

HIGHLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL
COUNSELING DEPARTMENT



Grade Level Guidance Program



2026-2027

Table of Contents

Overview: Grade Level Guidance	03
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Grade Level Guidance - Programming and Events 2026-2027	
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9 th Grade:	
Fall 2026	05
Spring 2027	06

10 th Grade:	
Fall 2026	07
Spring 2027	09

11 th Grade:	
Fall 2026	11
Spring 2027	13

12 th Grade:	
Fall 2026	15
Spring 2027	18



INTRODUCTION

Overview: Grade Level Guidance

Highland Park High School provides a comprehensive developmental guidance program. This program provides group as well as individual assistance in a proactive manner, which emphasizes the response to students' expected developmental needs at a time when those needs can be most effectively met. The HPHS Counseling Department consists of seven Professional School Counselors who work with students according to their last names and two Personal Counselors who assist individual students and lead small groups. The four assistants/coordinators are available to assist students, parents, and college representatives.

Following the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs, Highland Park High School Counselors provide a comprehensive counseling program for all students through four delivery system components:

INTRODUCTION

Overview: Grade Level Guidance (con'd)

Guidance Curriculum-Counselors implement a guidance curriculum to help students develop their full educational potential, including the student's interests and career objectives.

Responsive Services-Counselors intervene on behalf of any student whose immediate personal concerns or problems put the student's continued educational, career, personal, or social development at risk.

Individual Planning-Counselors guide all students as they plan, monitor, and manage their individual educational, career, personal, and social development.

System Support-Counselors identify and coordinate resources and activities on campus and in the community that indirectly benefit students.

9TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

FALL 2026

- **August 18** Fish Camp 8:00am-12:00pm
- Fish Camp Counselor Check-ins occur regularly throughout the fall semester
- Sophomore Sponsors pair up with new freshmen and sophomores to assist throughout the year.
- **September 16** College Night 6:00pm-7:30pm
 - Goal: Provide students and parents with the opportunity to interact with colleges and universities.
- **Week of December 7**-Holiday Card Making in College Center

9TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

SPRING 2027

- **January 20-21** 9th Grade Registration
Kickoff/Naviance/CPR Workshops
 - Goal 1: Introduce students to Naviance Student and familiarize them with the available features.
 - Goal 2: Roll out registration process and considerations for course selections.
 - Goal 3: Conduct CPR Training to meet graduation requirement.
- **January 20** Freshman Parent Night 6:00pm-7:00pm
 - Topics: Naviance Tools/Future Planning/Kick off Registration/Tips for course selection
- **March 3-4** Freshman Grade Course Registration Conferences
 - Counselors meet with students individually to review and discuss course selections in Skyward

10TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

FALL 2026

- **August 18** Make up schedule pick up 1:00pm-3:00 pm
- Sophomore Sponsors pair up with new freshmen and sophomores to assist throughout the year.
- **September 16** College Night 6:00pm-7:30pm
 - Goal: Provide students and parents with the opportunity to interact with colleges and universities.
- **September 29** Financial Aid Seminar 6:00pm-7:00 pm
- **December 2** ASVAB Testing (Optional)
 - The ASVAB is a test created by the Department of Defense that assesses a person's aptitudes and interests, linking these to possible careers in military and civilian sectors.
 - Learn more about the ASVAB [here](#).

10TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

FALL 2026

- **Week of December 7** Holiday Card Making in College Center.

10TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

SPRING 2027

- **January 27-28** 10th Grade Course Registration Kickoff
 - Goal: Roll out registration process and considerations for course selections. Review graduation requirements.
- **January 27** Sophomore Parent Night 6:00pm-7:00pm
 - Topics: Kick off Registration Season/Tips for course selection/Future Planning
- **February 24-25** Sophomore Course Registration conferences
 - Counselors meet with students individually to review and discuss course selections in Skyward
- **April** Counselors provide guidance on Naviance tools and building the college list.
 - Goal 1: Discuss factors that will impact college admission decisions: course selection, grades, testing, extracurricular activities, and community service.

10TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

SPRING 2027

- Goal 2: Familiarize students with the features and tools in Naviance and its use in selecting prospective colleges.
- Goal 3: Remind students of college planning calendar tasks.

11TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

FALL 2026

- **August 18** Make-up schedule pick up 1:00pm-3:00pm
- **Week of September 1** Naviance Lunch
Workshops in College Center
- **Week of September 14** Activity List Lunch
Workshops in College Center
- **September 16** College Night 6:00pm-7:30pm
 - Goal: Provide students and parents with the opportunity to interact with colleges and universities.
- **September 29** Financial Aid Seminar 6:00pm-7:00pm
- **Week of October 13** Activity List Lunch
Workshops in College Center
- **November 18** Junior Parent Night 6:00pm-7:00pm
 - Topics: Registration Kick off/tips for course selection/preparation for applying to college

11TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

FALL 2026

- **December 2** ASVAB Testing (Optional)
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- **Week of December 7** Holiday Card Making in College Center

11TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

SPRING 2027

- **January 13-14** Junior Credit Check Conference and Registration Kick-Off: Students meet individually with their counselor
 - Goal: Discuss course selections for 12th grade, review graduation requirements, discuss college planning timeline, the prospective college list, and begin narrowing choices. Confirm registration for the ACT and/or SAT, review test preparation options for ACT and SAT, and review college visit practices and procedures.
- **February 10-11** Junior Course Registration conferences
 - Counselors meet with students individually to review and discuss course selections in Skyward
- **April 7** 11th Grade College Workshops
 - Goal 1: Review college application requirements, deadlines. Discuss college holistic review process.

11TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

SPRING 2027

- Goal 2: Prepare students for supporting documents-letters of recommendation, activity lists, essays. Remind students of college visit practices and procedures.
- Goal 3: Preview the College Timeline and Application Process.
- Goal 4: Remind students of Naviance tools and additional resources for college search and application process.

12TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

FALL 2026

- **August 18** Make-up schedule pick up 1:00pm-3:00pm
- **Week of September 1** Naviance Lunch Workshops in College Center
- **September 2** Senior Parent Night 6:00pm
 - Topics: Naviance Resources and Tools/ Applications and deadlines/Letters of Recommendation/Essay/Resume and Activities List/Testing/Scholarships and Financial Aid
- **September 3** Senior College Application Workshop all day
 - Goal 1: Review the college application process and prepare students to complete college applications.
 - Goal 2: Utilize Naviance tools and match Naviance with Common Application for FERPA form

12TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

FALL 2026

- **Week of September 8** STARS Lunch
Workshops in College Center
- **Week of September 14** Activity List Lunch
Workshops in College Center
- **September 16** College Night 6:00pm-7:30pm
 - Goal: Provide students and parents with the opportunity to interact with colleges and universities.
- **Week of September 21** College Essay Lunch
Workshops in College Center
- **Week of September 28** College Essay Lunch
Workshops in College Center
- **September 29** Financial Aid Seminar 6:00pm-7:00pm
- **Week of October 5** STARS Lunch Workshops
in College Center
- **Week of October 13** Activity List Lunch
Workshops in College Center

12TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

FALL 2026

- **Week of October 20** College Essay Lunch Workshops in College Center
- **Week of October 26** College Application Lunch Workshops in College Center
- **December 2** ASVAB Testing (optional)
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- **Week of December 7** Holiday Card Making in College Center

12TH GRADE

Grade Level Guidance – Programming and Events 2026-2027

SPRING 2027

- Students visit with counselors regarding final decision for post-high school plans.
- Students complete Senior Survey