

The Kiltie

Student and Parent Information Guide 2026-2027



HIGHLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL
4220 Emerson Avenue, Dallas, TX 75205
214.780.3700 <http://hs.hpisd.org>

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Bell Schedules

Regular Schedule

1st	8:10 – 9:00
2nd	9:06 – 9:59
3rd	10:05 – 10:55
4th	11:01 – 11:51
5th	11:57 – 12:47
6th	12:53 – 1:43
7th	1:49 – 2:39
8th	2:45 – 3:35

Pep Rally & AM Assembly Schedule

1st	8:10 – 8:55
Pep Rally or Assembly	9:00 – 9:40
2nd	9:45 – 10:35
3rd	10:40 – 11:25
4th	11:30 – 12:15
5th	12:20 – 1:05
6th	1:10 – 1:55
7th	2:00 – 2:45
8th	2:50 – 3:35

AM Drill Schedule

1st	8:10 – 8:57
Drill	9:02 – 9:36
2nd	9:36 – 10:23
3rd	10:28 – 11:15
4th	11:20 – 12:07
5th	12:12 – 12:59
6th	1:04 – 1:51
7th	1:56 – 2:43
8th	2:48 – 3:35

PM Drill Schedule

1st	8:10 – 8:57
2nd	9:02 – 9:49
3rd	9:54 – 10:41
4th	10:46 – 11:33
5th	11:38 – 12:25
6th	12:30 – 1:17
Drill	1:22 – 1:56
7th	1:56 – 2:43
8th	2:48 – 3:35

Highland Park High School Principals

1923 - 1928	Eugene Lawler	1994 - 1995	Linda Springer
1928 - 1963	Ben Wiseman	1995 - 1998	Jean Rutherford
1963 - 1966	C. D. Bowlby	1998 - 2000	Robert Albano
1966 - 1973	Everett Hart	2000 - 2002	Robert Jolly (interim)
1973 - 1982	E. A. Sigler	2002 - 2010	Patrick Cates
1982 - 1986	Tom Munroe	2010 - 2020	Walter Kelly
1986 - 1990	Jim Gibson	2020 - 2024	Jeremy Gilbert
1990 - 1994	Don O'Quinn	2024 - present	Kevin Hunt

School Leadership

Administrative Team

Principal	Dr. Kevin Hunt
Associate Principal	Dr. Erica Redman
Assistant Principal A - Ew	Mr. Annuar Ortiz
Assistant Principal Fa - Lee	Dr. Katie Navickas
Assistant Principal Leh - Rou	Ms. Michelle Shumate
Assistant Principal Row - Z	Mr. Troy Gray

Counseling Team

Lead Counselor	Mindy McMinn
Personal/Social Counselor A - Lee	Michelle Altom
Personal/Social Counselor Lef - Z	Christen Armer
Counselor A - Con (9 th -12 th)	Janay Hunt
Counselor Co - Go (9 th -12 th)	Julie Tallant
Counselor Gp - Kr (9 th -12 th)	Amy Lam
Counselor Ks - Na (9 th -12 th)	Caty Broderick
Counselor Nb - Se (9 th -12 th)	Charles Trahan
Counselor Sf - We (9 th -12 th)	Shawna Jandrew
Counselor Wf - Z (9 th -12 th)	Mindy McMinn

Department Chairs

English	Rachel Pullen
Fine Arts	Neal Patel
Languages Other Than English (LOTE)	Amy Aldrete
Math	Jessica Caviness
Media Information & Technology	Rena Bowden
Science	Meredith Townsend
Social Studies	Pattilyn Wilkinson
Special Education	Beth Tallant

Special Education Coordinator

Joshua Schilling

Community Service Coordinator

Tyson Peterson

504 Coordinator

Jennifer Whitaker

504/Dyslexia Coordinator

Marcela Wilson

Highland Park Independent School District Mission

The Highland Park Independent School District, grounded in an unyielding commitment to tradition, excellence, community, and integrity, provides an unrivaled and well-rounded education in academics, athletics, arts, and service, equipping all students to be citizen leaders and lifelong learners.

Highland Park Independent School District Vision

Highland Park ISD will be the preeminent public school district in Texas and the heart and soul of the Park Cities. HP Scots will be honorable in conduct, devoted to scholarship, and charitable to all.

Highland Park High School Mission

Highland Park High School, upholding its tradition of excellence, exists to provide a learning environment that prepares students to serve as engaged global citizens in a complex and ever-changing world.

Highland Park High School Vision

Because "the spirit of a people is disclosed by the education of its youth," each of us in our school community commits to enrich life by cultivating:

- Knowledge and a lifetime love of learning,
- Responsible citizenship and compassionate tolerance, and
- Self-disciplined confidence and integrity

So that they may "Enter to Learn - Go Forth to Serve."

Student Commitment Statement

We, the student body, strive to surpass the standards of an exemplary school through exhibiting unity among diversity, demonstrating commitment to improving ourselves, and representing the highest degree of integrity to strengthen the future of Highland Park High School.

Highland Park High School Motto

"Enter to learn; Go forth to serve."

Emblem

The official emblem of Highland Park High School is the Highlander dressed in a kilt and carrying bagpipes.

Colors

School colors are gold and dark blue.

Nickname

Students of Highland Park are referred to as Scots

Alma Mater

All hail to thee, Dear High Park High
The school we love so dear.
We'll shout thy praise to all the world
Which echoes far and near.
Thy fame and splendor we'll uphold;
Thy greatness we'll proclaim.
We'll honor and we'll cherish thee--
Dear High Park High.

Scots Fight Song

Hail to the fighting Scotties!
Like the warriors of old
They are brave and bold.
Hail to the Scotties!
All their foes they do defy.
Rah! Rah! Rah!
Fight, you Scotties! We're backing you.
Through tradition we'll ever be true.
Why don't you fight for the honor of your
team
and the glory of High Park High?

Useful Phone Numbers

Athletics (Stadium)	214-780-3031
Attendance Office A - Lee	214-780-3714
Attendance Office Leh - Z	214-780-3710
Bagpipe (School Newspaper)	214-780-3888
Band	214-780-3737
Textbook Room	214-780-4713
Campus Instructional Technologist	214-780-3770
Choir	214-780-4824
Clinic	214-780-3720
Community Service	214-780-4715
Registrar	214-780-3711
Debate	214-780-4786
Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP)	214-780-4747
English Department	214-780-3880
Fine Arts Department	214-780-3881
Food Service	214-780-3725
Languages Other Than English (LOTE)	214-780-3870
Guidance/Counseling	214-780-3740
Highlander (Yearbook)	214-780-3886
In-School Suspension (ISS)	214-780-4799
Library	214-780-3760
Life Skills	214-780-3792
Maintenance/Custodian	214-780-3750
Mathematics Department	214-780-3840
Orchestra	214-780-4831
Digitarium	214-780-3858
Pool	214-780-3736
PTA Supply Room	214-780-4618
School Resource Officer	214-780-3729
Science Department	214-780-3850
Scot Shop (Stadium)	214-219-0487
Social Studies Department	214-780-3860
Special Education (District)	214-780-3091
Special Education (HPHS)	214-780-4790
Student Council	214-780-4707
Talented & Gifted (TAG) Office (District)	214-780-3082
Seay Tennis Center	214-780-4031
Video Technology Studio / HPNowTV	214-780-4774

Emergency and Crisis Contacts

Alcoholics Anonymous	214-887-6699
Al-Anon/Alateen	214-363-0461
Chemical Awareness Resource & Education (C.A.R.E.)	214-526-8986
Children's Medical Center (Emergency psychiatric services)	214-456-2000
Covenant House Nine Line (24-hour teen crisis line)	800-999-9999
Elisa Project (Eating Disorders)	214-369-5222
Families Anonymous	972-407-4420
HPHS Crisis Intervention Michelle Altom (A-Lee), Christen Armer (Lef-Z) HPHS Personal/Social Counselors	214-780-3740
National Runaway Switchboard	800-621-4000
Suicide & Crisis Center	214-828-1000
Texas Commission on Alcohol & Drug Abuse	800-832-9623

NOTICES

Nondiscrimination Statement

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination and as required by law, Highland Park ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law, in providing education services, activities, and programs, including CTE programs, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following district representatives have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment or gender-based harassment: Susan Bailey, Girls Athletic Coordinator, 7015 Westchester Drive, Dallas, TX 75205, 214-780-3042.
- Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: Dr. Cynthia Hollingshead, Director of Special Programs, 8385 Durham Street, Dallas, TX 75225, 214-780-3090.
- All other concerns regarding discrimination: Dr. Mike Rockwood, Superintendent of Schools, 6900 Douglas Avenue, Dallas, TX 75205, 214-780-3000.

[See <https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=366> for Board policies FB, FFH, and GKD.]

Commitment to Inclusion and Respect

HPISD is steadfast in our commitment to have a safe environment based upon mutual respect for all students entrusted to our care. We also recognize our important role as educators to demonstrate to both our students and the community that we value all individuals equally, while rejecting all forms of bigotry, hateful rhetoric and hateful actions. HPISD is committed to every student, every day. We will not waver from that commitment.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provides that school officials with legitimate educational interests may be allowed access to information from educational records of students. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. HPISD and HPHS allow students to serve on the Honor Council as a "school official with legitimate educational interest" to hear disciplinary cases regarding academic dishonesty.

Directory Information

Directory information for HPISD students is classified into two separate categories:

- Items for use only for school-sponsored purposes; and
- Items for all other purposes.

For the following school-sponsored purposes, all District publications and announcements, directory information shall include student name; address; telephone listing; electronic mail address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; degrees, honors, and awards received; dates of attendance; grade level; most recent educational institution attended; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; and weight and height of members of athletic teams.

For all other purposes, directory information will include student name and grade level.

Parent Contact Information

A parent is legally required to provide in writing the parent's contact information, including address, phone number, and email address. A parent must provide the contact information to the district upon enrollment and again within two weeks after the beginning of each following school year while the student is enrolled in the district.

If the parent's contact information changes during the school year, the parent must update the information in writing no more than two weeks after the date the information changes.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Unless a parent has advised the district not to release his or her student's information, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the district to comply with requests from military recruiters or institutions of higher education for the student's:

- A. Name,
- B. Address, and
- C. Telephone listing.

Military recruiters may also have access to a student's district-provided email address, unless a parent has advised the district not to release this information.

Please notify the district either through Back to School Sign Up or through written notice to the high school counseling office if you do not want the district to provide this information to military recruiters or institutions of higher education.

Selective Service Registration

By federal and state law, all 18 year-old males must register with the Selective Service System. Registration is a requirement for federal employment, and failure to register can be very serious for students, including the loss of student loans, grants, and scholarships. Selective Service System registration forms may be obtained in the counselors' office, in the main office, from teachers of Government classes, and from the United States Post Office. Young men may also register online at <http://www.sss.gov>.

Pledge to the Flags and Moment of Silence

Texas law requires students to recite the pledges to the United States and Texas flags once each school day. The legislation also requires schools to provide for a minute of silence following the pledges during which students may reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in another silent activity that is not distracting to other students. The law requires school employees to ensure that

students remain silent and do not distract other students. Students may be excused from reciting a pledge on written request of the student's parent or guardian. Such requests must be made in writing to the student's assistant principal or to the Principal.

Drug Free and Weapon Free School

Highland Park High School is a federal Drug-Free and Weapon-Free School. The Highland Park Independent School District has zero tolerance for weapons, drugs/alcohol, assaults, and threats against students and/or employees.

Health Notices

The Texas Education Code 28.004 requires all public schools to establish a local school health advisory council. In accordance with this code, the Highland Park Independent School District School Health Advisory Council will meet each year according to a schedule to be published on the District website, <http://www.hpisd.org>.

In addition to HPISD School Board Policies [FNC\(LEGAL\)](#) and [FNCD\(LEGAL\)](#), the HPISD Student Code of Conduct prescribes penalties for the use of tobacco products by students and others on school campuses and at school-sponsored or school-related activities.

HPISD does not participate in the Federal Lunch Program outlined by the Child Nutrition Act and is not required to adopt policies on restricting student access to vending machines, but does operate by campus guidelines and access procedures for age-appropriate use of vending machines.

Student Expression

The District will treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and will not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject. Please see HPISD Board Policy [FNA\(LOCAL\)](#) for additional information concerning student expression rights and responsibilities.

Distribution of Literature, Published Materials, or Other Documents

School Materials

Publications prepared by and for the school may be posted or distributed, with the prior approval of the principal, sponsor, or teacher. Such items may include school posters, newspapers, yearbooks, brochures, flyers, etc.

All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher, sponsor, and the principal.

Nonschool Materials

From Students

Students must obtain prior approval from the principal or designee before selling, posting, circulating, or distributing more than ten copies of written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that were not developed under the oversight of the school. To be considered, any nonschool material must include the

name of the sponsoring person or organization. Approval will be granted or denied within two school days.

The principal has a designated location for approved nonschool materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection by students. [See policy [FNAA](#) for more information.]

A student may appeal a decision in accordance with policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#). Any student who sells, posts, circulates, or distributes nonschool material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Materials displayed without approval will be removed. [See policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#) for student complaint procedures.]

From Others

No person or group will sell, circulate, distribute, or post on any district premises written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials that is not sponsored by the district or by a district-affiliated school-support organization, except as permitted by policy [GKDA](#).

To be considered for distribution, any nonschool material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy, include the name of the sponsoring person or organization, and be submitted to the principal for prior review. The principal will approve or reject the materials within two school days of the time the materials are received. The requestor may appeal a rejection in accordance with the appropriate district complaint policy. [See policies [DGBA](#) or [GF](#) for more information.]

The principal has a designated location for approved non school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing or collection.

Prior review will not be required for:

- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a school-sponsored meeting intended for adults and held after school hours.
- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a community group meeting held after school hours in accordance with policy [GKD\(LOCAL\)](#) or a non curriculum-related student group meeting held in accordance with policy [FNAB\(LOCAL\)](#).
- Distribution for electioneering purposes during the time a school facility is being used as a polling place, in accordance with state law.

All nonschool materials distributed under these circumstances must be removed from district property immediately following the event at which the materials are distributed.

School Security & Safety

Students must be under the direct supervision of an HPHS staff member while in the school building. Because of security, safety, and liability concerns, students are not permitted to be in the building, gyms, pool, stadium or other athletic facilities by themselves.

Anyone loitering/gathering in the building, in the parking garage, and or in other areas of the campus after hours and/or without supervision may be subject to campus disciplinary action and/or arrest by police.

In the interest of school security and safety, all outside doors to the building will be locked. Before the start school students and parents should use the Student Entrance on Westchester and the main entrance on Emerson. After 8:10 a.m., the front entrance will be closed to students and after that time they will only be permitted to enter through the Student Entrance on Westchester. All building entrances will be monitored by security cameras throughout the day. Students will be subject to disciplinary consequences if they prop open an exterior door, open an exterior door for anyone seeking entrance, attempt to enter or enter the building through an exterior door that is not approved for student entry, or otherwise take actions that compromise building security.

Fire, Severe Weather, and Building Evacuation

All students, personnel, and visitors will exit the building upon hearing the emergency alarm for fire or a building evacuation announcement. Students will follow the evacuation and severe weather procedures outlined in the [HPISD Basic Emergency Protocols](#), as directed by their teachers and other building personnel.

Student Searches

Lockers and other similar storage spaces are the property of the Highland Park Independent School District and are provided for student use as a matter of convenience. Lockers and other similar storage spaces are subject to blanket searches or inspections by school or district administrators. Searches or inspections may be conducted at any time and without notice. Students shall be fully responsible for the security and contents of lockers and similar storage spaces assigned to them. Students shall make certain that lockers are locked and that the keys or combinations are not given to others. Material prohibited by law, District policy, or the HPISD Student Code of Conduct shall not be kept in a locker or similar storage spaces. Students shall be held responsible for any prohibited items found in their lockers or similar storage spaces.

Use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and will be monitored by the district. (See HPISD Board Policy [CQ](#) for more information). Any searches of personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices will be conducted in accordance with law, and the device may be confiscated in order to perform a lawful search. A confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement to determine whether a crime has been committed. [See HPISD Board Policy [FNF\(LEGAL\)](#) for more information].

Students shall be fully responsible for the security and contents of vehicles driven or parked on school property or at school-sponsored events. Students shall make certain that their parked vehicles are locked and that the keys are not given to others. Students shall not have in a vehicle on school property or at any school-sponsored event, any article or material prohibited by law, District policy, or the HPISD Student Code of Conduct. Vehicles on school property or at school-sponsored events are subject to being searched. Students shall be held responsible for any prohibited items found in their vehicles on school property or at school-sponsored events. If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student shall be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the District shall contact the student's parents. If the parents also refuse to permit the vehicle to be searched, the District will contact local law enforcement officials and turn the matter over to them.

Students on school property or at school-sponsored events are subject to being searched. Students shall be held responsible for any prohibited items found in their possession on school property or at school-sponsored events. Searches may include the use of specially trained dogs to sniff out and alert officials to the current presence of concealed prohibited items, alcohol, illicit

substances, or other prohibited items. [See HPISD Board Policy [FNCG\(LEGAL\)](#) for additional information].

In accordance with Texas Education Code 37.006, "school property" includes the area within 300 feet of the Highland Park High School campus.

At the beginning of the school year, HPISD will inform students of the District's policy on searches, as outlined above, and will specifically notify students that:

- Lockers may be sniffed by trained dogs at any time.
- Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by trained dogs at any time.
- Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by trained dogs at any time.
- Students, purses, and backpacks may be sniffed by trained dogs if reasonable suspicion exists.
- Breathalyzers are considered a search; students may be asked to take a breathalyzer test if there is reasonable suspicion.
- The District shall have the right to search a student's cell phone or other electronic device if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the cell phone or electronic device contains information prohibited by the District or information related to an investigation of conduct prohibited by the District.

If prohibited material of any kind is found, the possessing student shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with State law and the Student Code of Conduct.

Trained dog visits to schools shall be unannounced. The dogs shall be used in classrooms, common areas, the areas around student lockers, in the areas around vehicles parked on school property, and with individual students if reasonable cause exists. School officials may conduct a search if a dog alerts to a student, a locker, a vehicle, or an item in a classroom. Searches of vehicles shall be conducted as described above.

Homeless Students

A student who is homeless will be provided flexibility regarding certain district provisions, including:

- Proof of residency requirements;
- Immunization requirements;
- Educational program placement (if the student is unable to provide previous academic records or misses an application deadline during a period of homelessness);
- Credit-by-examination opportunities at any point during the year (if the student enrolled in the district after the beginning of the school year), per State Board of Education (SBOE) rules;
- Assessment of the student's available records to determine transfer of credit for subjects and courses taken before the student's enrollment in the district;
- Awarding partial credit when a student passes only one semester of a two-semester course;
- Eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities; and
- Graduation requirements.

Federal law allows a student who is homeless to remain enrolled in the “school of origin” or to enroll in a new school in the attendance area where the student is currently residing.

If a student who is homeless in grade 11 or 12 transfers to another district but does not meet the graduation requirements of the receiving district, state law allows the student to request a diploma from the previous district if the student meets the criteria to graduate from the previous district.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied by the district’s eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision may appeal through policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#). The district will expedite local timelines, when possible, for prompt dispute resolution.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs

The district offers career and technical education programs in the following areas: Architecture, Arts, Audio Video Technology and Communications, Business Management and Administration, Finance, Health Science, Information Technology, Law, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Admission to these programs is based on career interest, age appropriateness, class space, aptitude for the program, and adherence to school rules and regulations.

District policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts, and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

District policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The district will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX coordinator and the ADA/Section 504 coordinator (refer to page 8).

Consent to Human Sexuality Instruction

As a part of the district’s curriculum, students receive instruction related to human sexuality. The School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) makes recommendations for curriculum materials, and the school board adopts the materials and determines the specific content of the instruction. For further information, see the district’s human sexuality instruction website at www.hpisd.org.

In accordance with state law, a parent may:

- Review, receive a copy of, or purchase a copy of curriculum materials depending on the copyright of the materials.
- Remove his or her child from any part of the human sexuality instruction without academic, disciplinary, or other penalties.

- Become involved in the development of this curriculum by becoming a member of the district's SHAC or attending SHAC meetings. (See the campus principal for details.)
- Use the district's grievance procedure concerning a complaint. (See [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#))

State law also requires that instruction related to human sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS):

- Present abstinence from sexual activity as the preferred choice in relationship to all sexual activity for unmarried persons of school age;
- Devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior;
- Emphasize that abstinence, if used consistently and correctly, is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity;
- Direct adolescents to abstain from sexual activity before marriage as the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and
- If included in the content of the curriculum, teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates.

Before a student receives human sexuality instruction, the district must obtain written consent from the student's parent. Parents will be sent a request for written consent at least 14 days before the instruction.

Questioning of Students by Law Enforcement Agencies

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school, administrators will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, if the questioning or interview is part of a child abuse investigation.

In other circumstances:

- Administrators will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school.
- Administrators ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the parents unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- Administrators ordinarily will be present unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.

Students Taken Into Custody by Law Enforcement Agencies

State law requires the District to permit a student to be taken into legal custody:

- To comply with an order of the juvenile court.
- To comply with the laws of arrest.
- By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision.
- By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court.
- By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, a law enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer, without a court order, under the conditions set out in the Family Code relating to the student's physical health or safety.
- To comply with a properly issued directive to take a student into custody.

Before a student is released to a law enforcement officer or other legally authorized person, the principal will verify the officer's identity and, to the best of his or her ability, will verify the official's authority to take custody of the student. The principal will immediately notify the superintendent and will ordinarily attempt to notify the parent unless the officer or other authorized person raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to notifying the parents. Because the principal does not have the authority to prevent or delay a student's release to a law enforcement officer, any notification will most likely be after the fact (please see HPISD Board Policy [GRA](#) for additional information).

SCHOOL PROCESSES

Enrollment

Students wishing to enroll at HPHS should begin by visiting the district website where they will find an “Enrollment” link under the “Families” menu. If you have any additional questions, please contact our HPHS Registrar, Mrs. Brooke Scott by sending her an email at: ScottB@hpsd.org.

Transfers/Changes in Residency

Nonresident students will not be permitted to attend HPISD schools, with the following exceptions:

- Resident students who become nonresidents during the course of a semester shall be permitted to continue in attendance for the remainder of the grading period. Resident students in grade 12 who become nonresidents after the first nine weeks of the senior year and attended HPHS the entire junior year before will be permitted to continue in attendance for the remainder of the school year. For additional information, see HPISD Board Policies [FDA\(LOCAL\)](#) and [FDA\(REGULATION\)](#).
- If a resident student temporarily becomes a nonresident student because of the renovation or construction of a residence within the District, he or she shall be permitted to continue in attendance at the student’s school tuition-free for the remainder of the school year, when approved and in accordance with the procedures and requirements in HPISD Board Policy [FDA](#).
- Under limited circumstances, a nonresident student who is in the process of becoming a resident student shall be permitted to enroll in a District school, when approved and in accordance with the procedures and requirements in HPISD Board Policy [FDA](#).

Transfer Students - Evaluation of Credits

HPHS accepts credits from any public high school accredited in the State of Texas. Credits from high schools outside the State of Texas will be evaluated according to State and local graduation guidelines. For more information about transferring credits from other schools to HPHS, please contact the HPHS Counseling Department.

Transfer students who enroll after the beginning of the semester will be expected to meet HPHS standards and requirements from the day of enrollment, including taking the final examination for all courses in which the student is enrolled.

Senior Year Transfers from Other Schools

A student transferring to HPHS from another school at the beginning of or during the first semester of the senior year will be expected to meet all HPHS graduation requirements.

Changes of Address and Telephone Number

A student’s change of address or telephone number must be reported to the Registrar’s Office immediately. Any changes in parents’ employment or telephone numbers should be reported immediately so that school records are always accurate. This is especially important in case of an emergency. In addition, to ensure timely and accurate communications, addresses, phone numbers, and emails should always be kept up to date in the HPISD Skyward information system.

Standards for Mastery

- Grade-level advancement for students in grades 9-12 will be earned by course credits.
- Course assignments and unit evaluation will be used to determine student grades in a subject. An average of 70 or higher shall be considered a passing grade.
- Mastery of the skills necessary for success at the next level will be validated by assessments that may either be incorporated into unit or final examinations or may be administered separately. Mastery of at least 70 percent of the objectives will be required.
- The District will not issue a certificate of coursework completion to a student who fails to meet all state and local requirements for graduation.
- A teacher has the discretion of deducting a maximum of ten percentage points as a penalty for failure to follow teacher-specified form and/or directions in completing an assignment, paper or test that is not directly connected to mastery of a concept.

[See HPISD Board Policy [EIE\(LOCAL\)](#)]

Grade Classification

Students are eligible to enter the 9th grade once they have successfully completed the 8th grade. Grade year classification at HPHS is based on a minimum number of accumulated units of credit, as follows:

- Tenth - 6 credits
- Eleventh - 12 credits
- Twelfth - 15 credits

Senior Classification

At the beginning of the fall semester, students must have 15 completed credits appearing on the permanent record to be classified as seniors and to be eligible for their picture to appear in the senior section of The Highlander yearbook. At the beginning of the spring semester, students who are in their fourth year of high school and who have 17 completed credits appearing on their permanent record may be reclassified as seniors.

Course Credit

One-half (0.5) unit of credit will be given for successful completion of a course each semester. To successfully complete a course, a student must maintain a grade average of at least 70 on a scale of 100 and fulfill attendance requirements as specified by the state of Texas.

Credit for Year-long Courses (Average Pass)

A student may earn a full credit for a year-long course by:

- Earning a grade of 70 or above for each semester, or
- Passing the second semester of the course and earning a 70 or above when the first and second semester grades are averaged. **Each semester grade will appear on the student transcript.**

Graduation Requirements

The HPISD Board of Trustees approved a graduation plan that requires HPHS students to pass five State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) end-of-course (EOC) exams: Algebra I, English I (reading/writing), English II (reading/writing), Biology, and U.S. History.

To receive a diploma and to participate in graduation ceremonies, the student must:

- Complete the Highland Park High School graduation program;
- Complete at least 50 hours of community service;
- Meet passing requirements on the State of Texas Assessments.

For complete information regarding graduation requirements, including specific information about the Foundation Program, Endorsements, and the Distinguished Level of Achievement, please see [Appendix A of the HPHS Academic Planning Guide](#) (APG).

Community Service Requirements

All students are required to complete 50 hours of community service in order to graduate from Highland Park High School. In order to maximize student learning and community benefits, it is recommended that students complete 7 hours each of their first two semesters in attendance and 6 hours each semester thereafter to complete the minimum 50 hour requirement. Total hours recommended for completion by the end of each year are:

- Freshmen - 14
- Sophomore - 26
- Junior - 38
- Senior - 50

Students are permitted to work on this requirement during the summer. Students may not receive credit for service hours completed prior to their enrollment as a student at Highland Park High School. Transfer students will be required to complete hours based on the amount of time at HPHS, which will equate to 50 hours minus 6 hours for each semester not at HPHS (see table below). Entering freshmen may start work on their service hours beginning June 1, after successful completion of the 8th grade. Senior service hours must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. April 30 of their graduation year to reduce the risk of not graduating.

Community Service Requirements for Transfer Students

Semesters Enrolled in HPHS	Hours to Complete
1	8
2	14
3	20
4	26
5	32
6	38
7	44
8	50

Service hours must be recorded on the CSC database at <https://www.x2vol.com/index.html> within two months after the completion of the project or activity in order to receive credit. The only exception to this rule is for hours completed between June 1 and the start of school. These hours must be submitted on to the CSC website by 11:59 p.m. on October 31.

Volunteer work must benefit those in need. Students cannot receive anything of value, including bartered goods and services or compensation of any kind, in exchange for their volunteer work. Approved agencies include, but are not limited to, hospitals, social service agencies, fundraising organizations for health causes, and fundraising organizations for low-income schools. Volunteer work to be credited to the community service requirement should be cleared through the community service coordinator prior to beginning the work if there is any doubt regarding its potential for acceptance. Appeals of the coordinator's decision may be made to the Community Service Council Executive Committee.

Service opportunities will be posted via the [Community Service Council](#) page on the HPHS website. It is the student's responsibility to keep an accurate record of all service performed throughout his/her high school career. For events like applying for scholarships and college applications, transferring schools, ensuring accuracy of hours earned, etc., it is strongly recommended that the student maintains a paper copy of their service hours throughout their high school career.

Students **CANNOT** earn service for the following:

- Volunteering to be an aide on campus at HPHS;
- Hours completed during school time even if their absences are excused;
- Hours earned during official school time except for those earned during students' off periods;
- Service opportunities through clubs/organizations;
- Teaching or leading any religious or faith discussion groups; however, credit can be earned by assisting with any secular activities in which the religious organization engages;
- Meeting times, sleeping, travel, planning, or free time; however, credit can be earned for time spent publicizing the activity, including stuffing envelopes, hanging flyers, or similar tasks.

Typically, a maximum of 8 hours of service work a day is allowed unless very specific documentation is provided to validate a greater number of service hours per day. Students are allowed up to two hours of service credit for direct donations (1 hour - \$20/2 hours - \$40). Service hours will be approved within 15 days of being entered into the system during the regular school year. Hours will be denied after 15 days if not verified by your contact person. The contact person cannot be your parent or a student. All denied hours will have a reason in the comment section of the submission.

Students' X2Vol accounts are connected to their student school email account. How to submit hours can be found on the [Community Service Council](#) website. Students may access the database by either going directly to <https://www.x2vol.com/index.html>. All other questions may be directed to the Community Service Advisors, **Tyson Peterson: PetersT@hpsid.org** or **Stephanie Hawsey: HawseyS@hpsid.org**. To encourage students to be accountable for their service hours, e-mails to the advisors should come from the student, not the parent/guardian.

If the student believes service hours have been improperly denied, the student must submit a written request (email is acceptable) for review to the Community Service Council Advisors. If an acceptable agreement cannot be made, the Community Service Council Executive Committee will review and make a final decision regarding acceptance or denial of hours.

Eligibility for Commencement Exercises

To be eligible to participate in the May graduation exercises, seniors must:

- Have completed all state and local graduation requirements (credits, state-mandated assessments, and service hours);
- Have been enrolled at Highland Park the entire second semester of their senior year;
- Have no obligations for school-issued property, materials, or fees.

Exception: Fifth-year students who have completed all graduation requirements by the end of the first semester need not be enrolled for the second semester.

Withdrawal from HPHS

A parent may withdraw a student from school through the Registrar's Office. Following state law and School District policy. School administration may withdraw a student for non-attendance at its discretion following the attendance laws as stipulated in the Texas Education Code.

CLASS SCHEDULES

Class Selection

Students entering high school should study the requirements for graduation and plan a course of study in line with their occupational and college interests. Late planning restricts the availability of courses that may be required to be accepted into their preferred university or that prepare students for a specialized occupational goal.

Students already enrolled in high school request their following year's schedule during the spring semester. All students prepare a schedule of the courses for the entire year.

Students completing their work at Highland Park Middle School meet with the guidance counselors from both middle school and high school early in the spring of their eighth grade year. Students are given information necessary to develop a graduation plan. Later in the spring semester, the guidance counselors again assist the students in making a selection of courses for the following year.

The high school's master schedule is built on the choices students make in the spring for the following year's courses. As a result of this master schedule formation, **students are not likely to be able to change their course selection in the fall or spring**; therefore, pre-planning is very important. This restriction is especially true of elective courses.

Pre-Approval of Selected Courses

For certain courses, students must secure permission to enroll from the appropriate department chair, teacher, or counselor. These courses are identified in the [HPHS Academic Planning Guide \(APG\)](#).

Advanced Placement (AP) Program

Advanced Placement courses are open to any student who demonstrates interest. Objective test data, teacher grades, and recommendations will be considered in the academic guidance process. Students should refer to the Academic Planning Guide or meet with their counselors for more information. **A student enrolled in an AP course is required to take the AP exam for the course. Students are required to pay for AP exams based on the AP courses for which they register. Students who fail to pay for their AP exams may not be allowed to participate in graduation exercises.** Financial assistance for AP exams may be available through the student's counselor if requested at the beginning of the course. [See HPISD Board Policy [EHBN\(LOCAL\)](#)]

Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program

HPHS classes for identified gifted students fulfill requirements for graduation. These courses focus on the application and development of higher order thinking skills, strategies that engage diversified thinking and reasoning, methodologies that enhance creativity, and problem solving. TAG courses are offered within the English, Math, Social Studies, Science, and Fine Arts departments. For more information about HPISD and HPHS TAG programming, please click [HERE](#).

Schedule Changes

The master schedule of classes at HPHS is based on specific course requests by students. It is very important that students discuss course choices with their parents, teachers, and counselors because teachers are hired and assigned so that students have the opportunity to take the courses they request. Students are expected to make informed and wise decisions during the course selection process.

Every attempt will be made to schedule students into the courses they choose. Schedule changes will not be made unless a mistake was made in the selection of courses that will affect the student's graduation plan. Students will **not** have their schedules changed merely because a subject is difficult, because they do not wish to have a certain teacher, or to have lunch at a particular time of day. Such requests will be denied.

There are two different types of schedule changes: dropped courses and level changes.

Dropped Courses

- A student must be enrolled as a full time student. (Grades 9-11, 7 classes; Grade 12, 6 credit-bearing classes, seniors may only have one open period and a lunch period).
- Requests for dropped courses will be reviewed on an individual basis and must occur during the first six days of each semester.

Valid Criteria for Dropped Courses:

- The student is a senior and is not scheduled in a course required for graduation.
- The student is misplaced in the course (no prerequisites, previously earned credit, etc.)
- The student is a senior and does not have an open period and wishes to add one.
- Students in grades 9-11 who wish to add a study hall. (dependent on space availability)
- Students in an AP course with no level down may request a standard/honors level course to be reviewed (dependent on space availability). Course changes within the same category level will not be approved.

Requests to drop or add a course must meet the above criteria to be considered. Requests will be reviewed on an individual basis. If the criteria are met, the request should be initiated through the electronic schedule change form posted on the HPHS Counseling webpage during the first six days of school.

Level Changes

- Students enrolled in honors, AP or TAG classes may request a level change to the equivalent standard course. Students will be given opportunities to request a level change for year-long courses at Progress Report 1 (3 weeks), Progress Report 2 (6 weeks), end of the first nine weeks and the end of the second nine weeks (end of the semester). Specific dates will be advertised each semester. Students may lose eligibility at PR2 (6 weeks date), end of the 1st 9 weeks, 2nd 9 weeks date (end of semester) and end of the 3rd 9 weeks.
- Students enrolled in one semester AP courses during the spring semester will have the opportunity to request a level change at Progress Report 5 (3 weeks) and Progress Report 6 (6 weeks) and end of the 1st 9 weeks of the spring semester.

- Students whose level change is approved will receive acknowledgement of rigor points added to the new class (after eligibility is determined). Level changes from Category 2 courses to Category 3 courses will receive an additional 5 points, from Category 1 to Category 3 will receive an additional 10 points. Students who are granted a level change between the following courses will receive 5 points added to the new course: Pre-Calculus to AMA, Pre-Calculus Honors TAG to Pre-Calculus Honors and AP Calculus BC to AP Calculus AB. HPHS recognizes these specific schedule changes within the same category as level changes because of their differences in both rigor and pacing through content, thus receiving the additional points.
- Students enrolled in Dual Credit English will only be allowed a level change at the 3-week mark. We will not allow a 6-week level change due to significant curriculum differences with English 4. We will not be following Dallas College's withdraw (drop) date.

Level change changes will happen after grades are posted for the 3 week progress report and 6 week progress report and the first nine weeks. Any extra points awarded as a result of a level change will happen after UIL eligibility has been determined.

Until Skyward reflects the approved change, the student is required to attend all classes on their original schedule. Students are not allowed to miss classes in order to go to the Counseling Office to request a schedule change.

Schedule changes must meet state attendance laws, District and campus policies, and UIL eligibility rules.

Dropping or Adding Classes

Requests to drop or add a class must meet the above criteria to be considered and may be granted or denied based on space availability. General guidelines for dropping and adding classes are based on UIL eligibility rules. Note that some courses will not allow for a level change beyond the 3 week mark.

COUNSELING

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 Counseling Department consists of seven guidance counselors who work with students according to their last names, one of whom serves as lead counselor, as well as two personal/social counselors.

Transcripts - Academic Achievement Record

Our Registrar's Office keeps on file for each of our students a transcript - an academic achievement record - with grades, graduation credits, attendance, grade point average, and standardized test scores recorded from the beginning of the freshman year. This transcript is required for admission by most secondary and post-secondary institutions. A transcript may not be released without the student's or the parents' written request. Request forms are available on the Counseling webpage or in the Registrar's Office. Students must have met all school obligations and have a clear record in order to get a transcript. Students may request an official transcript in writing from the Registrar located in the Counselors Office.

An official transcript will be mailed to another educational institution at the request of the student or parent. An unofficial transcript is one delivered by written request to the student or the parent. The cost of each transcript is \$5.00.

Highland Park High School complies with current Texas law that requires schools to forward student academic and Special Education records to other schools upon formal request.

College Entrance Test Code Number

The Highland Park High School code number for College Board and American College testing is **441740**. This code number is used for school identification on the SAT and ACT college registration forms.

ACT and SAT

To register for the SAT or ACT, please visit the following links:

ACT

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

SAT

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration>

College Board and ACT Accommodations

Students with a formal IEP or 504 plan through HPHS could be eligible for accommodations. To request accommodations for testing, please read the information on our [Testing Accommodations](#) webpage. Make note that the requirements and deadlines for College Board

and ACT differ, so attention must be paid to ensure requests are made in a timely manner. For questions, please contact testinghphs@hpsd.org.

HPHS Standardized Testing Schedule, 2026-2027

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Test</u>
Sept 14 - Oct 2	WrAP Writing Assessment
Oct 6	PSAT/NMSQT - 10th Grade
Oct 7	PSAT/NMSQT - 11th Grade
Dec 1-4	STAAR EOC Window (Algebra I, Biology, US History, English I & II)
Dec 15-18	Fall Final Exams
Feb 1-5	TEA SST Field Testing
April 6	STAAR EOC English I (Makeup: April 13)
April 7	STAAR EOC English II (Makeup: April 13)
April 20	STAAR EOC US History (Makeup: April 23)
April 21	STAAR EOC Biology (Makeup: April 23)
April 28	STAAR EOC Algebra I (Makeup: April 30)
May 3-14	Advanced Placement Exams
May 21-26	Spring Final Exams for Grade 12
May 25-28	Spring Final Exams for Grade 9-11
June 14-25	STAAR EOC Window (Algebra I, Biology, US History, English I & II)

Credit by Exam (CBE)

A student may earn credits toward graduation through credit by exam (CBE). Students wishing to apply for a CBE should see their counselor. Credit may be earned two ways:

CBE for Credit Recovery - Student Has Taken the Course/Subject

A student who has previously taken a course or subject but did not receive credit or a final grade for it may, in circumstances determined by the principal or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit or a final grade by passing an examination approved by the district's board of trustees on the essential knowledge and skills defined for that course or subject.

Examples of prior instruction include incomplete coursework due to a failed course or excessive absences, homeschooling, or coursework by a student transferring from a non-accredited school. The opportunity to earn credit by examination after the student has had prior instruction is sometimes referred to as "credit recovery."

The attendance review committee may also offer a student with excessive absences an opportunity to earn credit for a course by passing an examination.

If a student is granted approval to take an examination for credit, the student must score at least 70 on the examination to receive credit for the course or subject.

[See the school counselor and policy [EHDB\(LOCAL\)](#) for more information.]

CBE for Advancement/Acceleration - Student Has Not Taken the Course/Subject

A student will be permitted to earn credit by examination for an academic course or subject area for which the student had no prior instruction for advancement or to accelerate to the next grade level. The examinations offered by the district are approved by the district's board of trustees.

Testing windows for these examinations will be published in district publications and on the district's website. A student may take a specific examination only once per testing window. The only exceptions to the published testing windows will be for examinations administered by another entity or to accommodate a student experiencing homelessness or a student involved in the foster care system.

When another entity administers an examination, the student and the district must comply with the testing schedule of the other entity.

If a student plans to take an examination, the student or parent must register with the school counselor no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. [See policy [EHDC\(LOCAL\)](#) for more information.]

A student in grade 9 or above is eligible to earn course credit with:

- A passing score of at least 90 on an examination for a semester course or a yearlong course approved by the board; or
- An average of at least 90 on a year long course that has two examinations each covering a different semester approved by the board; or
- A scaled score of 50 or higher on an examination administered through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), or
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP examination, as applicable.

A student may take an examination to earn high school course credit no more than twice. A student is ineligible to take an exam if a passing grade has already been earned in a class or by an exam. If a student fails to achieve the designated score on the applicable exam before the beginning of the school year in which the student would need to enroll in the course according to the school's course sequence, the student must complete the course.

Distance Learning: Correspondence Courses, Concurrent Enrollment College Courses, Online Courses, and Other Out-of-district Courses

For high school graduation, no more than two full credits may be earned through a combination of correspondence courses, concurrent enrollment in college courses, and all other out-of-district courses. These two credits are limited to courses not offered on-line through HPHS Virtual Academy.

The following courses must be taken by District-developed and District-supported courses: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, English I, English II, English III, a fourth English credit, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, World Geography, World History, and U.S. History. For the class of 2030 and beyond, Level I and Level II credits for Languages other than English must all be taken in HPISD. [EIF\(LOCAL\)](#).

For district students who earn credit via correspondence courses from TEA-approved special purpose districts operated by a major university in Texas (UT High School and Texas Tech K-12), credit will be awarded for a grade of 70 or above but no grade points will be assigned. Out-of-district electronic courses offered by the State Virtual School Network are considered district-supported courses and will be included in calculation of the GPA. HPHS does not award

credit for out-of-state correspondence or for any coursework not approved by the student's counselor prior to beginning the off-campus instruction.

If a student takes a course required for graduation through one of these options, the out-of-district course must be completed prior to the student's last opportunity to enroll in the course at HPHS or the student will be enrolled in the course at HPHS.

SUMMER SCHOOL & SUMMER CREDITS

Only students who will be classified as freshmen or above at HPHS for the fall semester immediately following summer school are eligible to attend HPHS Summer School.

Prior to enrollment in summer school courses at HPHS or outside of HPISD, a student must make a written request to the counselor for approval to enroll in the course. If approval is not granted prior to enrollment, the student will **not** be awarded credit toward graduation.

A student may normally earn a maximum of two semesters of credit (one full course unit) in one summer.

As HPHS Summer School is self-funded, at least 12 students must register for each course to cover costs. Recruiting students for those courses one would like to have offered during summer school is encouraged.

Types of Credits Students May Earn During Summer School

Credit recovery courses are available to students who have failed either an A (fall semester) or a B (spring semester) course section.

Original credit (Non-sequenced) courses are single-semester courses that have no prerequisites and only take one summer session to complete.

Accelerated Courses provide one full year (two semesters' worth) of original academic credit.

NOTE: For HPHS Summer School courses that require an End of Course state assessment, students will be required to take the EOC assessment during the first available testing window after the student completes the course, as stipulated by the Texas Education Agency.

Withdrawal from Summer School

To withdraw from summer school courses parents must send an email requesting withdrawal from the specific course in which their student will no longer be participating. This email should be sent to the student's school counselor, if this request is made during the regular school year, or the summer school counselor, if the request is made after the close of the regular school year. Remember that each semester/session is a separate course. Parents must list every course from which they would like their students withdrawn.

Students who withdraw before the first day of summer school will receive a full refund for the course(s) from which they have been withdrawn if payment has been made. Students who withdraw on the first day of classes will receive a refund of 50% of the amount they paid. Students who are withdrawn after the first day of summer school will be withdrawn without a refund. Since summer school is self-funded, there will be **NO** exceptions to this policy.

Once the withdrawal has been approved, the student will be withdrawn from summer school and no grade will be assigned for the particular course. A grade will be assigned to a student who fails to formally withdraw from a course and course grade will appear on the transcript.

Students may be withdrawn for non-attendance or disciplinary reasons by the summer school principal (see below for more information). These students will be withdrawn without a refund.

Summer School Attendance and Discipline

Summer school follows a fast paced and compressed curriculum. This means that productive time in class is necessary for students to succeed and for summer school to accredit that students have earned or remediated the course in which they are enrolled. Because of this, student attendance and proper classroom behavior is paramount to the success of our summer school classes.

The following are the attendance guidelines for Summer School:

- Students may not miss more than one day of their enrolled course or they will be administratively withdrawn.
- If a student is less than 30 minutes late they will be marked as tardy.
- Every two tardies will be counted as an absence.
- If a student is more than 30 minutes late or misses more than 30 minutes of class time, they will be counted absent for that day.

Students may NOT miss the last day of the session/semester regardless of previous attendance. Missing the last day of the session/semester will result in withdrawal and loss of credit regardless of the student's academic performance up to that point.

Finals may not be rescheduled and must be taken on the last day of the session/semester.

Students are expected to follow the district's Student Code of Conduct, including the expectations for personal devices, during summer school.

Discipline referrals to the summer school principal will be dealt with as follows:

- 1st Occurrence - Conference with the student and a phone call to the parent
- 2nd Occurrence - In person conference with the parent to sign behavior agreement
- 3rd Occurrence - Administrative withdrawal from summer school.

No refunds will be given to students who are administratively withdrawn.

Credit for Out-of-District Summer School Courses

Credit earned by students in summer school programs in state accredited school districts is transferable and must be accepted by all Texas school districts.

HPHS students are advised to attend summer school classes at HPHS rather than at other area high schools. Summer courses vary and the student may be placed at a disadvantage when continuing work at HPHS based on a summer course taken elsewhere.

Course work completed at schools other than HPHS without prior written permission cannot be accepted. In order for a credit to be accepted, students must complete a "Request for Off-Campus Instruction," available under Forms and Publications on the Counseling page of the HPHS website (click [HERE](#)), prior to attending an off-campus school.

Courses that are not regularly offered at HPHS must be approved individually by the student's counselor. It is **the student's responsibility** to ensure that transcripts from other schools are mailed to HPHS.

The following courses must be taken by District-developed and District-supported courses during the regular school year, in HPHS Summer School, or in the HP Virtual Academy:

Algebra I	English I	Biology	World Geography
Algebra II	English II	Chemistry	World History
Geometry	English III	Physics	U.S. History
	A fourth English credit		

For the class of 2030 and beyond, Level I and Level II credits for Languages other than English must all be taken in HPISD. EIF(LOCAL)

GRADES

Teachers follow grading guidelines that have been approved by the principal pursuant to the board-adopted policy. Grading guidelines are designed to reflect each student's relative mastery of each assignment. Campus grading standards require a minimum of eight grades during a nine-weeks grading period. Grading categories have been established and are available on the teachers' syllabi and Canvas pages. No one grade will reflect more than 35% of the total available points.

By law in the State of Texas, an examination or course grade issued by a classroom teacher is final and may not be changed unless the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or not consistent with District grading policy as determined by the Board of Trustees of the school district in which the teacher is employed [See [TEC §28.0214](#) and [EIA\(LOCAL\)](#)]. The Board's determination may not be appealed.

Questions about grade calculation should first be discussed with the teacher. If the question is not resolved, the student or parent may request a conference with the principal in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).

For additional information about academic grades and all related matters, please see the [HPHS Guidelines for Grading](#) which can be found on the Handbooks page of the HPHS website.

Major Grade (or Major Assessment)

A major grade is any assessment that is classified within the "Major Grade" category in the teacher's Skyward gradebook.

Incomplete Grades

A grade status of "Incomplete" may be assigned for extenuating circumstances. All "Incompletes" must be approved by the appropriate administrator and will be considered on an individual basis. Students who have an "Incomplete" are ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities until the "INC" is replaced by a passing grade.

HPHS A/B Assessment Calendar

In order to help balance the academic workload of our students, HPHS implements an A/B calendar for major assessments. This calendar defines the days that a teacher can administer a major assessment or when a major assessment is due. You can access this calendar on the HPHS website.

Grade Reports and Conferences

Progress Reports and report cards with each student's performance and absences in each class or subject are issued at least once every nine weeks.

Grade Reports

Grade reports will be distributed online via [Skyward Family/Student Access](#) at the close of each nine-week grading period with numeric grades of 70 to 100 used to indicate the quality of passing work. Grades below 70 indicate the student failed to meet the standard of mastery for that course during that grading period. The grades of two nine-week periods are averaged with the semester examination grade to constitute the semester average. Each grading period will be 40% of the semester grade, and the final exam will count as 20%.

Progress Reports

Progress reports also will be distributed online via [Skyward Family/Student Access](#) during the fourth week of each nine-week grading period. While these reports usually carry an approximate grade average, their primary purpose is to give the impressions of teachers as to specific attitudes, weaknesses, and strengths, scholastic or otherwise, which may influence a student's progress. It may be possible for a pupil to be passing at the end of the four-week period and not be passing at the end of the nine weeks.

The district uses an electronic program to communicate academic information about a student, including for grade reports and progress reports. An electronic signature will be accepted by the district, but parents are entitled to request a handwritten signature of acknowledgment instead. All parents (whether the student is passing or failing any classes) will have to electronically sign the grade report before it can be viewed. Parents can still look at grades in the gradebook without any restrictions.

Parents and students can access grades in Skyward at any time to verify student progress before and after an official progress or grade report is posted.

Academic Conferences

If a student receives a grade lower than a 70 in any class or subject at the end of the grading period, the parent is encouraged and will have the opportunity to schedule a conference and meet with the teacher of that class. Parents will have the opportunity to meet in-person with teachers at least twice annually.

Reteaching and Reassessing for Mastery

In accordance with HPISD Board Policy [EIA\(LOCAL\)](#), a student will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a failing grade. Situations regarding academic dishonesty are addressed in the "Expectations for Academic Honesty" section. The following criteria must be met for the student to be eligible to redo an assignment or retake a test for mastery:

- This policy applies only to initial major summative assignments, projects and tests. Daily assignments, quizzes and semester final examinations are excluded. Students are eligible for one retake per applicable assignment or assessment.
- Students will not be permitted to redo an assignment or retake a test if they received a grade of zero (0) on the original assignment or test.
- Students will not be permitted to redo an assignment if they received a grade of zero (0) on any part of a longer assignment with multiple elements (for example, research papers).
- Students will not be permitted to retake a test if they received a grade of zero (0) for any relevant preceding assignment that assessed essential knowledge and skills included on the test they are seeking to retake.
- Students must participate in any reasonable re-teaching or review activities assigned by the teacher in preparation for redoing an assignment or retaking a test.
- Requests to redo an assignment or retake a test must be initiated by the student within 72 hours of the posting of the assignment or test grade on Skyward Family Access.
- Assignments or tests eligible to be redone or retaken must be scheduled and completed within five (5) school days from the date and time of the student's request. If the student fails to complete a redo or retake as scheduled, the student will lose his or her eligibility to

redo the assignment or retake the test.

- Students will not be permitted to redo an assignment or retake a test on the final day of a progress report/evaluation period or a nine week grading period.
- Students eligible for a redone assignment or assessment will earn the higher of the grades between the original assignment or assessment and any redone assignments or assessments. The maximum redone or retaken grade will be 70%.
- All current UIL and HPISD policies concerning the student's eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities will still apply.

Grade Point Averages (GPAs)

Grade point averages are calculated each semester to the third decimal place. At the end of the first semester of the sophomore year and every semester thereafter, the weighted grade point average representing the 10th percentile in a class will be reported to that class. The cumulative grade point average is computed on the basis of final semester grades from the ninth grade through the twelfth. Transfer grades from accredited schools that students new to HPISD have previously attended will be calculated into the grade point average in accordance with HPISD Board Policy [EIC\(LOCAL\)](#).

Grades earned from non-accredited schools are not transferable. Credits may be earned by meeting the required standard of mastery with prior instruction through credit by examination (CBE) to replace transfer credits from non-accredited institutions. Grades earned through CBEs, to replace transfer credits from non-accredited institutions, will be calculated into the grade point average.

<u>Grade Point System</u>			
Numeric Value	*Category I	**Category II	***Category III
97-above	5	4.5	4
93-96	4.8	4.3	3.8
90-92	4.6	4.1	3.6
87-89	4.4	3.9	3.4
83-86	4.2	3.7	3.2
80-82	4.0	3.5	3.0
77-79	3.8	3.3	2.8
73-76	3.6	3.1	2.6
71-72	3.4	2.9	2.4
70	3.0	2.5	2.0
60-69	1.0	1.0	1.0
Below 60	0.0	0.0	0.0

* Category I: AP courses and courses that require AP pre-requisite

** Category II: Honors, & TAG courses

*** Category III: All other courses

For additional information concerning the HPHS Grade Point System and the characteristics of Category I, II, & III courses, please see the [HPHS Academic Planning Guide](#) (APG) and HPISD Board Policy [EIC\(LOCAL\)](#).

Repeating a Course

All grades earned at HPHS are recorded on the student's transcript. GPA is calculated averaging all grades earned for graduation credit. Courses with a passing grade may not be repeated for credit or GPA purposes.

Non-GPA Course Exemptions for Juniors and Seniors

Pursuant to [EIC\(LOCAL\)](#), beginning with the 2026-27 school year, each student in grades 10, 11, and 12 shall be permitted to choose a total of two credits per year, for a total of no more than 6 credits on a student's final transcript, for numerical non-GPA grading from the list of eligible non-GPA courses as designated in appropriate District publications. These courses are indicated in the course descriptions and include HPHS Athletics and PE courses, Cheer, Belles, Dance, Art, Band, Colorguard, Choir, Orchestra, Theatre Arts, Debate, Robotics, Journalism classes, including Yearbook & Newspaper, and Audio Video Production. Students will select whether they want numerical non-GPA weighted grading for an eligible course during course selection. The selection may be changed via a form on the counseling website until the 10th day of school. Completed electronic forms must be submitted by 4 PM on the 10th day of the school year.

Note: Students should only consider taking a GPA exemption if they have or anticipate having a cumulative GPA above 4.0

Physical Education Credit for Graduation & GPA Calculation

Students may earn one credit per academic year for Athletics, including off-campus physical activity, toward the 26 required credits for graduation. All PE/Athletics courses taken, including off-campus physical activity, will count in the calculation of the GPA. [See HPISD Board Policy [EIC\(LOCAL\)](#)].

Off-Campus Physical Activity

Students are given the option of earning Physical Education (PE) credit by enrolling in an Off-Campus Physical Activity (OCPA) program for **activities that are NOT offered at HPHS**. These programs include such activities as field hockey, lacrosse, crew teams and competitive horseback riding. OCPA does **NOT** include programs such as tennis, gymnastics or golf.

If a student tries out for a school team and does not make the team, the student can apply for an OCPA waiver. The HPHS coach must verify that a student tried out and was cut from the team. Additional information and applications for OCPA can be found on the Counseling page of the HPHS website (click [HERE](#)).

Class Rank

A student's class rank shall not be reported, except for the top ten percent of a given class. Class rank shall not appear on any student's academic achievement record (transcript).

GPA cutoffs for rank will be posted in Naviance for grades 10 through 12 in September, January and June of each school year.

The District shall provide students ranked in the top ten percent a certification of class rank containing the student's numerical rank in class. When the District provides a top ten percent student's academic achievement record (transcript) to a college or university, it shall also provide a copy of the certification of class rank.

Initial notification of a student's top ten percent ranking shall be provided in the fall of his or her senior year.

Final top ten percent ranking shall be determined at the end of the student's senior year.

Ties: In case of a tie for the top ten percent, the District shall calculate the GPA to the number of decimal places necessary to break the tie.

Pursuant to HPISD Board Policy [EIC\(LOCAL\)](#): Exclusions apply to all students enrolled in the District high school and to transfer students after a student is enrolled in the District and after all transfer credits are calculated into the transfer student's GPA pursuant to this policy. Please go to EIC(LOCAL) to see details regarding these exclusions.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Academic Support Center (ASC)

The ASC (Room C212) is a testing center that serves as an additional support for students served under our special programs (e.g., Special Education or Section 504). Teachers have the option to work with the ASC staff member to schedule a time as needed for students to take an assessment under the supervision of the ASC staff member. The ASC staff member will provide the supports outlined in a student's IEP or 504 plan if they take their assessment in the ASC.

Library Media Center

The Library Media Center is open Monday through Friday, from 7:45 am to 3:45 pm. Students may access the Library Media Center before school, during lunch, or after school. They may also go during class time, but only with the written permission of a teacher.

A valid student ID is required to check out materials from the library. Students may check out reading materials for three weeks. Materials must be returned or the check out status must be renewed by the end of that three week period.

Students may also check out a chromebook on a day-to-day basis if they are having issues with their district provided device. These chromebooks need to be checked out at the start of the day and returned at the end of the day.

For more information, please visit the [HPHS Library Media Center webpage](#).

Conferences with Teachers

Ongoing communication among teacher, student, and parent is essential to student success. Parents may communicate with teachers via phone, email, or personal conference. Parents will be given at least 2 opportunities for in-person parent conferences annually. Each classroom teacher has a period each day designated for conferences and/or teacher preparation. Parents may also contact the teacher to schedule an appointment for an extended conference.

Office Hours/Academic Help

Teachers are available before and/or after school for student conferences and academic assistance. Office/tutoring hours are posted in teachers' classrooms, on class information sheets, and on the teachers' Canvas pages. Specific office hours for all teachers may be found in the page for each department under the Academics tab of the [HPHS Website](#).

Textbooks

The HPHS Bookroom is located in C104. Each student is issued textbooks using a bar coding system. Students are responsible for maintaining and turning in the textbooks they are issued by the last day of the school year. A late fee is assessed after the due date. If students turn in books barcoded to other students, they are still responsible for finding and turning in their own textbooks to prevent being assessed a fine for a lost book. Students also are responsible for damage to books they are issued, even if the book is returned by another student.

Textbook policies are posted in the Bookroom and on the HPHS website under the "Student" tab. Bills will be mailed to the student's address of record no later than ten (10) business days after the last day of final exams. **Until students take care of their obligation to maintain and turn in**

textbooks previously issued, they forfeit the right to check out additional textbooks. Since students and parents are responsible for returning any assigned textbooks in acceptable condition, we recommend that students cover their textbooks. However, **use of commercially available, stretch-fabric book covers is prohibited, as these cause considerable damage to the book when removed.**

To view textbooks that are checked out in their name, students can:

1. Go to destiny.hpisd.org
2. Choose “High Schools,” “Highland Park High School”
3. In the upper right corner, click “Login”
4. Use your HPHS network login (first.last)
5. In upper left corner, choose “My Info”

Students With Learning Difficulties

For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, all school districts and open enrollment charter schools must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Response to Intervention (RtI) and/or Multi-Tiered Systems and Supports (MTSS). The implementation of RtI/MTSS has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts and charter schools to meet the needs of all struggling students.

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parents may contact the student’s school counselor to learn about the school’s overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for a special education evaluation or for a Section 504 evaluation to determine if the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A parent may request an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services at any time.

Special Education Referrals

If a parent makes a written request for an initial evaluation for special education services to the director of special education services or an administrative employee of the school district or open enrollment charter school, the district or charter school must respond no later than 15 school days after receiving the request. At that time, the district or charter school must give the parent a prior written notice of whether it agrees to or refuses to evaluate the student, along with a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards. If the school district or charter school agrees to evaluate the student, it must also give the parent the opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation.

Please note that a request for a special education evaluation may be made verbally and does not need to be in writing. Districts and charter schools must still comply with all federal prior written notice and procedural safeguard requirements and the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating children who are suspected of being a child with a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the district or charter school to respond within the 15-school-day timeline.

If the district or charter school decides to evaluate the student, it must complete the student’s initial evaluation and evaluation report no later than 45 school days from the day it receives a parent’s written consent to evaluate the student. However, if the student is absent from school

during the evaluation period for three or more school days, the evaluation period will be extended by the number of school days equal to the number of school days that the student is absent.

There is an exception to the 45-school-day timeline. If a district or charter school receives a parent's consent for the initial evaluation at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last instructional day of the school year, it must complete the written report and provide a copy of the report to the parent by June 30 of that year. However, if the student is absent from school for three or more days during the evaluation period, the June 30th due date no longer applies. Instead, the general timeline of 45 school days plus extensions for absences of three or more days will apply.

Upon completing the evaluation, the district or charter school must give the parent a copy of the evaluation report at no cost.

Additional information regarding special education is available from the district or charter school in a companion document titled Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process.

Section 504 Referrals

Each school district or charter school must have standards and procedures in place for the evaluation and placement of students in the district's or charter school's Section 504 program. Districts and charter schools must also implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes notice, an opportunity for a parent or guardian to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the parent or guardian and representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

Contact Person for Special Education or Section 504 Referrals

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for special education services or for Section 504 services is the student's school counselor (refer to page 8).

Additional Information

The following websites provide information and resources for students with disabilities and their families.

- [Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process](#)
- [Partners Resource Network](#)
- [Special Education Information Center](#)
- [Texas Project First](#)

HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

Honor Graduates

Honors at graduation include the following:

- Valedictorian*
- Salutatorian*
- Top Ten Graduates**
- Summa Cum Laude***
- Magna Cum Laude***
- Cum Laude***

*The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the two students with the highest and second highest weighted grade point averages who have been enrolled in the District continuously for all four years of high school.

** The Top Ten graduates shall be the senior students with the ten highest weighted grade point averages whether or not they have been continuously enrolled in the District throughout high school.

*** Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Cum Laude honors will be based on achieving the following weighted grade point average thresholds:

- Summa Cum Laude: 4.400
- Magna Cum Laude: 4.250
- Cum Laude: 4.150

HP Scot Service Awards

HP Scots Service Awards are given at the end of each school year. All students are eligible each year to receive an HP Scot Service Award. Students must earn at least 100+ service hours between April 10 of the previous school year to April 10 of the current school year. Hours must be entered before the date of April 10 of the current school year to count toward HP Service Awards for that year. Award levels are as follows:

- Bronze, 100 – 174
- Silver, 175 – 249
- Gold, 250+ hours.

For this award only, the accumulation of hours starts back at zero on April 11 of the previous school year. Students may earn an HP Scot Service Award each year.

Servant Leadership Award

Servant Leadership Award is given during Senior Honors Day to the senior with the most service hours earned over their high school career. Awards are given to the top service hour earning students. The cut-off point for the number of hours will vary each year depending on the involvement of that year's graduating class. The cutoff for receiving the award will be May 1 of the current school year.

Community Service Requirements are managed by the Community Service Council (CSC) faculty advisors Tyson Peterson and Stephanie Hawsey. Contact information for CSC sponsors may be found on the [Community Service Website](#).

HPHS HONOR CODE - Expectations for Academic Honesty

Honor Code Pledge

A. Full Pledge – to be signed by all students enrolled in HPHS, usually upon enrollment

I pledge to maintain academic integrity throughout my four years at Highland Park High School and to exemplify Highland Park ISD's values of Integrity, Community, and Leadership as I learn course information to the best of my ability. I am committed to Highland Park's mission statement: "enter to learn, go forth to serve."

B. Shorter Pledge – to be signed by all students on all assessments

I pledge I have neither given nor received unauthorized help on this assignment.

I. Introduction

Highland Park High School is a community committed to a culture of integrity, trust, and mutual respect. To affirm and preserve these ideals, all Highland Park High School students commit to sign the Highland Park High School Honor Code Pledge upon enrollment and honor it by maintaining academic honesty and personal responsibility throughout their academic career. In so doing, all students acknowledge the definitions and consequences of academic dishonesty outlined below.

II. Shared Commitments

The Honor Code represents the highest possible expression of shared values among the members of the HPHS community – students, teachers, and administrators; it necessitates a commitment and a shared responsibility amongst all members to encourage and protect a culture of academic honesty.

A. Students

Students commit to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty and to fully and immediately report all acts of academic dishonesty to which they are a witness. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

- Unauthorized assistance on any assignment.
- Unauthorized or inappropriate use of artificial intelligence (AI, Chat GPT, etc.)
- All forms of plagiarism, including copying from or using sources without proper attribution or citation, failing to use quotation marks for statements taken from others, failing to acknowledge information or ideas borrowed from any source, or the unauthorized or inappropriate use of another student's work
- Unauthorized use of intellectual property
- Unauthorized use of any technological device during an assessment (e.g. cell phones, smart watches, internet browsers, etc.)
- Unauthorized use of a "cheat sheet" or any material during an assessment that has not been approved by the teacher
- Forgery of another's signature
- The act of aiding another student on an assignment or assessment in an inappropriate or unauthorized manner
- Receiving material that is meant to aid on an assignment or assessment in an inappropriate or unauthorized manner and not fully and honestly reporting this to a school administrator including the identity of the person that sent the material to them.

B. Teachers

Teachers commit to:

- Teach or review the correct use of sources and citations when assigning work.
- Structure conditions during testing to alleviate the possibility of cheating (e.g., using lock-down browsers, walking the classroom, etc.).
- Specify the types of collaboration or assistance that are permitted.
- Specify when it is acceptable for students to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) on any part of an assignment and the expectations to cite and/or explain the use of AI.
- Ensure all assignments are relevant for mastering course content and due within a realistic time period to reduce the temptation to cheat.
- Report all suspected violations of the Honor Code to the appropriate administrator.

C. Administrators

Administrators commit to:

- Ensure that all teachers, students, and parents receive the Honor Code.
- Contribute to a school-wide environment that encourages adherence to the Honor Code.
- Refer cases to the Honor Council when deemed necessary.
- Maintain accurate records of all Honor Code violations.
- Ensure the Honor Code is being applied consistently throughout the school.
- Provide Professional Development that supports teachers in implementing best practices for academic honesty.

III. Degrees of Academic Dishonesty and Related Consequences

Consequences for all acts of academic dishonesty shall be appropriate to the degree of the offense as outlined below. Each instance of academic dishonesty will be reported by the teacher to the appropriate assistant principal. All infractions will be documented by the assistant principal, allowing offenses to be tracked across classes. Repeated violations, even in different subjects, will be treated as cumulative and subject to escalating consequences.

• First Degree

The first occurrence of academic dishonesty, as defined above, on any homework or daily work shall be in the first degree and result in:

1. A zero on the assignment
2. Retake available to the student up to a maximum of 50

• Second Degree

The second occurrence of academic dishonesty, as defined above, on any homework or daily work or the first occurrence of academic dishonesty on any major or minor assignment, project, or test shall be in the second degree and result in:

- A zero on the assignment
- Retake available to the student up to a maximum of 50
- Suspension from participating in honor societies, Student Council, Honor Council and other extracurricular leadership positions for a period of six weeks

• Third Degree

Any subsequent violation following a second degree offense shall be in the third degree and result in:

- A zero on the assignment
- Student is ineligible for retake
- Removal from or prohibition from applying to honor societies, Student Council, Honor Council, and other extracurricular leadership positions
- **Fourth Degree**
Any subsequent violation following a third degree offense shall be in the fourth degree and result in:
 - A zero on the assignment
 - Student is ineligible for retake
 - Three days of In-School Suspension (ISS) in addition to the appropriate consequences outlined above
 - Record of the infraction and associated discipline placed in the student's disciplinary file

IV. Honor Council

A. Roles of the Honor Council

The Highland Park High School Honor Council exists to promote a culture of integrity and honesty, educate all students about academic integrity, and encourage peer accountability for academic integrity throughout the school. This role may include speaking at school assemblies, arranging outside speakers related to integrity, visiting classrooms, consulting with teachers and staff, sharing information at Honor Council elections, determining questions for the Honor Council application, or visiting elementary/middle schools.

The Honor Council also serves to provide students an appropriate forum where they may be heard when there is a disputed allegation of academic dishonesty. After careful deliberation, the Council will provide their assessment of innocence or guilt as well as any recommendations for resolution to the accused student's administrator. This is an advisory role. The final determination and consequences are determined by the administrator. Regardless of the outcome, the Honor Council's focus is to provide the accused student with a learning opportunity regarding the importance of academic integrity and ensure the student is fully aware of the damage that can and does occur in settings after high school should future dishonesty reoccur.

B. Membership in the Honor Council

The Honor Council will consist of nine members – four seniors, three juniors, and two sophomores. Each spring, one junior, one sophomore, and two freshmen will be elected to the Honor Council. Candidates will submit an application, which will be reviewed by the current Honor Council. The Council will then reduce the application pool to five student candidates from each grade level. These fifteen candidates will then be interviewed by members of the Honor Council, who will select their top three candidates from each grade level to be placed on the ballot. These nine finalists will be introduced to the student body at an assembly, and the election will be held immediately following the assembly. The candidates for each grade level with the most votes from students in their grade level will be added to the Honor Council. New members will begin participating in all Honor Council hearings immediately. Once elected, members serve on the Honor Council until graduation, unless disqualified due

to an Honor Code or other serious academic or conduct violation. Whenever an opening on the Council occurs, the student finalist for the grade level with the opening who received the next highest votes in the most recent election will be offered a seat on the council.

Honor Council members are expected to attend all hearings unless a legitimate conflict exists. If a member fails to attend more than one hearing without notifying the school sponsor in advance, they may be dismissed from the Council.

ATTENDANCE

Good academic performance is closely related to regular attendance. Poor attendance usually results in poor academic performance. Absenteeism on a large scale impedes instruction and interferes with the entire teaching and learning process.

State law requires students to attend school daily during each full academic year until they reach the age of 18 or until they graduate.

If a student must miss school, a parent or guardian should contact the appropriate attendance office on the morning of the absence before 9:00 AM.

Attendance Offices

A – Lee	214-780-3714	Room C100
Leh – Z	214-780-3710	Room C100

Reporting Absences to the Attendance Office

For attendance audit and credit review purposes, on the day a student returns to school following an absence, the student must bring a note to the attendance office signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence, the date and time missed, and a telephone number for verification.

A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted unless the student is 18 or older **and** living independently from the parent or guardian.

If the student begins classes or returns to school on the same day that he/she has a documented health care appointment, then the absence will not count for the purpose of final exam exemption consideration or the minimum required attendance to receive credit. Original documentation from a medical facility must include the name of the doctor or facility, an authorized original signature, and the specific dates and times for which the student is to be excused.

Minimum Required Attendance

To receive credit or a final grade in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days the class is offered may receive credit or a final grade for the class if he or she completes a plan approved by the principal that allows the student to fulfill the instructional requirements for the class. If a student is involved in a criminal or juvenile court proceeding, the approval of the judge presiding over the case will also be required before the student receives credit or a final grade for the class. If a student attends less than 75 percent of the days a class is offered or has not completed the plan approved by the principal, then the student will be referred to the Attendance Review Committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit or a final grade lost because of absences. (See HPISD Board Policy [FEC](#).)

If the faculty Attendance Review Committee finds that there are no extenuating circumstances for absences or if the student does not meet the conditions set by the committee to earn or regain credit, **the student will not receive credit for the class.** The student or parent may appeal the Attendance Review Committee's decision to the District Board of Trustees by filing a written request with the superintendent in accordance with HPISD Board Policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#).

When a student is denied credit due to lack of attendance:

- The student may be assigned additional disciplinary consequences.
- **The student is ineligible to receive a TEA Verification of Enrollment (VOE) attendance form, which is necessary for driver's license and renewal.**
- The student must repeat the course in order to get credit toward graduation.

Doctor's Note after an Absence for Illness

Upon return to school, a student absent for more than five consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school.

Should the student develop a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's absence from school in order to determine whether the absence or absences will be excused or unexcused [See HPISD Board Policy [FEC\(LOCAL\)](#)].

Driver's License Attendance Verification (VOE Forms)

Students under the age of eighteen who have not graduated from high school must be currently enrolled in school and meet minimum attendance requirements in order to be licensed to operate a motor vehicle in the State of Texas. A form to verify enrollment and attendance may be required in order for a student to obtain or to renew a driver's license. Verification of enrollment (VOE) forms are available in the student's attendance office.

In order to qualify for a TEA VOE form, students must not have more than 10% absences in any class in the semester immediately preceding the application for the form. Students with more than 10% unexcused absences are ineligible to receive the required form until the completion of a full semester with acceptable attendance.

Excused Absences

A student who has an excused absence has the right to make-up assignments or assessments missed during the absence for full credit and without penalty. An excused absence is defined in the TEA Student Education Attendance Accounting Handbook and by board policy. [See the TEA Student Attendance Accounting Handbook and [FEA\(LEGAL\)](#) and [FEA\(LOCAL\)](#)]

Unexcused Absences

A student who has an unexcused absence has a right to access assignments they miss during their absence, but whether the work is allowed to be made up for credit is at the discretion of the teacher and the student may receive a zero for those assignments.

Make-up Work

Students are required to do all work missed as a result of an excused absence, and full credit will be given for all assignments. Even though a student is given the opportunity to make-up work missed by excused absences, it is impossible for the student to regain the full benefit of the regular class; therefore, absences should occur only when absolutely necessary.

When a student returns to school after an absence, he should check with his teachers before school concerning the work missed. If a student is absent for one day only and a test was

announced prior to the day he was absent, he will be expected to take the test on the day he returns.

Students who plan to be absent for school-sponsored events, scheduled medical appointments, or seniors and juniors who are making college visits, must turn in assignments prior to the absence or make prior arrangements with their teachers to make-up the work.

The amount of time allowed for completion of make-up work will be left for the individual teacher to determine. The burden of responsibility for obtaining and completing make-up work rests with the student.

Tardies

Highland Park High School regards punctuality as essential to preserving the integrity of the learning environments in our classrooms and to student success. Persistent tardiness to school or to individual classes causes distractions and interruptions to the classroom which are detrimental to the student and to the class.

All students must report to their attendance office and sign in any time they enter the building after their first class has started.

Every student is expected to be in the class when the tardy bell rings at the beginning of each period. The beginning of each class period is indicated on the bell schedule published in this handbook. A bell is scheduled on most school days to help students and teachers keep track of the start and end of the class periods.. Students who are not in the classroom at the start of the class period will be marked tardy. **Every three (3) unexcused tardies to a given class within each semester equals one unexcused absence in that class.**

Students are considered absent if they arrive to class more than fifteen minutes after the start of that class period. The absence will be counted against the minimum required attendance law, which may be reviewed by the Attendance Review Committee. Students are subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to Lunch Detention, Saturday School, and In School Suspension for excessive tardiness.

Leaving School during the Day

Please remember that student attendance is crucial to learning. We ask that appointments be scheduled outside of school hours as much as possible.

State attendance regulations require that parental consent be obtained before any student is allowed to leave campus for any part of the school day, and **no students may leave the campus without checking out** through their attendance office:

A – Lee	214-780-3714	Room C100
Leh – Z	214-780-3710	Room C100

A student planning to leave school during the day **must bring a written request from a parent. The request should** give a reason, time of departure and time for return, and doctor's name and telephone number, if applicable. If the student's parent authorizes the student to leave campus unaccompanied, the written request provided by the parent **must be submitted to the**

appropriate attendance office in advance of the absence, no later than two hours prior to the student's need to leave campus. Except for emergencies, notes for dismissal should be brought to the student's attendance office before 8:05 a.m. on the day of the dismissal. **A phone call received from the parent may be accepted, but the school may ultimately require a note to be submitted for documentation purposes.**

Once the appropriate attendance office has received information that the student's parent consents to the student leaving campus, a pass will be issued to the student to hand to his or her teacher. The student must sign out through the appropriate attendance office and sign in upon his or her return, if the student returns the same day.

Additional Guidelines for Leaving School During the Day

- Seniors with a lunch and/or open period may leave campus without authorization from campus administration and without signing out through their attendance office. Seniors must exit through the Student Entrance on Westchester and must show their school ID to the security personnel as they leave and enter the building.
- If a student returns within the time stated on the written request from the parent, an additional written excuse is not necessary.
- If a student becomes ill during the school day and the school nurse or other district personnel determines that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the student's parent and document the parent's wishes regarding release from school. If a student is allowed to leave campus by himself or herself, the nurse will document the time of day the student was released.
- Students who leave and return to school during the school day must re-enter the building through the Student Entrance on Westchester Drive.

Leaving the school without permission at any time after arrival is considered a **Code of Conduct violation**, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action.

Absences for Extracurricular and Other Activities

By District and University Interscholastic League (UIL) policy, a student may not be permitted to miss a scheduled academic class to attend an extracurricular activity in which the student is not competing.

Nonattendance

Students who are absent from school for a portion or the full day without permission from their parents or the school are considered truant and are subject to disciplinary action. Students who leave campus without signing out through their attendance office will also be considered in violation of school rules.

If the student is absent without an excuse for 10 or more days or parts of days in a six-month period,

- 1) the student's parent is subject to prosecution under [Section 25.093](#) of the Texas Education Code (TEC); and
- 2) the student is subject to prosecution under TEC [Section 25.094](#).

An offense under TEC Sections 25.093 and 25.094 is a class C misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of \$25.00 to \$500.00 per day for each absence.

Attendance Review Committee

State law requires each campus to appoint an Attendance Review Committee to hear petitions for class credit by students who have been denied credit due to excessive absences. This committee, composed of classroom teachers, counselors, and administrators, is required to review the records of students who have been denied credit in order to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances that would justify awarding credit.

Certification of Absence Due to Severe Illness or Treatment

If a student is absent because of a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment including behavioral and/or mental health that makes a student's attendance infeasible, a parent must provide certification from a physician licensed to practice in Texas specifying the student's illness and the anticipated period of absence related to the illness or treatment.

Assignments for Students with Prolonged Excused Absences

In case of prolonged absence that is excused, it may be necessary to ask that the teachers prepare special assignments that may be worked on while the student is recuperating from an illness. Such requests should be made by contacting the student's assistant principal. Parents should give the assistant principal the dates for which assignments are needed. Advanced notice is required, after which assignments may be picked up in the student's attendance office or as otherwise arranged.

BEHAVIOR & STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students at Highland Park High School are known for their maturity, mutual respect, compliance, positive attitude, and friendliness. HP Scots recognize that each student is responsible for his or her own behavior and that generations of HPHS students have set the standard for the highest level of student conduct of any high school in the nation.

All behavior issues are handled on an individual basis. Misbehavior, disturbance, or disrespect in a classroom is not tolerated.

Campus Behavior Coordinators

By law, each campus has a campus behavior coordinator to apply discipline management techniques and administer consequences for certain student misconduct, as well as provide a point of contact for student misconduct. The Campus Behavior Coordinator for HPHS is Dr. Kevin Hunt. Each Assistant Principal has been designated the responsibility of overseeing disciplinary matters and assigning discipline to students in their alpha: Annuar Ortiz (A-Ew), Katie Navickas (Fa-Lee), Michelle Shumate (Leh-Rou) and Troy Gray (Row-Z) who can be contacted by phone at 214-780-3700. The assistant principals are the first point of contact for parents and students regarding disciplinary matters.

Student Code of Conduct

The State of Texas delegates authority to set behavior expectations and to manage student discipline to the Board of Trustees of the Highland Park Independent School District and its employees. Teachers, substitute teachers, and administrators are vested by state law with complete authority at all times. For specific information about student behavior standards and disciplinary consequences, please see the HPISD Student Code of Conduct which you can find on the [Handbook](#) page of the HPISD website.

Conflict between Resources

In the event of a conflict between the HPISD Student Code of Conduct and the *Kiltie*, the Student Code of Conduct shall prevail because it is adopted by the HPISD Board of Trustees, which gives it the force of District policy.

HPISD Board Policy, available online at <https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=366>, supersedes all other sources of information. Although the *Kiltie* is updated, accurate, and consistent with District policy and state laws at the time of publication, information in the *Kiltie* is subject to change. Any such changes will be communicated to students and the community immediately via the HPHS website and/or other sources.

Jurisdiction of the School

In general, the District has authority to supervise students and administer discipline whenever the interest of the school is involved, both on or off school property, in connection with or independent of school-sponsored activities and/or classes. The District's disciplinary authority applies:

- during the school day and while the student is going to or coming from school on District transportation;
- within 300 feet of District property;

- while the student is participating in any activity during the school day on District property or within 300 feet of school property;
- while the student is in attendance at any school-related event or activity, regardless of time or location;
- for any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location;
- when the student retaliates or threatens retaliation against a District employee, regardless of time and location;
- when the student has committed a felony, as defined by the Texas Education Code;
- when the student is involved in criminal mischief on or off District property or at a school-related event.

See the HPISD Student Code of Conduct for a more detailed explanation of the school and District's jurisdiction to discipline students. For a copy of the Student Code of Conduct, please click [HERE](#).

General Standards for Student Conduct

Each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
- Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
- Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet District and campus standards of grooming and dress.
- Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other District staff and volunteers.
- Respect the property of others, including District property and facilities.
- Cooperate with and assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Adhere to the standards of academic honesty established by HPHS and HPISD.
- Adhere to the requirements of the Student Code of Conduct.

ID Cards

Students are issued ID cards to identify them as HPHS students, and these ID cards must be carried at all times when students are on campus or at school-sponsored or school related activities and events. While on campus or at school-sponsored or school related activities and events, students are required to display their IDs at all times when requested to do so by HPHS administration, faculty, or staff.

ID cards are also required to check books out of the library, to check out textbooks, and to enter school events. Senior students must show their ID in order to leave and return to campus at lunch or during their open periods. Replacement ID cards cost \$20 and are made in the Library Media Center.

School Dress

The function of a dress code is to assist a student in becoming familiar with the types of dress that are appropriate for a variety of situations. All students should present a well-groomed and appropriate appearance at school.

Highland Park High School dress code guidelines are as follows:

- Dresses, skirts and shorts will be school-appropriate in length. Straps must be 2" in width. Tank tops, T-back tops, halter tops and spaghetti straps are not permitted.
- Undergarments, such as bras and boxers, must not be visible. Cleavage must be covered.
- Excessively tight or revealing clothing is not permitted. Leggings & jean leggings must be covered with a top that reaches finger-tip length.
- Students may not wear clothing that displays vulgar, lewd, or obscene writing and may not wear emblems that advertise or depict tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or weapons.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Pajamas and slippers may not be worn at school.

All final decisions on the appropriateness of school dress will rest with campus administrators. If a student violates the dress code, the student will be given the opportunity to correct the problem. If a student cannot correct the problem, the student will be assigned to ISS for the remainder of the day or until the problem is corrected.

Leaving the Classroom

Students are not permitted to be in the hallways during class time or lunchtime without teacher permission. Although students may go to an academic support center during their lunch periods, students should not be in any other part of the building without permission. Students must have a pass from the teacher to be excused from class to go to the Clinic.

Public Displays of Affection

All public displays of affection are prohibited on the campus of Highland Park High School. Students are subject to disciplinary action for public displays of affection.

Bullying

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic methods, or physical conduct against another student on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a District operated vehicle, and the behavior:

- Results in harm to the student or the student's property;
- Places a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or of damage to the student's property; or
- Is so severe, persistent, and pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment.

This conduct is considered bullying if it exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator(s) and the student victim and if it interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of the school.

Bullying is prohibited by the District and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, or ostracism. In some cases, bullying can occur through electronic methods, called "cyberbullying."

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, school counselor, principal, or another District employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct.

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying. The District will also contact the parents of the victim and of the student who was found to have engaged in the bullying. Available counseling options will be provided to these individuals, as well as to any students who have been identified as witnesses to the bullying.

Any retaliation against a student who reports an incident of bullying is prohibited.

Upon the recommendation of the administration, the District Board of Trustees may, in response to an identified case of bullying, decide to transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. In consultation with the student's parent(s), the student may also be transferred to another campus in the District. The parent of a student who has been determined by the District to be a victim of bullying may request that his or her child be transferred to another classroom or campus within the District.

A copy of the District's policy is available in the principal's office, superintendent's office, and on the District's website (please see HPISD Board Policy [FFI](#)). Procedures related to reporting allegations of bullying may also be found online in HPISD Board Policy [FFI](#).

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of an investigation may appeal through HPISD Board Policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#).

Hazing

Hazing means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off the campus directed against a student, by one person alone or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, maintaining membership in, or being a part of, any organization whose members are or include other students. The term includes:

- Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.
- Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student to mental stress, shame, or humiliation, or that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described above.

- Any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code.
- Coercing or using social pressure on an individual to make statements or take actions that are reasonably considered offensive, humiliating, or potentially harmful.

It is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct to participate in hazing, to participate in the planning of hazing, or to have knowledge of hazing but fail to take steps to prevent the hazing by reporting it to a teacher, coach, sponsor of the activity, or administrator.

If a student is the recipient of an email or a text message which discusses hazing activities, the student will be deemed to have knowledge of hazing for the purpose of imposing consequences under the Student Code of Conduct.

Dating Violence, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

The district believes that all students learn best in an environment free from dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and that their welfare is best served when they are free from this prohibited conduct while attending school. Students are expected to treat other students and district employees with courtesy and respect, to avoid behaviors known to be offensive, and to stop those behaviors when asked or told to stop. District employees are expected to treat students with courtesy and respect. The Board of Trustees has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly respond to inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. [See HPISD Board Policy [FFH](#).]

Dating Violence

Dating violence occurs when a person in a current or past dating relationship uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control the other person in the relationship. Dating violence also occurs when a person commits these acts against a person in a marriage or dating relationship with the individual who is or was once in a marriage or dating relationship with the person committing the offense. This type of conduct is considered harassment if the conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance. Examples of dating violence against a student may include, but are not limited to, physical or sexual assaults; name-calling; put-downs; threats to hurt the student, the student's family members, or members of the student's household; destroying property belonging to the student; threats to commit suicide or homicide if the student ends the relationship; threats to harm a student's current dating partner; attempts to isolate the student from friends and family; stalking; or encouraging others to engage in these behaviors.

Discrimination

Discrimination is defined as any conduct directed at a student on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law that negatively affects the student.

Harassment

Harassment, in general terms, is conduct so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; creates an

intimidating, threatening, hostile, or offensive educational environment; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance. Examples of harassment may include, but are not limited to, offensive or derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; threatening, intimidating, or humiliating conduct; offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property. In addition to dating violence as described above, two other types of prohibited harassment are described below.

Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Harassment

HPISD and HPHS strictly prohibit sexual harassment and gender-based harassment of any member of our school community by an employee, volunteer, or another student. Examples of sexual harassment may include, but not be limited to, touching private body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature; sexual advances; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact. Sexual harassment of a student by an employee or volunteer does not include necessary or permissible physical contact not reasonably construed as sexual in nature, such as comforting a child with a hug or taking the child's hand. However, romantic and other inappropriate social relationships, as well as all sexual relationships, between students and district employees are prohibited, even if consensual. Gender-based harassment includes harassment based on a student's gender, expression by the student of stereotypical characteristics associated with the student's gender, or the student's failure to conform to stereotypical behavior related to gender. Examples of gender-based harassment directed against a student, regardless of the student's or the harasser's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, may include, but not be limited to, offensive jokes, name-calling, slurs, or rumors; physical aggression or assault; threatening or intimidating conduct; or other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property.

All reports of student-student, student-adult, and/or adult-adult sexual harassment or gender-based harassment will be promptly and thoroughly investigated. Sexual harassment of any form will not be tolerated at school or school-related activities.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report of discrimination or harassment, including dating violence, is prohibited. Retaliation against a person who is participating in an investigation of alleged discrimination or harassment is also prohibited. A person who makes a false claim or offers false statements or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation, however, may be subject to appropriate discipline. Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

Reporting Procedures

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced dating violence, discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should immediately report the problem to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other District employee. The report may be made by the student's parent. [See HPISD Board Policy [FFH\(LOCAL\)](#) and [\(EXHIBIT\)](#) for other appropriate District officials to whom to make a report.] Upon receiving a report of prohibited conduct as defined by policy FFH, the District will determine whether the allegations, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct as defined by that policy. If not, the District will refer to HPISD Board [Policy FFI](#) to determine if the

allegations, if proven, would constitute bullying, as defined by law and that policy. If the alleged prohibited conduct, if proven, would constitute prohibited conduct and would also be considered bullying as defined by law and HPISD Board Policy FFI, an investigation of bullying will also be conducted. The district will promptly notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited conduct involving an adult associated with the District. In the event alleged prohibited conduct involves another student, the District will notify the parents of the student alleged to have experienced the prohibited conduct when the allegations, if proven, would constitute a violation as defined by HPISD Board Policy [FFH](#).

Investigation of Report

To the extent possible, the District will respect the privacy of the student; however, limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation and to comply with law. Allegations of prohibited conduct, which includes dating violence, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, will be promptly investigated. If a law enforcement or other regulatory agency notifies the District that it is investigating the matter and requests that the District delay its investigation, the District will resume the investigation at the conclusion of the agency's investigation. During the course of an investigation and when appropriate, the District will take interim action to address the alleged prohibited conduct. If the District's investigation indicates that prohibited conduct occurred, appropriate disciplinary action, and, in some cases, corrective action, will be taken to address the conduct. The District may take disciplinary and corrective action even if the conduct that is the subject of the complaint was not unlawful. All involved parties will be notified of the outcome of the District investigation within the parameters and limits allowed under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal in accordance with HPISD Board Policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#).

Gang-Free Zones

Certain criminal offenses, including gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next-highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. Gang-free zones include a school bus and any location in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any district-owned or leased property or campus playground.

In-School Suspension, Out-of-School Suspension, and Disciplinary Alternative Education Placement

Administrators may assign students to in-school suspension (ISS), out-of-school suspension (OSS), and disciplinary alternative education placement (DAEP) for violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

Students assigned to ISS all day must bring their own lunch at the time of arrival in ISS. Full-day ISS is from 8:10 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. Students may also be assigned to ISS part of the school day. Students that have open-campus or open-building privileges may have these privileges revoked and may be placed in ISS during any open period or during their lunch period.

Students are not allowed to attend or to participate in extracurricular activities during the time they are assigned to ISS, OSS, or DAEP. Students who are assigned a full day of ISS, OSS, or DAEP are prohibited from attending or participating in a school-sponsored activity until 8:10 a.m. on the following school day after the last day of their placement.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A student's eligibility to represent the school in any extracurricular event is determined by the eligibility rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and the District's Code of Conduct. Additional standards of eligibility may be required by organizations such as the National Honor Society, the Student Council, the Highland Belles, and Cheerleading.

Definition of Extracurricular Activity

19 TAC §76.1001, Subchapter AA:

(a) An extracurricular activity is an activity sponsored by the University Interscholastic League (UIL), the school district board of trustees, or an organization sanctioned by resolution of the board of trustees. The activity is not necessarily directly related to instruction of the essential knowledge and skills but may have an indirect relation to some areas of the curriculum. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, public performances, contests, demonstrations, displays, and club activities, with the exception of public performances specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(1) In addition, an activity shall be subject to the provisions for an extracurricular activity if any one of the following criteria apply:

- (A) the activity is competitive;
- (B) the activity is held in conjunction with another activity that is considered to be extracurricular;
- (C) the activity is held off campus, except in a case in which adequate facilities do not exist on campus;
- (D) the general public is invited; or
- (E) an admission is charged.

(2) A student ineligible to participate in an extracurricular activity, but who is enrolled in a state approved course that requires demonstration of the mastery of the essential knowledge and skills in a public performance, may participate in the performance subject to the following requirements and limitations.

- (A) Only the criterion listed in paragraph (1)(D) of this subsection applies to the performance.
- (B) The requirement for student participation in public is stated in the essential knowledge and skills of the course. The Commissioner of Education is not authorized to approve extracurricular organizations outside of school sponsored or UIL sponsored groups. Local boards of trustees are responsible for the sanctioning and approval of outside organizations as "extracurricular organizations" for their individual districts.

The Commissioner of Education is not authorized to approve extracurricular organizations outside of school sponsored or UIL sponsored groups. Local boards of trustees are responsible for the sanctioning and approval of outside organizations as "extracurricular organizations" for their individual districts.

Athletic Commitment to Excellence (ACE) Fee

The fee for participation in athletics is \$300. If a student participates in more than one sport per school year, the athletic fee is paid one time only.

Extracurricular Activities and Course Load

Any student who wishes to represent the school in any extracurricular activity, such as a UIL sport or scholastic event, must be enrolled in six credit-bearing courses and must pass all courses as designated by the UIL eligibility calendar.

Conflicts between Extracurricular Activities

The key to preventing and resolving conflicts between extracurricular activities is open communication among students, coaches, sponsors, and parents. Before signing up to participate in more than one sport and/or activity, the student must review the potential for conflict with both coaches/sponsors. If a review of schedules shows a pattern of conflicts or a major unbreakable conflict, students will need to choose the activity in which they will participate. Coaches and sponsors are responsible for providing students and parents with a schedule of the group's activities. Coaches and sponsors will resolve scheduling conflicts, and students will not be intimidated or penalized for any decision made to resolve scheduling conflicts. The relative importance of each event, the importance of each event to the student, the contribution the student can make, and how long the event has been scheduled are all important factors in this decision making process.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the coach and sponsor immediately when a conflict in scheduling becomes known.

In the event of a conflict between two groups, teams, sports, or activities, these general rules will guide the decision making. Academics take precedence over extracurricular activities, and actual competition and public performances take precedence over rehearsals or practices. This means that a classroom-required activity where attendance is mandatory for a grade will take precedence over all other activities (field trip, science project fair, choir or band performance). If one of the activities provides the student with credit in a class and the other doesn't, the student and his/her parent(s) must be informed of the possible consequences of not participating.

If a practice occurs at the same time in two activities, the practice time may be divided equally between the two activities. Students who commit to and who have rehearsed with a performing group or athletic team will be expected to perform/play unless other arrangements are worked out agreeably between the coaches/teachers/sponsors.

Participation in a playoff or championship meet, District, or state tournament activity, including regional, state, and national levels, will take priority over other activities. If a student should choose not to participate in the playoff, championship, regional, state, or national activity, he/she will not be permitted to participate in any activity on that date.

Extracurricular Code of Conduct

Student participation in extracurricular activities is encouraged. HPISD makes extracurricular activities available as an extension of the regular school program, with this important difference: participation in the regular curriculum is a right afforded to each student, while participation in the extracurricular program is a privilege that carries additional expectations for acceptable conduct. Because participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, HPISD is authorized to set higher standards for participants of extracurricular activities than it would for

those students who choose not to participate in these activities. Therefore, the HPISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct extends beyond the HPISD Student Code of Conduct not only in types of behavior prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline.

The term "extracurricular activities" as used in the HPISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct means all activities sanctioned by the Texas University Interscholastic League ("UIL") and for which the UIL conducts interscholastic competitions, including sports, music, and academic teams. In addition, the term "extracurricular activities" includes gymnastics, powerlifting, cheerleading, Scotsmen, Belles, Student Council, Honor Council, Community Service Council, Principal's Advisory Committee, and Academic Decathlon.

This Extracurricular Code of Conduct will be enforced with all students grades 5th - 12th participating in extracurricular activities regardless of:

- Whether school is in session;
- Whether the student is directly involved with the extracurricular activity at the time the prohibited conduct occurs;
- Whether the extracurricular activity is in-season;
- Where or when the conduct occurs.

It is possible that a student who violates the HPISD Student Code of Conduct will incur consequences from both the appropriate school administrator and from his or her coach or sponsor for the same particular violation. It is also possible that a student participating in extracurricular activities could violate the HPISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct and be subject to discipline by a coach or sponsor without having violated the HPISD Student Code of Conduct.

All sources of information, including hearsay, rumor, photographs, and information posted on the Internet, including social networking sites, may be considered by the Assistant Principal to determine if a violation of this code has occurred.

In case of a conflict between the Extracurricular Code of Conduct and any activity or sport specific campus handbook, the Extracurricular Code of Conduct will prevail.

Click [HERE](#) to find a copy of the HPISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Determining Academic Eligibility for First Six-Weeks of the School Year

All students who meet the criteria below are academically eligible at the beginning of each school year. These credit requirements are for extracurricular eligibility only; for grade classification credit requirements, see below.

- Grade 9 - Students must have been promoted from the 8th grade.
- Grade 10 - Students must have earned five accumulated credits.*
- Grade 11 - Students must have earned ten accumulated credits or five credits during the previous 12 months.*
- Grade 12 - Students must have earned fifteen accumulated credits or five credits during the previous 12 months.*

*These credits must count toward state graduation requirements; **credit by exam (CBE) do not impact UIL eligibility.**

Determining Academic Eligibility During the School Year

Students must meet the grade criteria for ALL courses at the checkpoints determined by the UIL in order to be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity (see UIL Eligibility Calendar below). The grade criteria for extracurricular eligibility are as follows:

- Category 1 Courses - Students must earn a grade of 60 or above.
- Category 2 Courses - Students must earn a grade of 65 or above.
- Category 3 Courses - Students must earn a grade of 70 or above.

Grades in audited courses have no impact on extracurricular eligibility.

Highland Park High School UIL Eligibility Calendar - 2026-2027

Friday, September 25, 2026 – 1st Six Week Grading Period Ends

Students regain or lose eligibility on Friday, October 2, 2026 at the time the regular school day normally ends. Students who begin the school year academically ineligible due to lack of credits or not being promoted may regain academic eligibility on October 2, 2026.

Friday, October 16, 2026 – 1st Nine Week Grading Period Ends

Students may regain or lose eligibility on Friday, October 23, 2026 at the time the regular school day normally ends provided a passing grade was achieved in all courses on October 16, 2026.

Friday, November 6, 2026 – 3 Week Evaluation Period Ends

Students may regain eligibility on Friday, November 13, 2026 at the time the regular school day normally ends provided a passing grade was achieved in all courses on November 6, 2026.

Thanksgiving Holidays – from the time school is dismissed on November 20, 2026 until classes resume on November 30, 2026, all students are academically eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

Friday, December 4, 2026 – 3 Week Evaluation Period Ends

Students may regain eligibility on **Friday, December 11, 2026** at the time the regular school day normally ends provided a passing grade was achieved in all courses on December 4, 2026. (Only checking students failing October 16th and November 6th.)

Friday, December 18, 2026 – 2nd Nine Week Grading Period Ends

Students may regain or lose eligibility on Wednesday, January 13, 2027 at the time the regular school day normally ends provided a passing grade was achieved in all courses on December 18, 2026.

December Holidays – from the time school is dismissed on December 18, 2026 until classes resume on January 6, 2027, all students are academically eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

Monday, January 25, 2027 – 3 Week Evaluation Period Ends

Students may regain eligibility on Monday, February 1, 2027 at the time the regular school day normally ends provided a passing grade was achieved in all courses on January 25, 2027.

Friday, February 12, 2027 – 3 Week Evaluation Period Ends

Students may regain eligibility on Friday, February 19, 2027 at the time the regular school day normally ends provided a passing grade was achieved in all courses on February 12, 2027. (Only checking students failing December 18th and January 25th.)

Friday, March 12, 2027 – 3rd Nine Week Grading Period Ends

Students may regain or lose eligibility on Monday, March 29, 2027 at the time the regular school day normally ends provided a passing grade was achieved in all courses on March 12, 2027.

Spring Break – from the time the regular school day normally ends on March 12, 2027 until classes resume on March 22, 2027, all students are academically eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

**Monday, April 12, 2027 – 3 Week Evaluation Period Ends*

Students may regain eligibility on Monday, April 19, 2027 at the time the regular school day would normally end provided a passing grade was achieved in all courses on April 12, 2027.

***If in school on Friday, March 26, 2027 and/or Monday, March 29, 2027 (Bad-Weather Makeup Days), please follow these dates:**

Friday, April 9, 2027 – 3rd Nine Week Grading Period Ends

Students may regain or lose eligibility on Friday, April 16, 2027 at the time the regular school day normally ends provided a passing grade was achieved in all courses on March 12, 2027.

Friday, April 30, 2027 – 3 Week Evaluation Period Ends

Students may regain eligibility on Friday, May 7, 2027 at the time the regular school day normally ends provided a passing grade was achieved in all courses on April 30, 2027. (Only checking students failing March 12th and April 12th.)

Losing Academic Eligibility

If a student fails to meet the eligibility grade criteria (after the first six weeks of the school year) listed above, **the student will lose eligibility seven calendar days after the END of the grading period.** For example: if the grading period ends on Friday at 3:35 p.m., a student with a failing grade will lose eligibility the following Friday at 3:35 p.m. Ineligible students **shall not** travel with the school organization to a contest, sit with them, or wear uniforms during a contest.

Regaining Academic Eligibility

Students may regain eligibility at the end of the seven calendar day waiting period following the last school day of the three-week evaluation/progress period if the Principal and teachers have determined the student is meeting the grade criteria in ALL courses (not just the failed course).

Incomplete Grades & Academic Eligibility

Students with an "incomplete" grade ("INC") **are ineligible** to participate in extracurricular activities until the "INC" is replaced with a passing grade.

Students with an incomplete in a course may regain their eligibility when the "INC" is replaced with a passing grade, provided:

- The "INC" was due to an excused absence.
- The work was made up in the amount of time specified by school District policy.

Students are expected to make up incomplete work **within two weeks** after the end of the grading period.

Extensions for extenuating circumstances must be approved by the appropriate administrator and will be considered on an individual basis.

Grade Changes & Academic Eligibility

The only situations in which a student's originally recorded failing grade may be changed to passing and the student's eligibility is restored are:

- there was a mechanical error in averaging or recording the original grade
- the teacher's grading procedure violated either local policy or state regulation, and the student would have received a passing grade if the correct policy and procedure had been followed.

Extra credit work or late work turned in after the grading or evaluation period is over, except for work to make up for an excused absence, **cannot** be counted when determining a student's eligibility for extracurricular activities.

Losing Eligibility Because of a Disciplinary Placements

Students who are assigned a full day of In-School Suspension (ISS), Out-of-School Suspension (OSS), or placed in the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) are prohibited from attending or participating in a school-sponsored activity until 8:10 a.m. on the following school day after last day of their placement.

Guidelines for Ineligible Students

While ineligible, a student may practice (scrimmages are considered a practice) or rehearse, but may not participate in a contest or performance (see the definition of an Extracurricular Activity below). Ineligible students may attend an athletic contest, but should be a spectator only. The ineligible student may not travel with the team, be in uniform, sit on the bench, or be assigned any team duties during the contest. Ineligible students cannot be required to attend a contest. Ineligible students may attend pep rallies and parades but cannot participate in the pep rally or parade. Ineligible students are permitted to be introduced during parent night activities as a member of a team or group. However, they may not be in uniform or seated with the student organization they represent during the event.

All activity coaches are responsible for the academic eligibility of the students who participate in their activity. If there are any questions concerning the eligibility or interpretation of the eligibility rules, please refer these questions to your director.

SPORTSMANSHIP - Expectations for Fan Behavior at Athletic Events

The HPISD Athletic Department expects that all HPISD students conduct themselves with exemplary character and class at all athletic events. All school discipline policies and rules apply to HPHS students at school activities whether on school property or away from school. Students or spectators who fail to exhibit good sportsmanship may be asked to leave the event and may face further disciplinary action.

Good Sportsmanship Code

By virtue of our Student Commitment Statement, our School Mission Statement, and our membership in the Texas University Interscholastic League, HPHS students agree to abide by the Good Sportsmanship Code:

- Maintain pride in self and school.
- Strive to keep high standards of conduct.
- Cheering is always encouraged for one's own team.
- No taunts, chants, noises, cheers, jeers, songs, profanity, signs, or motions directed to the opposing team, coach, school, or officials. Treat everyone with respect.
- Positive signs may be displayed for one's own team.
- No disrespect will be shown to the opposing team during introductions.
- No noise makers.
- Abide by the decisions of officials.
- Accept victory or defeat graciously.

Six Pillar of Character

According to the UIL Sportsmanship Manual, **sportsmanship is character displayed through athletic competition**. The UIL further defines sportsmanship with their "Six Pillars of Character":

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Caring
- Citizenship

Expectations for Acceptable Behavior

The UIL Sportsmanship Manual lists these expectations for acceptable behavior by student groups and by spectators:

- Always provide positive support for your team, rather than intimidating or ridiculing the other team.
- Assist cheerleaders with yells, chants, etc. and be a working part of pep rallies with preparation, organization, and involvement.
- Treat opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups with respect and enthusiasm.
- Conduct yourself in an exemplary manner. Remember that you represent your school both at home and away.

- Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will reflect positively on your team and school.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.
- Remember that school athletics are a learning experience and that mistakes are sometimes made.
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand and appreciate when certain situations take place.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event.
- Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unacceptable.

CLINIC

It is the goal of the HPISD School Health Service to provide health counseling, screening, referrals, and follow-up in order to maximize health for academic success.

The HPHS Clinic is designed to treat minor injuries and to act as a temporary “waiting room” for students who have become ill during the school day. Should a student become ill, only persons designated on the Health Information/Emergency Release Card will be contacted to pick up the student. All telephone numbers must be recorded on the Health Information/Emergency Release Card and updated immediately if changes occur during the school year.

Students will be required to have a pass from their teacher prior to coming to the clinic. Students who do not have a pass will be sent back to class.

Communicable Disease Control

If a communicable disease is suspected, the student will be sent home. Communicable diseases listed have mandatory exclusion from school until certain criteria are met. Please consult with the school nurse to ascertain the length of time your child must stay home from school. These include, but are not limited to chicken pox, head lice, viral hepatitis Type A, impetigo, measles, rubella, mumps, pink eye, ringworm of the scalp or body, scabies, strep throat and scarlet fever. Students with a temperature over 100.0F will be sent home.

Health Screening

Texas law mandates vision, hearing, and scoliosis screening for all 9th grade students and those that are new to the District.

Immunization

Texas law requires that all students enrolled in public schools have a current record of their immunization against certain diseases on file in the school they attend. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the student to provide the necessary immunization documentation. The parent or guardian will be notified of the need to update immunizations.

If for religious reasons immunization is not possible, a religious exemption form must be completed, notarized, and kept on file in the clinic. If there are medical contra-indications, an affidavit signed by the physician must be on file in the clinic. Unless specified by the physician, medical exemptions will be valid for one year only.

The law presently requires high school students to have the following immunizations on record with the school clinic:

- 3 doses of DTaP with one dose on or after 4th birthday
- 1 dose Tdap within the last 10 years
- 3 doses of Polio with one dose on or after 4th birthday
- 2 doses of MMR with one dose on or after 1st birthday
- 2 doses Hepatitis A
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 2 doses of Varicella or date if the child had chickenpox
- 1 dose Meningococcal on or after 11th birthday

Medication Administration

All medication should be given outside of school if possible. If medication is scheduled for three times per day, a doctor's written request is required for administration at school.

Texas state law does not permit public schools to provide Tylenol, Advil, cough preparations or other over-the-counter medications to students unless these are supplied from home (and have written parent consent). All prescription medications must be kept in the clinic and dispensed by designated school personnel. Written consent and specific instructions for administration must be provided for each medication. Parent permission forms for this purpose are available in the [Medication Policy](#) page under Health Services on the HPISD website.

Medications must be:

- In the original, properly labeled container (no baggies or envelopes),
- Up to date (check expiration date before bringing to school), and
- Age appropriate in dosage. (The nurse may not give aspirin or any aspirin-containing product without specific physician's orders.)

Self Medication

Over-the Counter Remedies

Students are permitted to carry an over-the-counter remedy (such as a one day dose of Tylenol, Aleve or Midol) only when accompanied by written parent permission (a special form is available in the school clinic). Medication must be in the original container and up to date. Aspirin may not be taken by students under 18 without a doctor's note.

Inhalers

Asthma inhalers may be carried by the students during the school day if they have physician authorization and written parent consent on file in the clinic. We urge all asthmatics to keep an extra inhaler in the clinic as back-up.

Injectable Medications

Students must have written authorization and instructions from the physician on file.

Prescription and non-prescription medication requests with parent/physician permission are to be renewed at the beginning of each new school year. At the end of each school year, students will be notified that medications must be taken home. Any medications that are not picked up will be disposed of per District protocol.

STUDENT LIFE

Announcements

Announcements will be made on the PA system during 2nd period following the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. Activity and event sponsors should submit their announcements via email only to Holly Bond (BondH@hpsid.org) at least two days in advance of the activity or event. Announcements on the PA will be limited to school-wide activities or events of interest.

Announcements for specific activity groups will be broadcast on HPHS TV message boards and HPHS Media. These announcements must be submitted by activity and event sponsors to the Bagpipe staff and/or HPHS Media at least 5 school days in advance of the activity or event.

Clubs

Highland Park High School strongly encourages club participation; we feel it provides opportunities for school involvement, service hours, and leadership. Club participation is voluntary. Please click the “Extracurriculars” tab on the [HPHS website](#) for the current list of clubs.

Closed Campus

School officials have supervisory authority and responsibility for students from the time they arrive on school property until they are dismissed at the end of the day. With the exception of seniors who meet the requirements for an open period, all students are required to remain on campus all day. Students who need to leave campus during the day must have authorization from an administrator through their attendance office. Parents may call, send a note, or come to the attendance office to check students out of school. Students who leave campus without permission are subject to disciplinary action. Seniors or other students who take unauthorized students off-campus are subject to disciplinary action, including in-school suspension and possible suspension of parking privileges.

Seniors must present their school-issued ID card for the current school year in order to leave campus during open periods and lunches.

Dances

School dances are occasionally held after home sporting events or other special occasions. The Homecoming Dance and Hi Lites Dance are held on a Saturday from 8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. with no admittance after 9:00 p.m. Prom is held at an off-site location on a Saturday from 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m., with no admittance after 9:00 p.m. Students must show their current student ID card to be admitted into the dance. Once a student leaves the dance they will not be allowed to return to the dance.

NOTE: All standards for student behavior contained in the [HPISD Student Code of Conduct](#), including those relating to the possession or use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products, apply at school dances. Rules relating to appropriate school dress and grooming also apply at all school dances.

School dances are designed to provide our students with a safe environment where they can have fun with their friends and peers. The type of dancing acceptable for these events is to be kept in styles that are fun and non-offensive. Inappropriate dancing will not be permitted. If a student does not respond to a faculty chaperone’s request to change her/his style of dancing,

she/he will be escorted off the dance floor. Continued inappropriate behavior will result in the student being asked to leave after contact has been made with the student's parents.

Under certain cases, a school administrator may require a student to submit themselves to a breathalyzer test. These tests are considered and treated the same way as a search and will only be required when there is reasonable suspicion. A school administrator may determine that a student is under the influence of alcohol without a positive breathalyzer test.

Bringing a Guest

All guests to a dance must be approved by the school administrator of the HPHS student that is inviting the guest. Guests must present a current school ID or valid state ID and the approved form at the door in order to be allowed into the dance.

Forms for students to bring an outside guest must be obtained at the attendance office. These forms need to be completely filled out, including having been signed by the school official from the school the guest attends, and returned to the assistant principal at least **5 days prior** to the event.

Only students who are in good standing at HPHS are allowed to invite a guest.

For most dances, a guest is a person who is not enrolled at HPHS. In the case of Prom, a guest is any person who is not classified as a Junior or Senior at HPHS. To be approved, guests:

- must be under 21 years of age
- cannot be enrolled in 8th grade or a lower grade level
- must be in good standing at their school.

Once approved, students are responsible for picking up the signed form and communicating to their guest that they must bring the approved form and a current school ID or valid state ID the night of the dance.

Guests may be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of an HPHS administrator. All application decisions are final and may not be appealed. Students will be held responsible for the conduct of the guests they bring to the dance and may be asked to leave the dance or may be issued disciplinary consequences if their guest is not in compliance with the standards of behavior as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Deliveries and Messages

Due to Texas Education Agency restrictions intended to prevent disruption of teaching and learning, deliveries cannot be made to HPHS students during class, nor will classes be interrupted for notification of deliveries. Parents wishing to bring items to students may leave the items in the cabinet located and designated at the Student Entrance on Westchester. Parents will need to inform their child that they have dropped an item off by emailing them to their school email account. In order to minimize disruptions to the classroom environment and the student's learning, students must pick up items during passing periods.

Food deliveries for students will not be permitted. If food is delivered, it will be reported to the student's assistant principal.

All **medications** must be taken to the HPHS Clinic for students to pick up. Emergency messages should be delivered to the student's attendance office.

Emergency messages should be delivered to the student's attendance office.

Final Exams

Highland Park High School believes that rigorous course work prepares our graduates for the academic expectations at the university level. Because of this students at HPHS take a comprehensive semester final during both the Spring and Fall semesters.

Academic Prep Days

December 11 & 14, May 19 & 20 (*grade 12*), May 21 & May 24 (*grades 9-11*)

In order to help our students prepare for their semester exams, HPHS institutes two Academic Prep Days prior to the start of the semester exams. These days are set aside for students to study for their upcoming finals. Because of this, during these Academic Prep Days:

- no new material can be introduced
- no new assignments for a grade will be
- no quizzes or tests may be administered
- no "project or assignment" previously assigned can be due
- there will be no field trips or activities that take students out of class
- teachers will not remove students from classes that are not their own

The only exceptions to this are pre-approved performance based assessments in some Fine Arts and LOTE courses.

Semester Exams for 2026-2027

Fall Semester Exams

Dates: December 15 – 18

Schedule:

Tuesday, December 15

8:10 -8:50- 8th Period Exam Tutorials
8:50 -10:50- EXAM 8th period
10:50-11:00- Passing
11:00 -12:10- Lunch
12:10 -12:20- Passing
12:20 -1:00- 7th Period Exam Tutorials
1:00 -3:00- EXAM 7th period

Wednesday, December 16

8:10 -8:50- 6th Period Exam Tutorials
8:50 -10:50- EXAM 6th period
10:50 -11:00- Passing
11:00 -12:10- Lunch
12:10 -12:20- Passing
12:20 -1:00- 5th Period Exam Tutorials
1:00 -3:00- EXAM 5th period

Thursday, December 17 (no lunch served)

8:10 -8:40- 4th Period Exam Tutorials
8:40 -10:40- EXAM 4th period
10:40 -10:50- Passing
10:50 -11:30- 3rd Period Exam Tutorials
11:30 -1:30- EXAM 3rd period

Friday, December 18 (no lunch served)

8:10 -8:40- 2nd Period Exam Tutorials
8:40 -10:40- EXAM 2nd period
10:40 -10:50- Passing
10:50 -11:30- 1st Period Exam Tutorials
11:30 -1:30- EXAM 1st period

Spring Semester Examinations

Dates: May 21 - 26 (grade 12) & May 25 - 28 (grades 9-11)

Schedule: To Be Announced

Changing Your Exam Date

Exams, except by special permission from the Principal, must be administered during the four assigned final examination days. All requests for changing the date of a semester exam from one final exam day to another within the approved exam window (see above) are made directly to the teacher and do not require the approval of an administrator. Each teacher will report all exam date changes to their department chair.

Students who are absent during final exams must take the exams they miss within two weeks after the spring semester begins (for fall semester exams) or two weeks after the last day of exams (for spring semester exams). Exceptions for extenuating circumstances must be approved by the Principal.

Exam Exemptions

Exam exemptions may be allowed for students who have a stellar attendance record, and who have maintained a "B" average in their course. Exemptions are not a right or a guarantee. In order to qualify for an exemption student must meet the exact criteria listed below, regardless of circumstance.

Seniors may be eligible each semester for exemption from final exams if they:

- Pass both nine week grading periods
- Maintain an 80 or above in each class (course average equals the average of the two nine weeks averages);
- Have zero (0) unexcused/ unverified absences per class.
- Have no more than four (4) excused absences per class for any reason other than those defined as "school-related absences" or the allotted number of absences per school year for official college visits;
- Have no more than 2 tardies per class per semester;
- Have not been assigned to full-time (all-day) In-School Suspension (ISS), Out of School Suspension (OSS), or assigned to the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) at any time during the current semester.

In order to earn their exemption eligibility, students **must provide** documentation for attendance corrections for absences and/or tardies **prior** to the end of each nine weeks grading period. (Please see the current HPISD school year calendar for specific dates). Requests to make attendance corrections for absences and/or tardies that occurred during the **previous** nine weeks grading period will **NOT** be honored (for exam exemption purposes).

Attendance Exceptions for Exam Exemptions

Students who have more than four (4) excused absences with documented extenuating circumstances (for example, unexpected significant illness or hospitalization) may request an exception to gain exam exemption eligibility. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case

basis and must be supported by appropriate documentation. Students must submit these, in writing, to their assistant principal **no later than December 4, 2026 for Fall Semester Exams and May 12, 2027 for Spring Semester Exams**. *Remember that requests to make attendance corrections for absences and/or tardies that occurred during the previous nine weeks grading period will not be honored (for exam exemption purposes).*

Juniors and Sophomores in full year Category 1 courses are eligible for exemption from final exams during the **spring semester only** if they meet the exemption eligibility criteria listed above for seniors.

Students may attend **one state championship event each semester** to support extracurricular and co-curricular activities such as UIL and other school-sponsored athletics or academics. In order to keep such absences from counting against exam exemption attendance, students must submit a note from a parent requesting the absence to their attendance office prior to the day of the state championship event. Students will also be required to present their school-issued ID cards to the HPHS administrator on duty at the event. Students who plan to be absent for state championship events must turn in assignments prior to the absence or make prior arrangements with their teachers for make-up work.

The amount of time allowed for completion of make-up work will be left to the individual teacher. Requests for students who are in danger of **failing** courses due to **low grades** or inadequate attendance will **not** be granted.

Additional Exam Exemption Guidelines

- A student who wishes to take a final exam may waive the exemption.
- Exemptions are determined for each class separately; a student may be exempt in one class and not in another.
- Taking an AP exam is not an automatic exemption.
- All students in AP courses who are exempt from final exams but fail to take the required AP examination will receive a grade of zero for their semester exam grade.
- A student who causes an AP testing irregularity will lose his/her exam exemption in that AP course.
- Exam exemptions will not be honored for any student with a textbook or library book obligation, or any other obligations for school-issued property, materials, or fees.

Inclement Weather

In case of extreme weather conditions when transportation to and from school poses a threat to the safety of students, it is advised that parents and students listen to local radio and television stations, the school text messaging system, the Park Cities Cable Television's Channel 16, the HPHS website, or e-mail groups for special announcements regarding closing of the school or changes in the start or dismissal time. Days missed due to cancellation may be rescheduled. The hotline for weather information is 214-780-3333. The HPHS website is <http://hs.hpisd.org>.

Lockers

Students will have the option of having an assigned locker. If you would like a locker, please stop by C100 to see Ms. Leal to be assigned a locker.

Students are at all times responsible for their personal property and are strongly encouraged to use hallway and locker room lockers to protect their personal property. It is strongly recommended that **students do not bring valuables or large sums of money to school.**

Lost and Found

Lost and found textbooks are held in the Textbook Room, C104. All other items that are not immediately identifiable, such as jackets or shirts, will be placed in a designated location near the Student Entrance on Westchester. Any unclaimed items will be moved or donated at the end of each semester.

National Honor Society

A candidate for National Honor Society (NHS) must be at least a junior. The application process is held during the fall and spring semesters after the registrar releases the cumulative GPAs for the previous semester. If a candidate is not inducted in the fall of the junior year, he or she may apply again in the spring of the junior year, fall of the senior year, or spring of the senior year. The keystone values of the NHS are scholarship, leadership, character, and service.

To fulfill the scholarship requirement, a junior or senior must have a 3.6 cumulative GPA at the end of the semester immediately preceding his or her application. The service requirement for application includes the completion of at least 30 of the service hours required for graduation from HPHS. Students who wish to be considered must complete an application form describing their contributions to the school in the areas of leadership and service. Membership in the NHS is by the invitation of the faculty and simply meeting the qualifications above does not ensure the student's acceptance.

It is expected that NHS inductees will have exhibited exemplary behavior at HPHS. Serious disciplinary offenses (those resulting in ISS or DAEP placement) or Honor Council offenses may preclude a student's being inducted or may result in the dismissal of a member from the society. It is also expected that inductees be able to give evidence of service to the school and the community, and that they demonstrate character and positive leadership in the groups, organizations, teams, and classrooms of which they have been a part. The final decision of who will be inducted comes from a Faculty Advisory Council of five members appointed annually by the Principal.

As per the NHS national constitution, it is an expectation that any member of the National Honor Society will be expected to maintain his or her GPA and exemplary behavior as well as participate in the school-wide chapter service project and any ceremonies held by the NHS. If the student fails to attend required meetings or complete the required service hours for the chapter, the student will be dismissed from membership. If the member fails to abide by other organizational regulations, he or she will fall out of good standing. If the student's membership is not returned to good standing by the time of graduation, the member will not be allowed to wear the NHS stole during the graduation ceremony.

At the Senior Awards Assembly at the end of each school year, the HPHS chapter of the National Honor Society presents the Blanket Award to one senior boy and one senior girl for outstanding student achievement and service to the school. Students must apply to be considered for the Blanket Award; students do not have to be members of NHS to apply. In choosing the award recipients, the NHS Faculty Advisory Council evaluates each applicant's qualifications in each of the four "cornerstone" values of NHS: Scholarship, Leadership, Character, and Service.

Posters and Signs

Any poster or sign must be approved by an administrator (signature and date required on each poster) prior to their being posted on campus. Posters displayed without authorization will be removed. Posters and signs for athletic events must, by UIL District policy, be positive in nature, promoting or supporting the Scots, and may not be negative or denigrating the opposing team.

Resolution Procedure

If a student or parent/guardian has a classroom concern, the following resolution process should be used:

- Step 1:** The student consults directly with the teacher involved and may reach out to his/her counselor.
- Step 2:** The student's parent consults directly with the teacher and/or the student's counselor via telephone or email. If necessary, the parent requests a personal conference. The counselor will help schedule the conference if requested.
- Step 3:** The parent may consult with the teacher's department chair and/or the teacher's administrative supervisor via telephone or email. If necessary the parent may request a conference with the department chair and/or the teacher's administrative supervisor.
- Step 4:** The parent may request a conference with the principal or designee.

Complaints brought by students and parents are addressed with HPISD Board Policy [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#). Members of the public having complaints regarding the District's policies, procedures, or operations may present their complaints or concerns to the Board after following the procedure defined HPISD Board Policy [GF\(LOCAL\)](#). Public complaints regarding instructional and library materials are addressed at HPISD Board Policy [EFA\(LEGAL\)](#).

The Board intends that, whenever feasible, complaints shall be resolved at the lowest possible administrative level.

School Trips

All students who participate in school-sponsored trips must be accompanied by a teacher/sponsor and must have the written permission of parents on file before making the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, meeting curfew requirements, or maintaining standards of conduct acceptable to Highland Park High School may justify sending the student home at the family's own expense. In the event of all trips, students are bound by the HPISD Student Code of conduct, The Kiltie, and rules of the school sponsor.

Attendance on School Trips If Failing

A student may miss a class in which he/she is failing if the trip is part of the curriculum. A student may not miss a class in which he/she is failing to participate in an extracurricular event.

Attendance on School Trips if Receiving Homebound Services

In order to participate in out-of-town, overnight school trips students must be attending their regularly scheduled classes in person.

- A student who is receiving homebound services will not be able to participate in out-of-town, overnight school trips.

- In the case of a student who is receiving intermittent homebound services, the administrator, special program coordinator, and homebound coordinator will consider the student's case and will determine if the student can participate in the trip. If the student is given permission to attend the out-of-town, overnight trip and is not able to complete the trip, the parent will have to travel to pick up the student and there will be no refund for the portion of the trip that the student misses.
- If a homebound student is unable to participate in an out-of-town, overnight school trip that includes an academic component that will result in a grade for the class, the teacher/sponsor will be responsible for providing an alternative to make up any grade that will be issued as part of the trip so that the student is not affected academically.

Waivers for School-Sponsored Travel

Students making a trip sponsored by HPHS are required to turn in notarized waiver forms. The waiver forms may be obtained from the teacher sponsoring the trip.

Student Parking

Student parking is a privilege and not a right. Violations of HPHS parking guidelines are subject to disciplinary consequences and could lead to the loss of student parking privileges for the year as well as having the student's vehicle towed at their expense. Students may **NOT** go to their vehicles during the school day without a pass from their assistant principal. Students should always lock their vehicles and store personal belongings out of sight.

Seniors have the privilege of purchasing parking spaces prior to the beginning of the school year. Parking spaces for juniors and sophomores will be allotted through selection by lottery. Students must have a current, valid driver's license in order to purchase a parking permit and drive to school. Freshmen are not allowed to park anywhere on HPHS or HPISD property. Individual sale or trading of spaces is strictly prohibited. Students involved will face disciplinary action, as well as parking permits being revoked.

Please check the HPHS website under "Parking Information," for guidance on requesting a parking space throughout the school year.

Students should only park in the space assigned to them by campus administration. Current parking stickers must be displayed on the back window, and visible to security and administration. Parking violations will result in disciplinary action by the student's assistant principal. ***Second and subsequent violations will result in the student's vehicle being towed at the student's expense.***

Student parking is enforced 6:00 am-3:35 pm on school days.

- **Faculty parking spaces** are numbered. Students and parents must refrain from parking in faculty spaces throughout the school day.
- **Visitor and Volunteer Parking Spaces** are located on the first floor of the parking garage and on Emerson in front of the main entrance. These spaces are for visitors and volunteers only, not for students or staff.
- **Handicapped parking spaces** are available on Douglas, Westchester, and in the HPHS Parking Garage. These spaces are always subject to the parking laws of the State of Texas and the City of University Park and may be ticketed as such. School officials have no

jurisdiction over these handicapped spaces. Please leave them available for drivers who have handicapped permits. ***Violators will be towed at the owner's expense.***

School officials and the school resource officer will assist any student involved in an accident on campus with the exchange of insurance information.

Permission to park on the HPHS campus is granted subject to all rules and regulations of the School District.

By parking on campus, the person driving any vehicle is giving consent to a search of the vehicle by school officials or police. If any person in the car other than the driver is the current custodian of the vehicle, consent to search is deemed given by the custodian also. Searches may include, but are not limited to, the entire interior of the vehicle as well as compartments, trunk, undercarriage, and all containers therein, locked or unlocked.

Visitors

Parents are always welcome to visit Highland Park High School. Specific appointments with teachers, counselors, administrators, or other staff members may be scheduled through phone calls or email.

All visitors, including parents, social service workers, invited speakers, maintenance and repair persons not employed by the District, vendors, representatives of the news media, and former students, must first report at the reception area at Main Entrance on Emerson or the security station at the Student Entrance on Westchester.

Visitors will need to present a valid State ID in order to receive a visitor's pass. These passes must be worn by visitors in a highly visible area at all times. Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time will be permitted only with the principal's and teacher's approval, and such visits will not be permitted if their duration or frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment.

In the interest of school safety and good order, HPHS students are not permitted to bring visitors on campus during regular school hours without prior approval of the principal or an assistant principal.

To visit and tour the HPHS campus, prospective students and parents should make an appointment by calling the HPHS Counseling Office at 214-780-3740.

Former HPHS students may visit only during lunch periods, must limit their visit to the HPHS Cafeteria area, and must make prior arrangements for the visit with one of the school administrators.

TECHNOLOGY USE IN SCHOOL

Personal Communication Devices

Pursuant to *House Bill 1481* in which the state requires all school districts to adopt and implement a policy prohibiting students from using personal communication devices during the school day while on school property, the use of “any electronic device capable of telecommunication or digital communication...(HB1481)” is prohibited. This ban includes but is not limited to cell phones, smart watches, tablets, gaming devices, earbuds, electronic tablets, laptops or other personal devices that can be used for communication.

Students are expected to “secure” and keep any personal device the size of or smaller than their cell phone in the school issued Yonder pouches during the school day on school property.

If a student is seen in possession or use of a personal communication device, they will be referred for disciplinary action following a progressive disciplinary consequence matrix that includes in-school suspension.

District Issued Devices

To ensure classroom needs are met, the district issues each student at HPHS a district provided device. In addition to having the performance capacity and functionality needed to support daily instruction and learning, these devices are equipped with software to better ensure a focused learning environment and secure testing platform when used in the classroom.

In order to support the ongoing maintenance and repairs for these devices, parents are responsible for a yearly fee that covers instructional use and device insurance for the school year.

Students can continue to use a personal laptop for schoolwork at home. For those who do use their district-issued devices away from the school setting, the software installed on the device will continue to provide internet filtering when not on the district network, and parents are able to implement additional controls on the device, if desired.

If a student does not have their district issued device, the student may check out a chromebook for that day from the Library Media Center (please see Library Media Center section for more information).

Elective classes with more specialized computing needs (e.g., Computer Science, Journalism, Graphic Design, etc.) will continue to have other district-provided devices in the classroom that meet the instructional needs required by their curriculum.

When devices can or when they cannot be used in a classroom will be determined by the classroom teacher. Students who do not follow expectations regarding the use of their school issued devices that have been clearly communicated by the teacher will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Devices that Meet Specialized Educational Needs

HPHS is committed to ensure that all of our students are successful and have full access to their education. Students who are served by one of our special programs and require a device in order to meet their individual educational plan (IEP) are still under the restrictions established by the

state in HB1481 and will work with our program coordinators to ensure the student's IEP followed without the need of a personal communication device.

Google Accounts

In accordance with HPISD's commitment to data privacy, student Google accounts are deleted when students graduate, transfer, or withdraw from HPHS. Please click [HERE](#) for instructions on how to download a student's Google files prior to graduation, transfer, or withdrawal.

Guidelines for Responsible Use of HPISD's Technology Resources

HPHS students are given access to the District-provided technology resources listed below. With this educational opportunity comes responsibility. It is important that students and their parents read the applicable District policies, administrative regulations, and agreement form and contact the Director of Instructional Technology at 214-780-3070 if they have questions. Inappropriate use of the District's technology resources may result in revocation or suspension of the privilege to use these resources, as well as other disciplinary or legal action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and applicable laws.

The following guidelines apply to all District networks, e-mail accounts, devices connected to the District's networks, and all District-owned devices used on or off school property, whether connected to the District's network or connected through a personal data plan or other means of access.

Additionally, the District prohibits bullying or harassment through electronic means regardless of the device used, the network used, or the location of use (see HPISD Board Policies [FFH](#) and [FFI](#)).

HPHS students are given access to the following technology resources:

- Access to cloud-based (online) document storage and collaboration space (Google Apps for Education).
- District computer hardware, software, and printers on your school campus.
- District networks, including document storage space.
- Access to District-owned technology resources for use at home.
- District-filtered Internet access.

Please note that the Internet is a network of many types of communication and information networks. It is possible that you may run across areas of adult content and some material you (or your parents) might find objectionable. While the District will use filtering technology to restrict access to such material, it is not possible to absolutely prevent such access. It will be your responsibility to follow the rules for responsible use.

Rules for Appropriate Use

- District technology resources are primarily for instructional and educational purposes.
- Limited personal use is allowed only if the rules in this agreement are followed, and the use does not interfere with school work.
- If you are issued your own account and password, you must not share your account information with another person.
- You must remember that people who receive e-mail or other communication from you through your school account might think your message represents the school's point of view.

- You must always keep your personal information and the personal information of others private. This includes name, address, photographs, or any other personally identifiable or private information.
- Students will not download or sign up for any online resource or application without prior approval from their teacher or other District administrator.
- Students age 13 or younger will not sign up for individual accounts, but will use a District or classroom account, as applicable.
- When communicating through e-mail or other electronic means, you must use appropriate language and etiquette as you would when communicating face to face. Always be respectful.
- You must be sure to acknowledge the work and ideas of others when you reference them in your own work.
- You must immediately report any suspicious behavior or other misuse of technology to your teacher or other campus administrator.
- You will be held responsible at all times for the proper use of your account, and the District may suspend or revoke your access if you violate the rules.

Inappropriate Uses

The following are examples of inappropriate uses of technology resources that may result in loss of privileges or disciplinary action:

- Using the resources for any illegal purpose, including threatening school safety.
- Accessing the resources to knowingly alter, damage, or delete District property or information, or to breach any other electronic equipment, network, or electronic communications system in violation of the law or District policy.
- Damaging electronic communication systems or electronic equipment, including knowingly or intentionally introducing a virus to a device or network, or not taking proper security steps to prevent a device or network from becoming vulnerable.
- Disabling or attempting to disable or bypass any Internet filtering device.
- Using someone's account without permission.
- Pretending to be someone else when posting, transmitting, or receiving messages.
- Attempting to read, delete, copy, modify, or interfere with another user's posting, transmittal, or receipt of electronic media.
- Using resources to engage in conduct that harasses or bullies others.
- Sending, posting, or possessing materials that are abusive, obscene, pornographic, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including material that constitutes cyberbullying and "sexting."
- Using inappropriate language such as cursing, vulgarity, ethnic or racial slurs, and any other inflammatory language.
- Posting personal information about yourself or others, such as addresses, phone numbers, or photographs without permission, or responding to requests for personally identifiable information or contact from unknown individuals.
- Making appointments to meet in person people met online. If a request for such a meeting is received, it should be immediately reported to a teacher or administrator.
- Violating others' intellectual property rights, including downloading or using copyrighted information without permission from the copyright holder.
- Wasting school resources through the improper use of the District's technology resources, including sending spam.
- Downloading unauthorized applications or software or gaining unauthorized access to restricted information or resources.

Consequences for Inappropriate Use of Personal Telecommunications

- Suspension of access to the District's technology resources;
- Revocation of permission to use personal electronic devices for instructional purposes while on campus; or
- Other disciplinary or legal action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and applicable laws.
- The District is not responsible for damage to or loss of devices brought from home.

Reporting Violations

- You must immediately report any known violation of the District's applicable policies, Internet safety plan, or acceptable use guidelines to a supervising teacher or the technology coordinator.
- You must report to a supervising teacher or the technology coordinator any requests for personally identifying information or contact from unknown individuals, as well as any content or communication that is abusive, obscene, pornographic, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal.

For a copy of the HPISD Student Agreement for Acceptable Use of the District's Technology Resources, please click [HERE](#).