



Academic Transition to the Upper School

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Introduction to The Upper School Team

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9th grade Cognitive Load

- Familiar systems change – a lot
- Social groups shift
- Time spent on assignments may be different
- Self-advocacy and independence is encouraged and expected
- Coursework is more demanding
- Sense of performance pressure could increase



Important Considerations for a healthy transition

Think about your child's **strengths**
and **challenges**.

The challenges might be magnified
by change.

What does your child **like** to do?
What would you like your child to try?

What other commitments outside of
school are important?

Think about how much time there is
in a day!

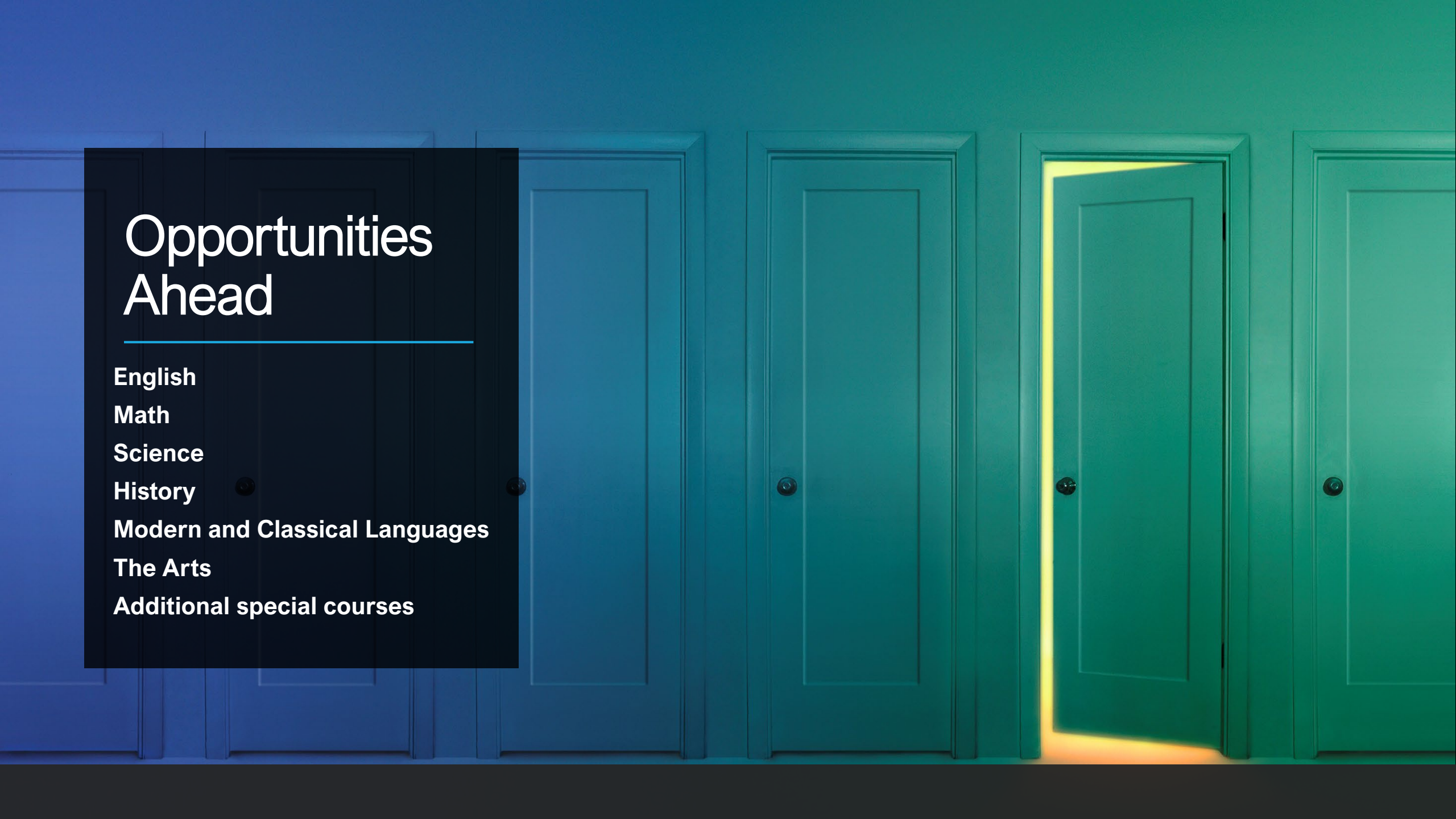
Typical 9th Grade Schedule

Semester I

1. English
 2. History
 3. Math
 4. Science
 5. Language
 6. 9th grade Seminar/Studyhall
 7. Studyhall/one of the Arts
- Athletics or Theater after school

Semester II

1. English
 2. History
 3. Math
 4. Science
 5. Language
 6. 9th grade Seminar/Studyhall
 - 7. *One of the Arts***
- Athletics or Theater after school



Opportunities Ahead

English

Math

Science

History

Modern and Classical Languages

The Arts

Additional special courses

English

Nice and simple!

English 9 for all students

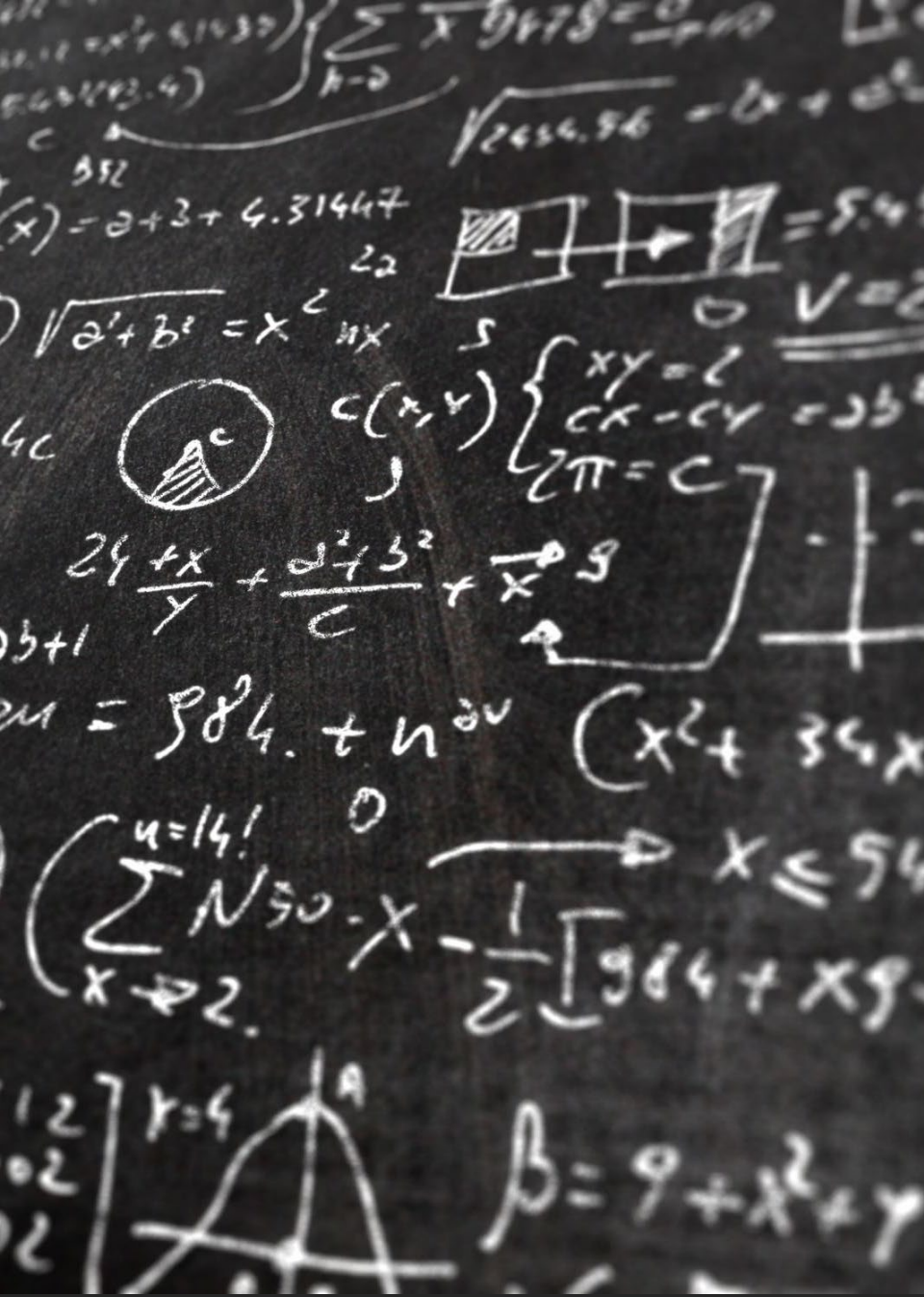
English 10 for all students

11th grade: English 11, AP English Language, or IB English 11

12th grade: English 12, AP English Lit, or IB English 12

Creative Writing elective available to older students.





Math Courses*

Algebra I

Geometry, Honors Geometry

Algebra II, Honors Algebra II

Honors Algebra II/Precalculus

Algebra III, Precalculus, Honors Precalculus

Dynamic Math, Intro to Calc/Stats

AP Statistics, AP Statistics with R, AP Calculus, Calc III

IB path (11-12)

**** All students are placed in a math course by their current teacher***



Science Courses*

Inquiries, Biology, AP Biology

Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Biocomputational Research

Physics, AP Physics

Human Anatomy and Physiology, Marine Biology, Environmental Science, AP Environmental Science, Forensic Science, Honors Engineering, Astronomy

IB path (11-12)

**** All students are placed in a science course by their current teacher***



History Courses

History 9: Government and Economics

Modern World History, Honors Modern World History

US History, AP US History

African American History, Adolescent Psychology and Behavior, Ancient Empires, Social Justice, Honors Economics, IB Info Tech in a Global Society

AP Psychology, AP Human Geography, AP European History, AP Government

IB path (11-12)



Modern and Classical Language Placement*

- Students may choose a new language and begin at Level 1!
- Students entering Honors Chinese I must show facility with their current language, earning at least a 90 by the end of this year.
- **Advanced (Honors) requires**
 - ✓ Excellent memorization and regular **practice outside of class**
 - ✓ Excellent verbal skills
 - ✓ Daily quality **completion of homework**
 - ✓ Willingness to be **fully involved in class** each day

****Level placement is determined by the student's current teacher***



Modern and Classical Language Courses

Latin I-V Honors to AP

Spanish I-V Honors to AP

French I-V Honors to AP

Chinese I-V Honors to AP (grade minimum required)

Note: in Spanish, French, and Chinese, **50% of the grade is in speaking and listening; 50% is in reading and writing.** Goal: fully multilingual by graduation.

The Arts for Grade 9*

Visual:

2D Art

Design

Sculpture/3D Art

Yearbook (year)

VA Focus: Elements of Design in all visual arts; reflections, short papers, process focused

* Placement in the semester course is dependent upon space in the course and any conflicts in the student's schedule

The Arts for Grade 9*

PA Focus: High level performance in all ensembles, practice required, group success a priority

Performing:

Concert Choir, Honors
Choir (year)

Symphonic Band,
Honors Band (year)

Orchestra, Honors
Orchestra (year)

Introduction to Piano
Percussion Ensemble
Chime Ensemble
Acting/Directing
Improv

* Placement in a semester course is dependent upon space in the course and any conflicts in the student's schedule

Advanced Pathways in the Arts

Performing:

Chamber Choir and Honors Chamber Choir

Symphonic Band, Honors Band

Orchestra, Honors Orchestra

Advanced Acting/Directing courses

Visual:

AP Art History

AP Music Theory

Architecture

2D Art, AP Art, Special Projects

Design, AP Design, Special Projects

Sculpture (3D), AP 3D

Yearbook, Honors Editor

IB options for grades 11-12

Typical 9th Grade Schedule

Semester I

1. English
 2. History
 3. Math
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 5. Language
 6. **9th grade Seminar**/Studyhall
 7. Studyhall/one of the Arts
- Athletics or Theater after school

Semester II

1. English
 2. History
 3. Math
 4. Science
 5. Language
 6. 9th grade Seminar/Studyhall
 7. One of the Arts
- Athletics or Theater after school

9th Grade Seminar

- Meets twice in the seven-day cycle
- Curricular focus on the four values of our Mission:
 - Educational Excellence
 - Character
 - Community
 - Service
- Serves as a year-long bridge from the Middle School to the Upper School
- Helps supplement advisory

7 Day Schedule for everyone!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday
8-9:05	A	F	D	B	G	E	C
9:05-9:35	Break	Advisory	Break	Break	Break	Break	Advisory
9:35-10:40	B	G	E	C	A	F	D
10:45-11:50	C	A	F	D	B	G	E
11:50-12:15	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
12:15-1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00-2:05	D	B	G	E	C	A	F
2:10-3:15	E	C	A	F	D	B	G

Sample Schedule

A = English

B = Sculpture

C = Biology

D = History

E = Honors Chinese I

F = Geometry

G = 9th grade Seminar/Studyhall

Each meet 5 out of 7 days

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday
8-9:05	English 9						
9:05-9:35	Break	Advisory	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
9:35-10:40	Sculpture				English 9		
10:45-11:50	Biology	English 9					
11:50-12:15	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
12:15-1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00-2:05	History 9					English 9	
2:10-3:15	Honors Chinese I		English 9				

No
English

No
English

Doing Double Latin?

Students taking “Double Latin” meet only 3 times in a 7-day cycle but should be prepared for Honors Latin III by 10th grade.

Students taking only Honors Latin II (single language) have the same class schedule.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday
8-9:05	A English	F Geometry	D History	B Sculpture	G 9th grade Seminar	E Honors Chinese I	C Biology
9:05-9:35	Break	Break	Break	Advisory	Break	Break	Break
9:35-10:40	B Sculpture	G 9th grade Seminar	E Honors Chinese I	C Biology	A English	F Geometry	D History
10:45-11:50	C Biology	A English	F Geometry	D History	B Sculpture	G Studyhall H Latin II	E Honors Chinese I
11:50-12:15	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
12:15-1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00-2:05	D History	B Sculpture	G Studyhall H Latin II	E Honors Chinese I	C Biology	A English	F Geometry
2:10-3:15	E Honors Chinese I	C Biology	A English	F Geometry	D History	B Sculpture	G Studyhall H Latin II

Course Catalogue Available on Bucsnet!

The screenshot displays the BucsNET website interface. At the top, a dark green header contains the 'BucsNET' logo in white and green, followed by navigation links: Summer, Swim, Alumni, News & Events, BucsNet, a magnifying glass icon, and a hamburger menu icon. Below this is a light gray navigation bar with links for After School, Lower School, Middle School, Upper School (highlighted with a red circle and a green underline), and Parent Involvement. To the right of these links is a vertical stack of three green buttons with white icons: a shopping cart, a gift, and a dollar sign. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb 'BucsNet > Upper School' is visible. The main content area features the heading 'Upper School' in a large, dark green font. Below this heading are three green icons with corresponding text: a link icon for 'My Portal', a soccer ball icon for 'Teams', and a graduation cap icon for 'Class of 2026'. On the right side of the main content area, there is a yellow circular chat button with a white speech bubble icon. Above this button are two white speech bubble callouts: the top one says 'Got a question?' with a small orange icon, and the bottom one says 'Let's find the answer together!'. The background of the main content area features a faint, light gray oak leaf pattern.

BucsNET

Summer Swim Alumni News & Events BucsNet 🔍 ☰

After School Lower School Middle School **Upper School** Parent Involvement

BucsNet > Upper School

Upper School

 My Portal

 Teams

 Class of 2026

Got a question? 🗨️

Let's find the answer together!



Included in the Course Catalogue

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Course Descriptions

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Also included...

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER 2026-27 HONORS/AP/ADVANCED

Department	To enter:	Minimum qualifying grade average:	Additional <u>requirement</u> (if any):
ENGLISH	AP English 11	87 in English 10	
	AP English 12	87 in English 11 <u>or</u> 80 in AP English 11	
MATH	Honors Algebra II	90 in Geometry <u>or</u> 83 in Hon. Geometry	Teacher recommendation
	Honors Geometry	90 in Algebra I	Teacher recommendation
	Honors Precalculus	90 in Algebra II <u>or</u> 83 in Hon. Alg. II	Teacher recommendation
	Honors Algebra II/Precalculus	Successful completion of Honors Geometry in 9 th grade AND department recommendation	This course is only available to 10 th graders. Entry to this course is limited to those recommended by faculty and <u>is</u> not designated by a grade cut-off.
	AP Calculus AB	90 in PreCal <u>or</u> 83 in Hon. PreCal	PreCal students who qualify should choose AP Calculus AB <u>or</u> AP Statistics, but not both.
	AP Calculus BC	87 in Hon. PreCal <u>or</u> Hon. Alg II/PreCal	
	IB Analysis SL	83 in Hon. PreCal <u>or</u> Hon. Alg II/ PreCal	
	AP Statistics	90 in PreCal <u>or</u> 83 in Hon. PreCal	PreCal students who qualify should choose AP Calculus AB <u>or</u> AP Statistics, but not both.
	Adv. AP Stat with R	83 in BC Calc <u>or</u> enrolled in BC Calc	
	Calc III/IB Analysis HL	83 in BC Calc	
	Honors Chemistry	87 in Biology <u>and</u> 87 in math course (85 in Hon.)	<u>Minimum math requirement:</u> Algebra II (previous or concurrent)
	AP Physics 1	90 in Chemistry or 87 in Hon. Chem 85 in Physics 1 or AP Science <u>and</u> 87 in math (85 in Hon.)	<u>Minimum math requirement:</u> Precalculus (previous or concurrent) <u>Open to 11th and 12th grade students; 10th grade students with department approval.</u>
	Honors Engineering	90 in Physics I <u>or</u> 85 in Hon. Physics	

But wait, there's more...

Total Index of Courses by Department

English

Full Year Courses:

English 9: Foundations in English I
English 10: Foundations in English II
English 11: American Literature
IB English 11
AP English 11: Language & Composition
AP English 12: Literature & Composition
IB English 12
English 12

English Semester Courses:

Creative Writing

Mathematics

Full Year Courses:

Algebra I

Life Science Semester Courses:

Environmental Issues
Marine Biology
Human Anatomy: Internal Structural Systems
Human Anatomy: External Structural Systems

Physical Science Full Year Courses:

Chemistry I
Honors Chemistry
AP Chemistry
IB Chemistry SL
IB Chemistry HL
Physics I
AP Physics I
AP Physics C: Mechanics, E&M

History and Social Studies Semester Courses:

Ancient Empires
Adolescent Psychology and Behavior
African American History
Honors Topics in Advanced Economics

Modern & Classical Languages

Full Year Courses:

Honors Chinese I, II, III, IV, V
Chinese II
IB Chinese
French I, II, III, IV, V
Honors French II, III, IV
AP French Language & Culture
IB French HL
Spanish I, II, III, IV, V
Honors Spanish II, III, IV

New Computer Science Course *

Introduction to Python and Logic

One-semester elective open to grades 9-11

“This semester course introduces students to the fundamentals of programming using the Python language. Students learn to design and write code, debug programs, and apply logical reasoning to solve computational problems. Whether you are a total beginner or preparing for AP-level computer science, this course provides foundational skills needed to create functional software projects. No prior coding experience is required.”

(SPRING)

*Note: this is a non-departmental elective and does not apply to the Fine Arts or Math graduation requirements

Additional Courses available to Grade 9 *

Strength Training (Semester)

Public Speaking (Semester)

* These are elective courses and do not fulfill any specific academic department's graduation requirement.

Review

- ❑ Seven periods available
- ❑ Each period meets the same amount of time for the same number of days (5x a cycle)
- ❑ Exception: 9th grade seminar meets 2x, with either Studyhall or Honors Latin II 3x
- ❑ Core Academics take 5 periods
- ❑ 9th grade Seminar takes the 6th period
- ❑ One additional period available for studyhall, art, or additional elective by semester.

Please
consider time
and
temperament!

7:30 – leave for school

8:00-9:05 Period 1

9:05-9:35 Meet with teacher, advisor, club, etc.

9:35-10:40 Period 2

10:45-11:50 Period 3

11:50-12:15 Meet with teacher, advisor, make up work

12:15-1:00 Lunch (make up a quiz, get extra help, do HW, eat...)

1:00-2:05 Period 4

2:10-3:15 Period 5

3:30-5:30 – Athletics or Theater

6:30 Dinner at home

7:30 Begin Homework?

Please
consider time
and
temperament!

7:30 – leave for school

8:00-9:05 Period 1

9:05-9:35 Meet with teacher, advisor, club, etc.

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12:15-1:00 Lunch (make up a quiz, get extra help, do HW, eat...)

1:00-2:05 Period 4

2:10-3:15 Period 5

3:30-5:30 – Athletics or Theater

6:30 Dinner at home

7:30 Begin Homework?

8:00am – 5:30 pm =
9.5 hours of school

Homework = 0-30+ min/night.

Where are the mental breaks?
Social time? Family time?

Important Considerations for a healthy transition

Think about your child's **strengths** and **challenges**.
The challenges might be
magnified by change.



What does your child **like** to
do? What would you like your
child to **try**?



What other commitments
outside of school are
important?



Think about time in the day:
homework, studying, projects; social
time, athletics or theater,
volunteering, working, family time...



Middle School Advisor Conferences for Registration Coming Up
