



Strong **Academics** | Meaningful **Experiences** | Future Ready **Skills**

Frequently Asked Questions for Families

What is Future 2?

Future 2 is a school model that combines strong academics with opportunities for students to develop the skills they will need for their future.

Future 2 builds on HISD's **New Education System (NES)**, which provides a consistent approach to high-quality teaching and learning. NES classrooms include clear learning goals, high-quality instruction, checks for student understanding, additional help when students need it, and opportunities for students who are ready to go further.

Future 2 keeps this strong academic foundation while giving students in Grades 3–8 additional opportunities to learn through **Experiences, Future Seminars, and Action Labs**. These activities help students connect what they learn in school to the real world and build skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership, creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

Future 2 looks different for our youngest students. **Pre-K through Grade 2 students do not participate in Experiences or Action Labs**. Their day is designed specifically for younger learners, with a strong focus on reading, math, social development, exploration, movement, and age-appropriate learning activities.

What does a typical day at a Future 2 school look like?

Every Future 2 student receives strong daily instruction in core academic subjects.

For **Pre-K through Grade 2**, the day focuses on building strong foundations in reading, language, math, science, and social development. Students also have opportunities for movement, exploration, and age-appropriate hands-on learning. **Pre-K–2 students do not participate in Experiences or Action Labs**.

For **Grades 3–8**, students receive focused academic instruction in reading, language arts, math, science, and other core subjects. Their day also includes Brain Breaks, Future Seminars, and hands-on Experiences. Students may participate in Action Labs during the extended portion of the day.

How much of the day is focused on academics?

Academics are the foundation of Future 2. Students receive daily instruction in core subjects, and strong academic achievement remains a top priority.

For students in Grades 3–8, Experiences and Future Seminars do not replace academics. They give students additional opportunities to use what they are learning in reading, writing, math, science, research, and other subjects in new and meaningful ways.



Learn more at: **Future2Schools.org**





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What are Experiences?

Experiences are hands-on, real-world learning opportunities for students in Grades 3–8.

Experiences help students connect what they learn in school to the world around them. They may include field trips, community-based learning, special projects, or opportunities to learn from professionals and organizations outside the school.

Through Experiences, students practice skills such as communication, teamwork, creativity, problem-solving, and leadership while seeing how their classroom learning can be used in the real world.

Pre-K through Grade 2 students do not participate in Experiences.

What is a Brain Break?

A Brain Break is a short, planned opportunity for students to recharge, refocus, and get ready for the next learning activity.

Brain Breaks may include movement, stretching, mindfulness, wellness activities, team-building, or a short group challenge.

What is a Future Seminar?

A Future Seminar gives students opportunities to explore important topics and develop skills they will need for their future.

Students may learn about and discuss topics such as leadership, entrepreneurship, technology, communication, citizenship, innovation, and problem-solving. Future Seminars encourage students to ask questions, think critically, share ideas, and consider different points of view.

What is an Action Lab?

Action Labs are extended learning opportunities for students in Grades 3–8 that allow them to explore their interests, discover new talents, and develop new skills.

Depending on the school, students may choose from activities such as soccer, flag football, martial arts, basketball, dance, theater, visual arts, creative writing, and music. Music opportunities may include learning instruments such as piano, flute, saxophone, or clarinet.

Action Labs are an important part of the Future 2 experience. **Students in Grades 3–8 are expected to participate**



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in Action Labs each school day unless they regularly participate in similar activities outside of school, such as private music lessons, dance lessons, or organized sports. These outside activities should generally align with the types of enrichment and skill-building opportunities offered through Action Labs.

Action Labs are about more than learning a sport, art, or activity. Students also develop important skills and habits such as teamwork, perseverance, self-discipline, confidence, and leadership.

Pre-K through Grade 2 students do not participate in Action Labs.

What are the school hours?

The Future 2 school day runs from **7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Campuses are open from **6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

For students in Grades 3–8, **Action Labs take place from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., and students are expected to participate each school day.** Students who regularly participate outside of school in activities similar to Action Lab offerings—such as music lessons, dance lessons, or organized sports—may meet this expectation through those activities.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided at no cost.

Why does Future 2 have a longer school day?

The additional time allows students to receive strong academic instruction while also having time to explore their interests and develop new skills.

For students in Grades 3–8, the extended day includes Action Labs, which provide opportunities in sports, arts, music, leadership, and other areas **without taking time away from core academic instruction.**

Students are expected to participate in Action Labs each school day unless they regularly participate in similar organized activities outside of school. This approach gives students different ways to pursue their interests while ensuring that every student has opportunities to develop skills, confidence, and talents beyond the academic classroom.



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