



Columbia

HIGH SCHOOL

Frank Sanchez, Principal

Jason Bing, Superintendent

NEW JERSEY

Welcome to CHS Class of 2030!

Frank Sanchez & Dr. Jenn Antoni

As we move into high school...



At Columbia High School, we are committed to ensuring a **smooth and successful transition** from middle school to high school. The Freshman Academy is designed to provide ninth-grade students with the **support, structure, and resources** they need to **thrive academically, socially, and emotionally**.

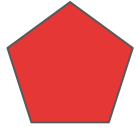


Why Freshman Academy?

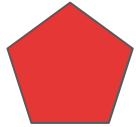
By creating a **smaller, more personalized learning environment**, we aim to help students build strong foundations in their coursework, develop essential life skills, and feel connected to their school community. Our goal is to set every freshman on the path to success in high school and beyond.



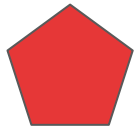
Teams:



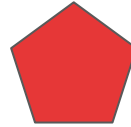
Creates Smaller Learning Communities



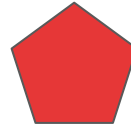
Allows Stronger Academic Support



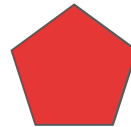
Improves Student Engagement



Builds Better Communication



Fosters Social-Emotional Growth



Increase Executive Functioning Skills



The How-Teams

- Approximately 100 students will be on each team
- **Core Courses:** Students on each team will take their core courses with the same teacher including: Math, Science, Social Studies and ELA
- **Electives:** Students take their electives and Health/PE off of their team so they can meet new friends
- **Course Levels:** All students are able to choose leveled courses that fit their needs
- **Location:** The Freshman Academy classes is housed primarily in the D-wing of CHS, with a dedicated entrance



Teams will take part in:

- Team building activities
- Executive Functioning Lessons
- Social Emotional Learning activities and lessons
- Anti-bullying lessons
- Workshops on study skills
- Orientation activities
- Interdisciplinary Projects
- School Spirit Competitions



Multilingual Students

- Multilingual Students will take 2 consecutive periods of ESL English
- The Multilingual Students will take courses as their program needs.
- For example:
 - Some students may take World History ESL
 - Others may take World History 2
 - Each course selection would depend on the student's need



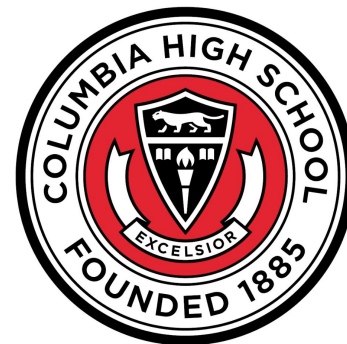
Special Education

All students with disabilities will be placed on teams where there are appropriate supports for students' individualized needs.

For example:

- Some students will need both inclusion classes and pull out resource classes
- Some students will need some inclusion classes and some non inclusion classes
- Some students will need ALL inclusion classes or all pull out replacement classes
- Students in self contained classes will also have team experiences

All of these options will be available within the team framework



Supports That Will Be Available

- **Eyes on the Fries:** Small group, Freshman Only Executive Function Support Executive Functioning
- **Achieve Tutoring:** (Core Subjects) tutoring through the Achieve Foundation by students
- **SLAM Lab** (Core subjects) extra help provided by teachers
- **Lunch Groups:** support social emotional learning
- **Social Work Intern Program:** individual and small group support environments with a social worker
- **gMAC Programs:**
 - MAC Mentoring
 - MAC MEN
 - Sister to Sister
 - Latinos Unidos
 - MLL Connections

Supporting Executive Functioning and Social Emotional Learning

Lessons in support of:

- Flexible Notetaking
- Support for organization skills
- Study Skills
- Goal Setting
- Time management
- Problem Solving and Critical Thinking
- Cognitive Flexibility
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Interpersonal Skills and Relationship building
- Decision making
- Self and social awareness

Freshman NJTSS Team

Utilizing the weekly team meetings with teachers and counselors, the Freshman Academy NJTSS team identifies students in need of additional support where plans are created to provide different levels of academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support to help all students succeed. It ensures early intervention by offering increasing levels of help based on each child's needs, from general classroom instruction to more individualized support.



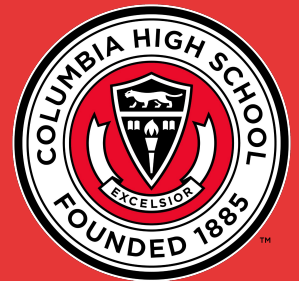
Space & Facilities



High School vs. Middle School

- Credits
- Graduation Requirements
- Pre/Co-requisites

More Students...More Opportunities...More Responsibilities...





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Credit System

Full year (5 credits)			
Semester 1 (2.5 credits)		Semester 2 (2.5 credits)	
Quarter 1 (1.25 credits)	Quarter 2 (1.25 credits)	Quarter 3 (1.25 credits)	Quarter 4 (1.25 credits)



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Credit System

Grade	Credits
10	30
11	60
12	90
To Graduate	120

9th graders will take **35 or 40** credits per year leveraging an 8-period academic schedule. There will also be conference time at the end of the day **to meet with teachers for extra help.**



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Graduation Requirements

4 years of English (20 credits)

4 years of Phys. Ed./Health/Driver Ed (20 credits)

3 years of Mathematics (15 credits)

- Algebra 1, Geometry, 3rd year that builds on the concepts and skills of Algebra and Geometry and prepares students for college and 21st century careers

3 years of Science (15 credits)

- Biology, 2 additional lab-based inquiry sciences

3 years of Social Studies (15 credits)

- World History, US History 1, US History 2

1 year of World Language (5 credits)

1 year of Visual & Performing Arts (5 credits)

1 year of 21st Century Life & Careers (5 credits)

1 semester of Financial Literacy (2.5 credits)

TESTING PATHWAYS IN
BOTH ELA AND MATH



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What is a GPA?

<i>WEIGHTED GPA</i>	<i>UNWEIGHTED GPA</i>
Courses taken outside of the traditional CHS school year and/or outside CHS are not included	Courses taken outside of the traditional CHS school year and/or outside CHS are not included
Only includes academic, honors, and AP CHS courses taken during the traditional school year	All CHS courses taken during the traditional school year included
Considers difficulty of your courses along with your grades (see GPA chart below)	Only considers your grades



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Course Levels: Academic, Honors, or AP

Academic courses are grade-level Standards-based courses that align to the NJ Student Learning Standards.

Honors courses meet the same academic requirements as the Academic courses and provide one or more of the following: additional depth, complexity, and/or acceleration of content.

AP courses are registered courses with the College Board and follow the course description provided by the College Board, with the expectation that all students enrolled in the AP course take the AP exam in May.



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Are you ready for HONORS?

- Highly interested in subject
- Regularly complete work on time
- Commitment to learn and continuously improve study habits
- Motivated to find solutions
- Responsible
- Seeks help

9th Grade Courses

Sample Schedule:

1. English 1 (Academic or Honors)
2. Math (Academic or Honors*)
 - ~Algebra 1->Geometry->Algebra 2->Pre-Calculus
3. Biology (Academic or Honors)
4. World History 2 (Academic or Honors)

Lunch

5. Physical Education (3 quarters) & Health 9 (1 quarter)
6. World Language - RECOMMENDED (Academic or Honors)
7. ELECTIVE of YOUR CHOICE!
8. Study Hall or 2ND Elective of your choice

Conference Time



9th Grade Elective Courses

- World Languages: Spanish, French or Mandarin (WL Credit)
- Art 1 (Visual/Performing Art Credit)
- Chorus (Visual/Performing Art Credit)
- Concert Band (Visual/Performing Art Credit)
- Dance 1 (Visual/Performing Art Credit)
- String Orchestra (Visual/Performing Art Credit)
- TV Production 1/TV Production 2 (21st Century Credit)
- Woodworking (Woodworking pathway)
- Aviation 1 (Aviation pathway)
- Dynamics of Healthcare Professions (Health Sci Pathway)



What's Next?

Read the [CHS PROGRAM OF STUDIES](#)

- Course selection timeline and process
- Math advancement
- Pre-requisites/Co-requisites
- Career Pathways
- Shared Vo Tech
- Option 2
- AP & Dual enrollment
- Foundations in Personal Finance





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'25 - '26 Course Selection Process

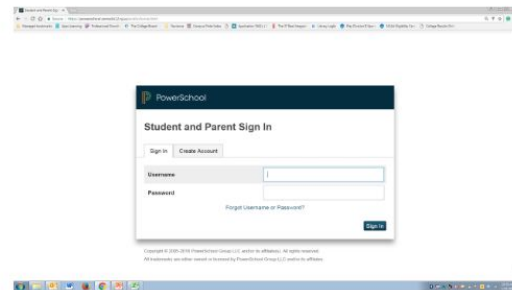
- 1:1 meeting with high school counselors will take place at MMS Feb 12 and SOMS Feb 17
- Submitted course requests can be reviewed and changed in Course Selection Screen until Friday, March 10th ([Instructions PDF](#))
- Reminder: course selections aren't "first come first serve"

Course Selections Instructions

Step 1:

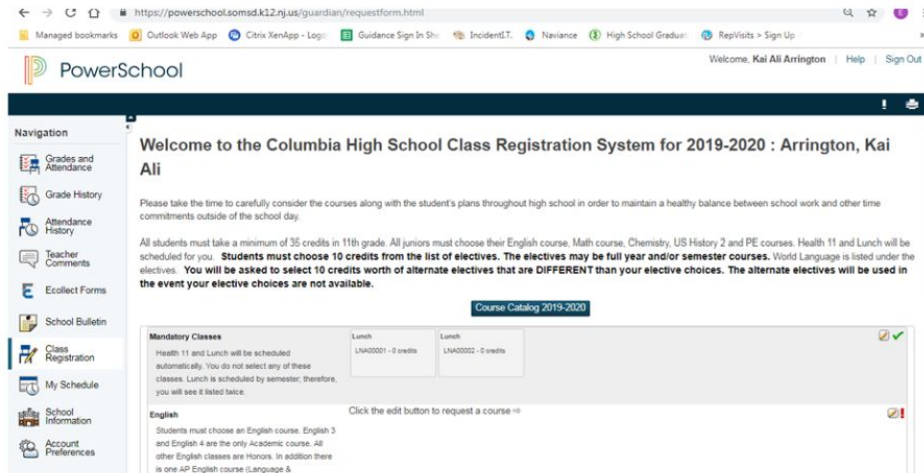
- LOG IN TO POWERSCHOOL THROUGH STUDENT OR PARENT PORTAL:

<https://powerschool.somds.k12.nj.us/public/>



Step 2:

- SELECT "CLASS REGISTRATION" ON LEFT HAND SIDE





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