schedule corrections/changes will be addressed.

Students who submit a request will then be randomly assigned a **10-minute phone appointment** to address a scheduling error and/or a need to correct the schedule based on the criteria listed above. All appointments will be randomly assigned. In mid-August, a parent link will be sent out listing the phone appointments by Student Number as well as the name of the counselor. Your name will **not** appear on the appointment list. Please ensure you are available 10 minutes prior and 10 minutes following your assigned appointment time. You school counselor will CALL YOU during your assigned time or window.

*Please note that appointments will only be made using this system. Appointments will NOT be made over the phone. Students will be limited to ONE appointment per student and only scheduling corrections/changes will be addressed. Note that NO schedule changes will be made during the first week of school. Also, please be aware that your phone meeting with a counselor does NOT guarantee that your request will be accommodated.

In order for this procedure to work, it is essential that scheduled times be honored. Please stay within your allotted time slot. There will be no "walk-in" appointments on those dates assigned to specific grades.

2. Dropping a Course: Requests for dropping courses will be considered after final registration in the spring until the first day of school. Once classes start, the guidance counselor will work with the student and process a request to drop a course. Students who did not request a change on program change day may not be able to change their schedules until the start of the second week of school. Year-long courses can be dropped by the 1st quarter Report Card, semester-long courses by 1st quarter Progress Report.

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3. Adding a Course: An additional course may be requested by the 1st quarter Progress Report for year-long courses and by the third week of classes for semester-long classes. The change will involve discussion with a guidance counselor and, if necessary, the appropriate department chairperson.

4. Changing a Teacher: No change of a teacher will be made simply because of the personal preference of a student or a parent.

5. Changing a Course: A change of course is defined as a request that involves a combination of dropping and adding a course. Such requests will be considered with the approval of the guidance counselor, the teacher and the parent. Changes in the level of a course, ie. from AP to Regents or from Regents to Honors, should be completed by the end of the first quarter.

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CUMULATIVE AVERAGE

All courses receiving a final numerical grade will be counted in the cumulative average. This includes all courses from 9th grade (including those courses taken in 8th grade for high school credit) through June of the junior year.

The cumulative average is determined from all credit courses listed through the end of the junior year, except pass/fail courses. There is no individual weighting for honors or AP courses. Honors courses are identified by an "H". Passing grade for all courses is 65 or "P". Advanced Placement courses are identified by “AP”.

Beginning with the Class of 2023, Great Neck Public Schools will report both weighted and unweighted GPAs on students’ official transcripts. A 5% multiplier will be applied to the cumulative unweighted GPA regardless of the courses taken.

The Great Neck Board of Education has adopted a policy of not ranking students by cumulative averages relative to their classmates.

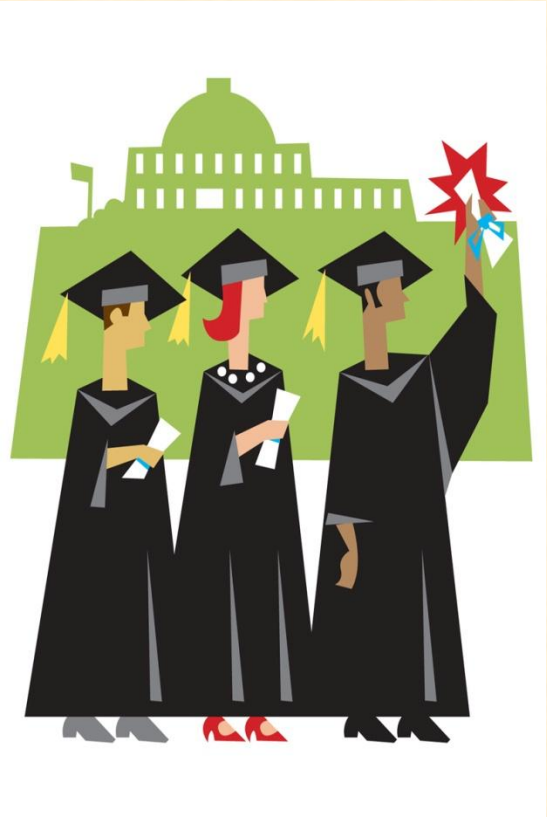
EXCEPTIONS TO REGULAR GRADUATION

In general, high school students are not encouraged to complete the requirements for graduation prior to the end of the normal senior year. For most students, enrichment and variety in program are preferable to acceleration and early graduation. For a very small number of students an alternate study or work experience may be more appropriate than the full senior year. Please see your counselor to discuss alternatives to regular graduation.

EARLY ADMISSION

Students who are interested in attending college during what would be their senior year in high school should discuss this possibility with their guidance counselor.

Students accepted by a college in this early admission program will receive a Great Neck South High School diploma at the satisfactory completion of high school requirements while in college.



REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE

Specific entrance requirements are determined by each individual college -- they vary considerably. There are some colleges where no particular pattern of high school subjects is required and other colleges where all entrance units are prescribed. As soon as a student becomes interested in a college, s/he should check requirements for that college on their website. Students must accept this responsibility. Catalogs and reference books are available in the Guidance Reference Room and in the Library. Certain colleges want 16 units of high school work in English, social studies, mathematics, science and languages. However, there are many exceptions to this.

DEPARTMENT NOTES

English Department

English courses offer an integrated, developmental approach to the study of literature, the skills of writing, and the practice of speaking. Through the study of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from various periods and cultural perspectives, students will develop skills of close, accurate, and critical reading, an appreciation of well-crafted writing, and a deeper understanding of the human condition and humane responses to it. Developing the skills of writing, including the correct and appropriate use of grammar and rhetorical strategies, will improve students' reasoning, organization, and articulation so that they can communicate effectively—and respond accurately and persuasively to the communication (including the reasoning and bias) of others. When students speak in class, whether their speech is studied and practiced or extemporaneous, they not only develop greater confidence but also apply in a different medium the skills of logic, of rhetoric, and of articulation that they study in literature and composition.

Performing Arts Department

Music Performance Classes in Band, Choir and Orchestra

Students who plan to register for music performance classes at Great Neck South High School must meet a "minimum performance standard" on their instrument or voice in order to enroll in our Band, Choir and Orchestra programs. For instrumental students (band, orchestra) this means performing at a minimum of what would be NYSSMA Level 3 or a minimum of three years on your instrument. For singers, students need to present the ability to sing on pitch, follow and hold a specific voice part in music, blend their voice with others in a section and balance the volume of their voice in the choir.

Students that participated for a full year in grade 8 band, choir or orchestra at Great Neck South Middle School are eligible for enrollment at South High with the recommendation of their teacher.

New Students to the Great Neck Public Schools or students that did not perform in band, choir or orchestra in the 8th grade at South Middle need to speak with the South High music teacher in charge and if necessary, take a brief music audition prior to registration. To set up your band or orchestra meeting, please contact Michael Schwartz at MSchwartz@greatneck.k12.ny.us.
To arrange for your vocal meeting, please contact Dr. Janine Robinson at JRobinson@greatneck.k12.ny.us.

It is the department's objective to involve all interested students in one or more of the following classes. Students enrolled in all ensembles are required to participate in all scheduled dress rehearsals and concert performances. Through your participation in music, we hope to enrich your high school experience and provide you with the tools needed to become a well-rounded and educated individual.

Additional non-credit performing opportunities:

South Singers

This is a show choir that performs choreographed selections of jazz and pop songs. Students perform in winter, and spring and pops concert.
Full Year - No credit — Corequisite: Concert Choir
Enrollment: by audition

A Cappella

This group performs music written for unaccompanied choir.
Full Year – No credit
Enrollment: by audition — Corequisite: Concert Choir

Physical Education Department

All students must take Physical Education. Students who have medical limitations are scheduled when it is at all possible, and appropriate, to Adaptive Physical Education classes where activities will be offered according to the recommendation of the physician, the school nurse, the parent, and Physical Education Department. All other students will follow the student medical assignment procedure.

All physical educators will use the following general procedure for students with medical notes lasting two or more weeks. Those students with medical notes less than two weeks will simply report to class as usual and assist the teacher when possible. (Doctor's note).

All medicals remain in class. Assignments will be given on a weekly basis – MUST STAY IN CLASS!!

Science Department

Students are placed into science courses based on teacher recommendation. These **recommendations are holistic in nature and consider multiple factors**, with particular attention given to a student's demonstrated performance in class, including in-progress grades and academic habits. While grades are an important indicator of readiness, they are not the sole determinant for placement into Honors or AP science courses. Teachers also consider a student's overall well-being, work ethic, learning behaviors, and ability to manage the academic demands of advanced coursework. This approach ensures that course placements support not only academic success, but also a student's capacity to thrive across a variety of disciplines.

Students enrolled in Regents, Honors, and AP courses must take the corresponding Regents examinations if they have not done so previously. The only exception is for students enrolled in any AP Physics course and for grade 12 students in Regents Physics. *These exams require 1200 minutes of laboratory work, which includes required laboratory activities designed by the New York State Education Department. Students who do not meet the laboratory requirement will not be permitted to sit for Regents examinations.

All students enrolled in AP courses must register for and complete their respective AP examinations in May. In order to maintain "Advanced Placement" designation on report cards, permanent records and transcripts, students must register and pay for the Advanced Placement Exam.

Juniors and Seniors have the opportunity to request enrollment into two science AP courses. Students who wish to take two AP sciences concurrently must do the following:

1. Verify prerequisites for those courses are met.
2. Meet with their School Counselor to see if co-enrollment is feasible.
3. Submit a request to the Science Chairperson via email. The chairperson will then communicate with the student and guidance counselor to determine if it is in the best interest of the student. Students will be informed of the decision via email.

Social Studies Department

The Social Studies program offers students in grades 9 through 12 an opportunity to better understand themselves, others, and the world in accordance with the curriculum mandated by New York State. In addition to required courses, the department offers elective courses that can be taken in the 11th and 12th grade year.

Special Education Department

Students are offered the following four-year sequential academic program in Special Class (Individual Development). Placement is through the Committee on Special Education only. Integrated classes are offered selectively through teacher recommendation and approval by the CSE. The Peak Experience (self-contained) Class is offered selectively through approval by the CSE.

Special Programs

Career Training

Our career training program provides for a variety of learning experiences. Specific program selection should be made consistent with the student's interests, aptitudes, and career plans.

Independent Study Program

Provision has been made for students who wish to deepen their experience in existing courses or who wish to explore areas not offered in school curricula. This opportunity is offered in the Independent Study Program.

Students with initiative and self-motivation who wish to formulate their own curriculum around a subject of personal interest should apply for approval of an independent study project. These projects may be undertaken only with prior approval from department or in addition to an existing program of study. Projects may be interdisciplinary in nature, combining a range of academic areas, or they may be highly specialized, centering around a specific topic or problem. They need not take the form of written work, but may include projects in any subject including Media, Fine Arts, Technology or Library Services. Though the burden of work rests on the student, each student will work with an appropriate advisor and together they will decide upon the procedure for evaluating the project.

Students considering an Independent Study Project must see Mrs. Allison Romeo Gottfried, Independent Study Coordinator, if interested. For year long and first semester courses, applications must be submitted before the first quarter progress reports. For second semester courses, applications must be submitted before third quarter progress reports.

World Languages Department

The Seal of Biliteracy program is an opportunity to formally recognize a student's proficiency and achievement in English and a language other than English. It is issued to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, reading, speaking, and writing in English and one or more additional languages. Students who are pursuing the Seal of Biliteracy must achieve 6 points (3 in English and 3 in at least one other world language) from a rubric approved by New York State Education Department's (NYSED's) Office of Bilingual Education and World Language that certifies their level of proficiency in English and the target language. Student applicants will be provided a complete list of requirements upon request. A student's approved candidacy for the Seal of Biliteracy will appear on their transcript and successful candidates will receive an award from the school and a seal to be affixed to their diploma.

Great Neck South High School AP Designation/AP Practices

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses should be aware of their selection to a special group of scholars. This membership requires an extraordinary dedication to learning. Advanced Placement Courses are scheduled for the same length of time as any other year-long course in our school. Even though the Advanced Placement exam is usually administered mid-May, the students' responsibility does not end until the last regular teaching day in June. Students whose competency and consistency of effort are judged unacceptable by the teacher during the school year will be asked to withdraw from the course.

In order to maintain "Advanced Placement" designation on report cards, permanent records and transcripts, students must register and pay for the Advanced Placement Exam.

Please note that College Board charges a $40 unused exam fee per course dropped after their November 15th exam order deadline. Therefore, students that drop an AP course after November 15th will be charged a non-refundable College Board fee of $40 per course.

Great Neck Public School District

Practice for Registration for Advanced Placement Examinations

The Great Neck Public Schools believe that an Advanced Placement exam is a culminating experience which follows a year of college-level work in an AP class which has College Board approval for both its curriculum and instructor. Therefore, the Great Neck Public Schools will only register students for AP exams for which they have been enrolled in a corresponding AP course in their respective high schools.

This practice of requiring students to complete a year of college-level work in a College Board certified course of study before Great Neck will administer an Advanced Placement exam has been in place for more than a decade. Exceptions are extremely rare and have been approved only when truly extenuating circumstances exist; exceptions are ***NOT*** granted simply because a student has taken an exam preparation course outside of the District. Only the College Board may approve a school, its instructors, and its programs of study and, should an outside school meet these standards, it would be in a position to administer the AP examination.

For the 2026-27 school year, requests for exceptions to this practice must be made in writing to the Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, Dr. Daniel Holtzman, by September 30, 2026. This date was chosen so that enrollment in review courses (exclusive of enrollment in a corresponding Great Neck Advanced Placement course) is undertaken without an expectation of AP exam registration in the Great Neck Public Schools.

Please note that College Board charges a $40 unused exam fee per course dropped after their November 15th exam order deadline. Therefore, students that drop an AP course after November 15th will be charged a non-refundable College Board fee of $40 per course.

Statement on Outside Study for Acceleration Purposes

The Great Neck Public Schools believe that abbreviated outside study (such as summer study) for acceleration purposes does not provide students with the depth of understanding required to move into the subsequent honors level courses, and achieving high passing grades on Regents exams does not demonstrate that a student has met the standard we hope our students will achieve during ten months spent in similarly titled courses in our schools. Therefore, the practice is highly discouraged. In order to fully understand our practices, students intending to enroll in and complete outside study are required to meet with their guidance counselor prior to registering for and completing such coursework.

In particular, the Great Neck Public Schools neither transfer grades nor accept outside coursework as appropriate preparation for honors courses, and study at non-accredited establishments will not be accepted for credit. As determined in consultation with the academic department, guidance counselor, and building administrator, students who undertake such courses without prior permission will need to repeat them (they may be placed into an honors section based on work completed), be placed into the non-honors course that is next in the sequence, or, in those cases where our schools' course offerings do not include a non-honors option, not be scheduled in that content area for a given school-year.