HEWLETT HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS GUIDE for 9th Grade

What This Year Is About

Freshman year is the transition from middle school routines to greater independence. Students are expected to manage assignments, deadlines, communication, and activities with less reminding. The goal is not to have everything figured out immediately – it is to build strong habits before high school becomes more demanding.

Academic Priorities

- **Stay on top of assignments and grades.** Check Schoology and grades daily, and turn work in on time.Teachers may have different policies for late work, tests, and absences.
- **Ask for help early.** Use extra help and speak with teachers before missing work or low grades begin piling up.
- **Take grades seriously.** Freshman year is the beginning of the high school transcript.

Habits That Make a Difference

- Use **one organization system** for assignments, tests, activities, and deadlines.
- Review tomorrow's schedule and pack your bag the night before.
- Listen to daily announcements so you do not miss clubs or meetings.
- Get enough sleep. Exhaustion and disorganization can quickly affect school performance.

Get Involved

Join one or two activities that genuinely interest you. Clubs, sports, music, theater, service, and other activities can make the transition to high school easier and help students build new friendships and connections.

Expect social groups to change. Freshman year brings new classes, activities, and people, so changing friendships are a normal part of the transition.

Parents Should Know

Freshmen have more independence, but many still need help developing the skills to manage it. Parents should regularly check the parent portal and school communications while encouraging students to handle questions themselves. When there is a problem or confusion, students should practice contacting teachers and asking for help directly.

Red Flags to Watch For

- Missing assignments begin piling up.
- Grades suddenly drop.
- Frequent lateness or forgotten materials become a pattern.
- The student avoids checking grades, assignments, or school messages.
- The student feels disconnected and has not become involved in anything.



FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Learn the routines, meet teachers, meet your school counselor, get organized, and join activities.	Keep grades steady and use extra help when needed.	Finish strong, correct any habits that are not working, and prepare for sophomore year.

Freshman Checklist

- ☐ Check assignments and grades every day.
- ☐ Use one system to track deadlines.
- ☐ Turn work in on time.
- ☐ Listen to announcements.
- ☐ Join 1–2 activities.
- ☐ Ask teachers for help before grades slip.
- ☐ Get enough sleep and come prepared.
- ☐ Practice handling questions and problems independently.

KEY TAKEAWAY: Freshman year is about learning how high school works and building the habits, confidence, and independence that will make the next three years easier.