

CROSSWINDS ACCELERATED HIGH SCHOOL

This Pathway to Graduation booklet belongs to: _____

www.gpisd.org

972-522-2950

1100 N. Carrier Pkwy,
Grand Prairie, TX, 75050

CROSSWINDS
ACCELERATED HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to Crosswinds Accelerated High School. Whether you're here to catch up or get ahead, you're in the right place. At Crosswinds, we know that every student's journey is different—but the goal is the same: **graduation**. We are here to help you get there, with the support, flexibility, and guidance you need along the way.

This school is designed for students who are ready to commit. That means showing up, putting in the work, and using every resource we offer to support you. You'll have the opportunity to earn credits faster than in a traditional setting—but that also means expectations are high. Every minute in class counts, and every decision you make moves you closer to your goal—or further from it.

The following expectations are not just about discipline—they're about direction. They are here to create the structure you need to thrive, focus, and graduate. Read them, understand them, and carry this booklet with you every day. It's your guide on the Pathway to Graduation.

Let's get to work!

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Crosswinds Accelerated High School

Student Name: _____ **ID#:**_____ **Cohort:** _____

Session: AM PM NS **Date Enrolled:** _____ **Endorsement:** _____

2026-27 Crosswinds Credit Tracker

EOC Testing	
English I	
English II	
Biology	
Algebra I	
US History	

HB 1416	
Subject	**Hrs Req**
None Req	FALSE

Other Requirements	
CPR	
FAFSA	
Peace Officer	
Promise	

Program of Study
☐ Accounting
☐ Health & Wellness
☐ Business Mgmt
☐ Early Child Education
☐ Build Maint/Welding

ENGLISH	English I		English II		English III	
MATH	Algebra I		Geometry		Algebra II	
SCIENCE	Biology		Chem/IPC/Physics		Adv Sci:	
SOCIAL STUDIES	W Geo/AP Human		W Hist/Elective		US History	
	PE		**Health**			
	LOTE 1:		**LOTE 2:**		**Fine Art:**	
ELECTIVES						

English IV	

4th Math:	

Adv Sci:	

Govt	Econ-PFL

TSIA2 Test Prep
ELA
Math

Program of Study			
☐	☐	☐	☐

IBC:	Date:	Grade:

Schedule

1st/5th	2nd/6th	3rd/7th	4th/8th

Crosswinds Graduation Checklist

Students must complete all of the following tasks to be eligible for graduation.

College Advisor			Date Completed
☐	Rm 159	1. **2026-2027 FAFSA or TASFA**. You must provide documentation to your college advisor or counselor ● Make your FSA account and complete and submit your application at **studentaid.gov** ● You **and** your parent/guardian will have to make an FSA account. ● Complete and submit a 2026-2027 FAFSA (you will need your parent's/guardian's **2024 income tax return** to complete the application).	_____ **Option:** **1 2**
☐		2. Submit at least one **college application** at https://www.applytexas.org/ (Dallas College).	
☐		3. Submit the **Path form** of the Dallas Promise. *Be aware of deadlines.* ● Visit www.dallascountypromise.org and click on the Class of 2025 orange banner	
☐		4. Federal law requires nearly all male US citizens and male immigrants, 18-25, **register with Selective Service**. By registering, a young man remains eligible for jobs, state-based student aid in 31 states, Federally-funded job training, and U.S. citizenship for immigrant men. https://www.sss.gov/register.	
☐		5. Register for your **Greenlight Locker** at www.greenlightlocker.com.	

Graduation Requirements			Date Completed
☐	NSO	7. **CPR Training**	
☐	W. Geo	8. **Peace Officer Training**	
☐	Couns	9. Meet all **State Testing** Requirements.	
☐	115B	10. Attend a meeting with the **wraparound program** coordinator	
☐	Couns	11. **HB 1416 Hours**: If pending an EOC test, 30 hours of remediation must be completed through EOC Prep classes to prepare for the EOC test.	

Counselor Use Only		Date Completed
	12. Grade Level Verification Endorsement Verification: _____	
☐	13. Speech Requirement Military Enlistment Date	
☐	14. **All required coursework** with a passing grade – all boxes filled in on your credit sheet.	
☐	15. CTE Pathway Complete: ConstMgt. ___ BusMgt. ___ Acct. ___ EarlyEdu. ___ Health/Well ___	
☐	16. Complete the **senior exit survey** & Graduation Tracker with Counselor.	
☐	**17. Verify Name** and **add to Grad/O-Code List**	
☐	18. IBC Certificate completed on _____ & uploaded to IBC Form	
☐	19. **Order your cap and gown** from www.jostens.com . The basic package of the cap and gown is required for commencement. You may order at any time.	

DO NOT WAIT until you have completed your coursework to do the Dallas Promise Path, college application, and FAFSA. You will NOT be able to be eligible to graduate until you have completed all steps.

CROSSWINDS
ACCELERATED HIGH SCHOOL

2026-27 Bell Schedule

AM SESSION	1ST Period	7:30am-8:25am
	2nd Period	8:30am-9:25am
	3rd Period	9:30am-10:25am
	4th Period	10:30am-11:27am
Lunch/Session Break		11:30am-12:00pm
PM SESSION	5th Period	12:00pm-12:55pm
	6th Period	1:00pm-1:55pm
	7th Period	2:00pm-2:55pm
	8th Period	3:00pm-3:57pm

NIGHT SCHOOL	5:00 - 7:30 pm

Assembly Bell Schedule

AM Session	1ST Period	7:30am - 8:30am
	2nd Period	8:35am - 9:20am
	3rd Period	9:25am - 10:15am
	4th Period	10:20am - 11:05am
	ASSEMBLY	11:05 - 11:30am
	Lunch	11:30am - 12:00pm
PM Session	ASSEMBLY	12:00 - 12:25pm
	5th Period	12:30pm - 1:25pm
	6th Period	1:30pm - 2:15pm
	7th Period	2:20pm - 3:10pm
	8th Period	3:15pm - 4:00pm

PATH Bell Schedule

AM Session	1ST Period	7:30am-8:20am
	2nd Period	8:25am-9:10am
	3rd Period	9:15am-10:30am
	PATH TIME	10:00-10:30am
	4th Period	10:35am-11:30am
	Lunch/Session Break	11:30am-12:00pm
PM Session	5th Period	12:00pm-12:50pm
	6th Period	12:55pm-1:40pm
	7th Period	1:45pm-3:05pm
	PATH TIME	2:35-3:05pm
	8th Period	3:10pm-4:00pm

GRADE LEVEL BY CREDITS

GRADE	NUMBER OF CREDITS
SENIOR	19
JUNIOR	12
SOPHOMORE	5.5
FRESHMAN	0-5

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST ME MEET MY GRADUATION GOAL?

At Crosswinds, you're in control of your learning—and we're here to support you every step of the way. Our Canvas courses are designed for you to work at your own pace, giving you the flexibility to learn in a way that fits your needs. If you have strong attendance and respectful behavior, you may qualify to attend both AM and PM sessions—just make sure to get the required form from an administrator.

CROSSWINDS ACCELERATED HIGH SCHOOL

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Lead . Organize . Innovate

What you will learn:

- Leadership & teamwork
- Business operations
- Communication skills
- Problem-solving
- Financial literacy

Future Careers:

Business Owner • Manager • Marketing • Human Resources • Sales

Best Fit For Students Who:

- Enjoy leading others
- Like working with people
- Want to start a business

What are the Expectations:

- Actively participate in projects
- Discussions
- Presentations
- Real-world business activities.

This looks like earning a passing score on an industry based certification exam, and working through real scenarios, creating plans, solving problems, and practicing professional skills.

CROSSWINDS ACCELERATED HIGH SCHOOL

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Master Money Management

What you will learn:

- Budgeting
- Personal finance
- Financial decision-making
- Business technology

Future Careers:

Accounting • Banking • Finance • Business Operations

Best Fit For Students Who:

- Enjoy numbers
- Like organization
- Want strong financial skills

What are the Expectations:

- Participate in projects
- Discussions
- Real-world activities that apply accounting, finance, and workplace skills to realistic situations.

This looks like earning a passing score on an industry based certification exam, and working through accounting scenarios, budgeting practice, and manipulation of numbers using technology applications to solve problems.

CROSSWINDS ACCELERATED HIGH SCHOOL

BUILDING MAINTENANCE & WELDING

Build Skills that Build Careers

What you will learn:

- Construction Basics
- Electrical Systems
- Plumbing Fundamentals
- Facility Maintenance
- Workplace Safety
- Welding Techniques
- Metal Fabrication
- Blueprint Reading
- Safety Procedures
- Industry-Standard Equipment

Future Careers:

Maintenance Technician • Construction Trades • Facilities Management • Welding • Industrial Trades & Construction

Best Fit For Students Who:

- Like hands on learning
- Enjoy fixing things
- Want practical & high demand career

What are the Expectations:

- Commit to the program for the required training period (approximately six weeks)
- Allow sufficient time for skill development
- Maintain regular attendance.

This looks like earning a passing score on an industry based certification exam, and students must follow all safety procedures, actively participate in learning activities, and demonstrate professionalism, responsibility, and teamwork throughout the program.

CROSSWINDS ACCELERATED HIGH SCHOOL

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Inspire the Next Generation

What you will learn:

- Child Development
- Leadership
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Professional Skills

Future Careers:

Teacher • Childcare Professional • Counselor • Social Worker • Pediatric Healthcare

Best Fit For Students Who:

- Enjoy working with children
- Want to help others
- Are interested in education

What are the Expectations:

- Complete Early Childhood Education coursework
- Master key concepts and vocabulary
- Demonstrate readiness through practice assessments.

This looks like earning a passing score on an industry based certification exams, and consistently exhibit professionalism, responsibility, and teamwork throughout the program.

CROSSWINDS ACCELERATED HIGH SCHOOL

HEALTH and WELLNESS

Building Healthy Communities

What you will learn:

- Human Services
- Leadership
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Professional Skills

Future Careers:

Health/ Wellness Coach • Childcare Professional • Physical Therapist • Cosmetology • Barber

Best Fit For Students Who:

- Enjoy working in their community
- Want to help others
- Are interested in Service Professions

What are the Expectations:

- Complete Human Services coursework
- Master key concepts and vocabulary
- Demonstrate readiness through practice assessments.

This looks like earning a passing score on an industry based certification exams, and consistently exhibit professionalism, responsibility, and teamwork throughout the program.

CROSSWINDS
ACCELERATED HIGH SCHOOL

1. **CAHS has strict policies about absences and behavior.** Whatever your past has been, the expectation is that you are coming here with the goal of getting ahead. We can't help you make that happen if you and your support system are not completely invested. That starts with consistent attendance and accountability for actions. Students with excessive absences will be placed on an attendance contract which may include removal from CAHS.

2. **The goal of CAHS is to get students graduated.** To do this, you will have a chance to earn high school credits at an accelerated rate. This requires a commitment of time and effort.

3. **Being productive during class is essential**. Because you will be working to catch up, class time is never the time for inactivity. Students are expected to work through the entire period.

4. **Failure is not an option**. Period. Our courses have been created with a focus on essential standards and skills. This means it is more important than ever that you master all the objectives in your courses. To do so, we will provide significant support systems, but in the end your success depends on your efforts.

5. **Ask for/accept help when you need it**. At CAHS, the teachers' #1 job is to support the students. Therefore, help is always available. Let your teachers know if you are stuck or struggling. If you need help, ask! Your teacher will be glad to guide you.

6. **Cell phones are never to be out/visible in the classroom**. Cell phones must be silenced and put in the designated storage location as soon as you walk into any classroom. Collected phones are retained until the end of the day.

7. **Headphones, AirPods, etc… are not permitted on campus**. They must be removed entering the building and may not be used in class or during transition.

8. **Please dress appropriately.** Our dress code is relaxed, but certain items aren't allowed: pajama pants, hats/caps, crop tops, clothing that shows your midriff or undergarments. Hoodies are fine, but hoods must stay down inside the building. Clothing with references to sex, drugs, alcohol, gangs, or violence are also prohibited.

9. **There are things you need to bring every day.** Bring your ID, Credit Sheet, and this Pathway to Graduation Book. There is no need for you to bring a backpack to campus, as they are not permitted. You will be charged for an ID each day that you do not have one.

10. **Once you arrive on campus you must enter the building.** Waiting in cars, hanging out in the parking lot, or walking off campus is not allowed.

11. **The GPISD Code of Conduct applies at CAHS.** This includes the prohibition of vaping and drugs prior to or during school, as well as the possession of vaping and drug-related paraphernalia on campus. Anyone smelling of drugs or appearing as if they are under the influence will be considered in violation of the GPISD Code of Conduct.

12. **Bus –** Buses pick up promptly at the end of each session. If you miss the bus by leaving campus or not being in the front ready immediately after school, you will need to find your own ride home. Buses are not called back for students.

13. **Graduation –** All ID fines must be paid before you can receive your graduation tickets. A graduation meeting is mandatory for those expecting to graduate. Everyone MUST be on time the day of the ceremony. Only academic stoles/cords provided by the school are allowed. Custom or personal stoles/cords (including flags, pictures, money, etc…) are not allowed and will be collected when entering the ceremony. Graduates need to stay for the entire ceremony and not leave early. Your diploma will be withheld for inappropriate behavior.

Crosswinds Accelerated High School

Student Handbook
Acknowledgement Form

Crosswinds Accelerated High School is a School of Choice committed to helping students from all backgrounds reach their goal of graduation. At Crosswinds, we believe that a student's race, life experiences, language, or economic situation should never define their future. Instead, we provide a flexible, supportive, and barrier-free learning environment where success is always within reach.

Our mission is to nurture, mentor, and educate—especially for those who may have struggled in traditional school settings—so that every student has the chance to grow, thrive, and earn their high school diploma.

By signing below, I understand the expectations at Crosswinds and commit to making the most of this opportunity. I'm choosing to take control of my future and work toward graduation in a school that believes in my potential and is here to support my journey.

Please read, initial, sign, after reviewing expectations in New Student Orientation.

Student Acknowledgement of CAHS Policies and Procedures

I_____, understand that

Student please initial next to each statement

- o _____ I should complete a course every two to three weeks.
- o _____ Once enrolled, I cannot return to any other GPISD high school.
- o _____ I must attend class to complete coursework. There are no virtual options.
- o _____ I must attend bootcamp for any not passed, or not taken EOC Test.
- o _____ I must follow the campus policies and procedures.
- o _____ Because Crosswinds is an alternative education school of choice, I can be withdrawn for poor attendance and behavior issues and not following the expectations of GPISD.
- o _____ I cannot graduate until I have met the state of Texas graduation requirements: attain 26 credits in my degree plan (unless via an IEP) and take/pass all 5 STAAR/EOC tests or equivalents.

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Escuela Preparatoria Acelerada Crosswinds

Formulario de Reconocimiento del Manual del Estudiante

La Escuela Preparatoria Acelerada Crosswinds es una Escuela de Elección comprometida a ayudar a estudiantes de todos los orígenes a alcanzar su meta de graduarse. En Crosswinds, creemos que la raza, las experiencias de vida, el idioma o la situación económica de un estudiante nunca deben definir su futuro. En su lugar, proporcionamos un ambiente de aprendizaje flexible, solidario y sin barreras, donde el éxito siempre está al alcance.

Nuestra misión es cuidar, guiar y educar—especialmente a aquellos que han tenido dificultades en entornos escolares tradicionales—para que cada estudiante tenga la oportunidad de crecer, prosperar y obtener su diploma de preparatoria.

Al firmar a continuación, entiendo las expectativas en Crosswinds y me comprometo a aprovechar al máximo esta oportunidad. Estoy eligiendo tomar control de mi futuro y trabajar hacia la graduación en una escuela que cree en mi potencial y está aquí para apoyar mi camino.

Favor de leer, poner sus iniciales y firmar después de revisar las expectativas en la Orientación para Nuevos Estudiantes.

Reconocimiento del Estudiante de las Políticas y Procedimientos de CAHS

Yo, _____, entiendo que:
(Estudiante: por favor ponga sus iniciales junto a cada declaración)

_____ Debo completar un curso cada dos o tres semanas.
_____ Una vez inscrito(a), no puedo regresar a ninguna otra preparatoria de GPISD.
_____ Debo asistir a clase para completar el trabajo del curso. No hay opciones virtuales.
_____ Debo asistir a bootcamp si no he aprobado o no he tomado un examen EOC.
_____ Debo seguir las políticas y procedimientos del campus.
_____ Debido a que Crosswinds es una escuela alternativa de elección, puedo ser dado de baja por mala asistencia, problemas de comportamiento o por no seguir las expectativas de GPISD.
_____ No puedo graduarme hasta que haya cumplido con los requisitos de graduación del estado de Texas: obtener 26 créditos (a menos que tenga un IEP) y tomar/aprobar los 5 exámenes STAAR/EOC o sus equivalentes.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

Name:
ID:

Your computer is located in room:

Computer Tag:

Username:

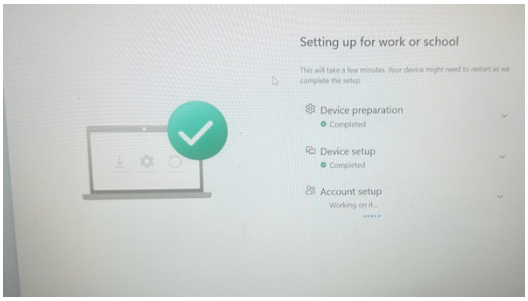
Password:

Google Drive
• Username: @gpisdstu.org
• Password:

Canvas
• Username: @gpisd.org
• Password:

Common Tech Issues

1. Downloading Google Chrome
    - Press the Windows key on the keyboard.
    - Search for Company Portal.
    - Scroll through the list of available apps to find Chrome and download it to the student's computer.
2. Login Screen Error



    - When the computer cycles through and an error message appears, have the student select "Try a different way" to move past the screen.
    - For some, this process can take up to 45 minutes.
    - We've tried swapping devices, but the message still appears. Unfortunately, the only solution right now is to let the computer fully cycle so it can bypass the screen.
3. Black Screen? Press Control+Alt+Delete→ Power Icon on bottom right of screen→Reset. The computer will restart, and you should be able to log in.

See Mr. Skierski located in Room 130 on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays with any questions and/or for tech help.

Counseling Services

My Counselor

Our school counselors are here to help you with everything—from planning your classes and making schedule changes to keeping you on track for graduation. They also check in regularly to make sure you're doing okay and support you every step of the way.

Contact Information:

College Career Advisor

College and Career Centers at GPISD schools have computers, resources, and staff to help you explore college and career options. You'll get support from college advisors and mentors from local colleges. These centers offer lots of tools and guidance to help you plan your future and get ready for college or a career.

Contact Information:

Wrap Around Services

We're here to support you—both in and outside of school. Whether you need someone to talk to, help with food or clothes, or support for your family, we're ready to help. Whatever you're facing, you're not alone—we're in this together.

Contact Information:

Teen Parent Program

Are you pregnant or do you have a baby? Are you the parent of a Teen Parent? GPISD has a support system to help mom and dads stay in school and resources to help you become a great parent.

Contact Information:

HOW DO I REQUEST FOR A SCHEDULE CHANGE?

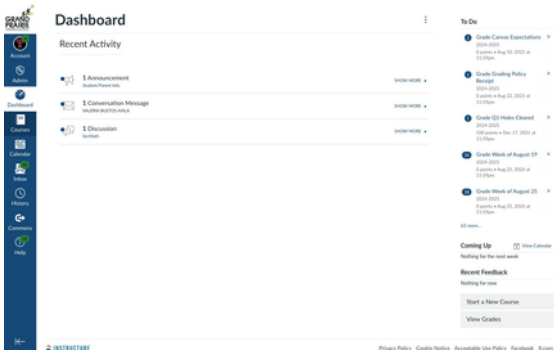
Once a teacher has entered your grade in skyward and recorded the grade on your credit sheet, they will direct you to complete the schedule change request FORM for the counselors.

When your counselor has finalized your grade on the transcript, they will send you a canvas email with your new schedule.

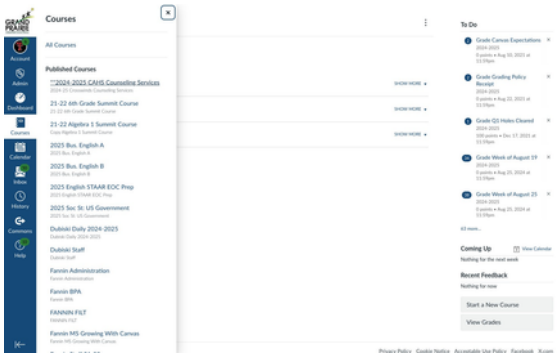
Write your new class on your scheduling page.

Please check your canvas email daily.

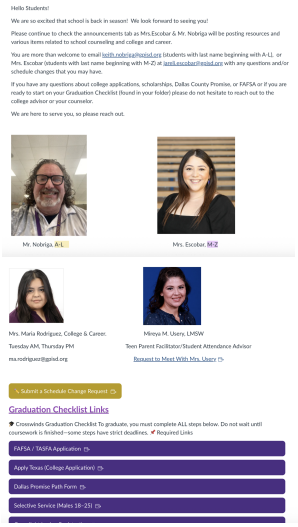
1. Log Into Canvas



2. Select CAHS Counseling Course



3. Scroll to the bottom and click schedule change request.



Counseling Resources

STOPit SOLUTIONS™

Grand Prairie ISD uses STOPit, an online and app-based reporting system, for students and parents to anonymously report concerns about school violence, threats, bullying, and self-injury to school administrators.

STOPit is on every student's iPad from grade 6-12 and can be downloaded to the personal devices of all students (PK–12 grade) and parents. Additionally, any student or parent can make a report through the STOPit website.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE™

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

🎓 Senior Fees

$50 | Due Now!

It's your year — let's celebrate it right!

All seniors are required to pay a $50 Senior Fee to help cover the cost of graduation events and get you some awesome senior swag to commemorate your big year.

✨ **What's Included:**

- Senior swag items
- Celebration materials
- Graduation essentials & more!

Customers may order through: https://crosswindshs.square.site/

Or through this QR Code

🎓 **ORDER YOUR CAP & GOWN**

*To participate in the graduation ceremony, you **must** be in a cap and gown.*

Jostens is the official provider for Crosswinds Accelerated High School.

📍 **Order In Person:**

Jostens Office
817-461-6837
2602 Aero Dr.
Grand Prairie, TX 75052
🕒 Open Monday–Thursday | **Closed Fridays**

💻 **Order Online Anytime:**

www.jostens.com

✅ **Already purchased a cap and gown from another GPISD school?**

You may exchange it at the Jostens office for the correct Crosswinds gown — no need to repurchase.

Don't wait — order or exchange now so you're ready to walk the stage and celebrate your success!

STAAR PRACTICE TEST

The online practice tests are designed to familiarize students with the online testing environment, the available tools, and the various types of test questions. These tests provide students with an opportunity to interact with the test interface, respond to questions, and locate and use available tools.

https://www.texasassessment.gov/practice-tests.html

NEED A TRANSCRIPT?

https://tinyurl.com/5mauyhut

STAAR ALGEBRA I REFERENCE MATERIALS

FACTORING

Perfect square trinomials	$a^2 + 2ab + b^2 = (a + b)^2$ $a^2 - 2ab + b^2 = (a - b)^2$
Difference of squares	$a^2 - b^2 = (a - b)(a + b)$

PROPERTIES OF EXPONENTS

Product of powers	$a^m a^n = a^{(m+n)}$
Quotient of powers	$\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{(m-n)}$
Power of a power	$(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$
Rational exponent	$a^{\frac{m}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a^m}$
Negative exponent	$a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}$

LINEAR EQUATIONS

Standard form	$Ax + By = C$
Slope-intercept form	$y = mx + b$
Point-slope form	$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$
Slope of a line	$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$

QUADRATIC EQUATIONS

Standard form	$f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$
Vertex form	$f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$
Quadratic formula	$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$
Axis of symmetry	$x = \frac{-b}{2a}$

literary devices & techniques

SOME HEAVY HITTERS

allusion

Are there any subtle or overt references to other literary or historical figures, stories, or events? How do these add to the work? How are they appropriate?

apostrophe

Is the speaker addressing someone or something outside the poem? Why?

enjambment

In a poem, when one line or stanza runs over into the next with no punctuation: to what effect?

imagery

An appeal to one or more of the senses: to what effect?

form/genre

Is the poem or text in a certain form? Why might the writer have chosen this form?

diction

Why did the writer choose the word(s) he/she did? What connotations are suggested? Are there patterns? Puns? What mood and tone does the diction create? Is the language abstract or concrete?

tone

How does the speaker convey his or her attitude toward the subject matter?

paradox/oxymoron

Does the writer include something that seems contradictory but actually makes a kind of sense? Why?

metaphor

What comparisons are made and how do they enhance meaning? Is the work as a whole built on a comparison or analogy?

personification

Does the writer give animals, things, or ideas human qualities? What effect does this have?

foreshadowing

Does the author hint at what's to come, either overtly or subtly? What effect does that have?

alliteration

The repetition of sounds at the beginning of words. What effect does this have?

repetition

Does the writer repeat phrases, words, structure, sounds? To what effect?

irony

Does the writer create a discrepancy or contrast between what is stated and what is really meant, or between what you expect and what actually happens? Why?

setting

Why did the writer choose the setting he/she did? How does this affect meaning?

pace/cadence/rhythm

How does the story or poem progress, and at what pace? Is there a detectable rhythm or meter and what effect does it have? Does it change and, if so, how and to what effect?

Revision and Editing Checklist: English I

Revise for…

Informational Text

Clarity

- ☐ clear thesis/controlling idea
- ☐ facts, examples support thesis
- ☐ obvious conclusion/decision
- ☐ clear/concise

Organization

- ☐ appropriate and purposeful organizational pattern
- ☐ fluid sentence and paragraph transitions
- ☐ varied sentence structure

Development

- ☐ language informs and shapes understanding/importance
- ☐ word choice (purposeful and precise)
- ☐ written in a fresh way

Argumentative Text

Clarity

- ☐ clear, arguable claim
- ☐ clear appeals and counterargument
- ☐ convincing conclusion
- ☐ clear/concise

Organization

- ☐ appropriate/purposeful organizational design
- ☐ fluid sentence and paragraph transitions
- ☐ varied sentence structure

Development

- ☐ language informs and shapes importance/ insight
- ☐ word choice (purposeful/precise/powerful)
- ☐ written in a fresh way

Literary Text

Clarity

- ☐ obvious theme
- ☐ details and events support the plot and theme
- ☐ clear/concise

Organization

- ☐ appropriate/purposeful plot sequence
- ☐ literary elements connect in a meaningful way
- ☐ fluid sentence and paragraph transitions
- ☐ varied sentence structure

Development

- ☐ expresses excitement, suspense, humor, etc.
- ☐ word choice (purposeful and precise)
- ☐ language contributes to tone, mood and voice
- ☐ written in a fresh way

Edit for…

Capitalization

- ☐ first letter in a sentence
- ☐ pronoun "I"
- ☐ names
- ☐ months, days of the week
- ☐ official titles of people
- ☐ holidays
- ☐ salutation and conclusion of a letter
- ☐ geographical names, places, historical periods, events
- ☐ documents, languages, races, and nationalities
- ☐ titles of books, stories, and essays
- ☐ proper nouns, including abbreviations, initials, acronyms, and organizations

Punctuation

- ☐ end of sentences
- ☐ commas with items in a series, dates
- ☐ commas in compound and complex sentences
- ☐ commas to set off transitions and introductory elements
- ☐ commas to set off words, phrases, and clauses
- ☐ commas in nonrestrictive phrases and clauses
- ☐ quotation marks in dialogue
- ☐ apostrophes in contractions and possessives
- ☐ italics and underlining for titles and emphasis
- ☐ colons, semicolons, dashes, and parentheses to set off phrases and clauses

Spelling

- ☐ high frequency/commonly used words
- ☐ commonly misspelled words
- ☐ special words
- ☐ commonly confused terms – its/it's, affect/effect, there/their/they're, and to/two/too

Usage

- ☐ complete sentences (avoidance of **unintentional** splices, run-ons, fragments)
- ☐ subject-verb agreement
- ☐ parts of speech
  - ○ verb tenses to include passive and active voice
  - ○ noun forms
  - ○ comparative and superlative adjectives
  - ○ adverbs
  - ○ prepositional phrases and their influence on subject verb agreement
  - ○ pronouns
  - ○ pronoun-antecedent agreement
  - ○ coordinating conjunctions to form compound subjects, predicates and sentences
  - ○ subordinating conjunctions to form complex sentences and correlative conjunctions such as either/or and neither/nor

© lead4ward

Grammar & Mechanics

Apostrophes

Apostrophes are commonly used in **four ways**:

1. To Show Possession (Singular Nouns)

The apostrophe comes before the **-s** to show ownership.

- The committee's decision
- The child's book
- Somebody's chess set
- The children's diapers
- Thomas's toys

2. To Show Possession (Plural Nouns Ending in -s)

Place the apostrophe **after** the **-s**.

- The students' suggestions *(more than one student)*
- My friends' ambition *(more than one friend)*

✅ *Note: When a word ends in -s with a "z" sound, you can use just an apostrophe:*
Charles' mother

3. To Form Contractions

The apostrophe replaces the missing letters.

- Can't *(cannot)*
- Didn't *(did not)*
- He's *(he is)*
- They're *(they are)*

4. To Form Plurals in Special Cases

Use **-'s** for the plural of:

- **Letters of the alphabet:**
    - Joe loved to eat the J's out of his alphabet soup.
    - He had a strange problem of spelling *hat* with two t's.
- **Words referred to as words:**
    - You've used too many *but's* in that sentence.

🔒 *Note: Possessive pronouns (yours, ours, its, theirs, his, hers, whose)* ***never*** *take an apostrophe.*

Commas

Commas indicate a brief pause to clarify meaning in writing. Here are some common rules:

1. Introductory Elements

Use commas after introductory words, phrases, or clauses.

a. Adverb clauses:

- *When I ride my bike, I never fall down.*
- *Although the vote was close, Kennedy won.*

b. -ing phrases:

- *Foaming and splashing, the water hit the rocks.*

c. Prepositional phrases:

- *Without further ado, here is the winner.*

d. Infinitive phrases:

- *To vote in America, you must be 18.*

e. Other introductory words/phrases:

- *Yes, he has made his choice.*
- *However, people do succeed without education.*

f. Conjunctive adverbs:

- *Moreover, the dog was asleep.*
- *Therefore, a hot tub is necessary.*

2. Before Coordinating Conjunctions

Use commas before **and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet** when connecting two full sentences.

- *I tried to run, but I kept falling.*
- *The president leads, so he decides.*

3. Interrupting Words/Phrases

- *The man, however, was not fooled.*
- *The water, crashing loudly, scared the birds.*

4. Items in a Series

- *Nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives are basic parts of speech.*

5. Multiple Adjectives

- *The dashing, foaming waves hit the beach.*

6. Conventional Uses

- Numbers: *60,000*
- Dates: *August 2, 1990*
- Addresses: *434 Court Ave., Delbert, ND*
- Titles: *Jim James, Ph.D.*
- Quotes:
    - *Mary said, “How are you?”*
    - *“Strangely enough,” he said, “I am fine.”*

Hyphens & Dashes

Dashes (—) are longer than hyphens (-) and add emphasis.

1. Two Dashes (—) to Set Off Clauses

a. *I must—I absolutely must—do my homework.*
b. *Pop stars—Mandy Moore, Jessica Simpson, Christina Aguilera—are popular.*

2. One Dash to Emphasize

a. *Then I realized—it was all a dream.*
b. *He had everything—money, fame, and talent.*
c. *She chose wisely—the school had small classes and caring faculty.*

Quotation Marks

Introducing Quotes

Use one of the following:

1. The Comma

- *Forster states, "Dickens was the greatest."*

2. The Colon

- *Dickens' character was described best: "He was sharp yet tremulous…"*

3. No Punctuation

- *St. John's supported clubs that promoted "practical piety."*

Always introduce your quote with context and speaker.

Sentence Patterns

1. Compound Sentences with Coordinating Conjunctions

Pattern: *Sentence , [and/but/or/nor/for/so/yet] Sentence*

- *Mary is laughing, but John is crying.*

2. Compound Sentences with Conjunctive Adverbs

Pattern: *Sentence ; conjunctive adverb , Sentence*

- *Mary is laughing; however, John is crying.*
  You can move the adverb:
  Mary is laughing; John, however, is crying.

3. Complex Sentences with Subordinating Conjunctions

- *Since Jack was hurt, Mary cried.*
- *Mary cried since Jack was hurt.*

Common subordinating words: because, although, when, while, if, since, after, before, until

4. Complex Sentences with Relative Pronouns

(who, whose, whom, which, that)

- *Mary, who is my cousin, laughed.*
- *The girl who is laughing is my cousin.*

Semicolons

Use a semicolon (;) to link **related independent clauses** or clarify complex lists.

1. Between Closely Related Independent Clauses

- *Some tutors are leaving; others will return.*

2. Before a Conjunctive Adverb

- *Some tutors are leaving; however, others will return.*

3. To Avoid Confusion in Complex Sentences

- *Rush Limbaugh, Newt Gingrich, and Phil Gramm; and others were controversial.*

4. To Separate Items in a Complex List

- *Andrea Williams, literature specialist; Tony Silva, agent; and Glen Tautges, engineer.*

5. Scholarly Lists

- *(1) sharp wit; (2) social satire; (3) deep moral vision*

6. Elliptical Constructions

- *The staff is excellent; the food, tolerable; and the classes, challenging.*

❌ Misuses of Semicolons

- After a subordinate clause: *Unless you brush your teeth;(✘)*
- Before a list: *Some actors are;(:) Brad Pitt, Emma Thompson*
- Before a coordinating conjunction: *...had experience; but only one...* (✘)

WINNING WEDNESDAY: CAREER & OPPORTUNITY FAIR

Use this page to capture quick but meaningful information from the organizations you meet. Think about what interests you, what's possible, and how to take the next step.

🔹 Organization Name: _____

What do they do?

_____

Careers, training, or opportunities they offer:

_____

What do I need to qualify? (Age, skills, education, etc.)

_____

Why it interests me:

_____

Next steps or follow-up:

_____

_____

🔹 Organization Name: _____

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_____

_____

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Careers, training, or opportunities they offer:

_____

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_____

Why it interests me:

_____

Next steps or follow-up

_____

_____

Attract the right people by being yourself

P.A.T.H. TO GRADUATION

Month:	Current number of credits: /26
	Number of Credits Remaining:

P – Progress

What helped you make progress towards earning credits this month?

What got in the way?

A - Attendance

How do your attendance habits impact your credits?

What is one change you could make to improve?

T- Tenacity

How would you describe your effort lately?

H - Habits

Are you managing your time wisely?

🎓 Next Steps Towards Graduation 🎓

Write two specific actions you'll take this month to move forward:

Teacher Notes

Celebrations, notes, follow up from advisory teacher


Positive
Vibes
Only

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POSITIVE
MIND



POSITIVE
VIBES



POSITIVE
LIFE

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ENJOY
every
MOMENT

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This is your sign to keep pushing

YOU'VE GOT THIS!

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DON'T
GIVE UP
JUST
BECAUSE
THINGS
ARE HARD

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Teacher Notes

Celebrations, notes, follow up from advisory teacher

I will accomplish anything I put my mind to.

I AM CONFIDENT AND I AM STRONG

P.A.T.H. TO GRADUATION

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Celebrations, notes, follow up from advisory teacher


Smile

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H - Habits

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Teacher Notes

Celebrations, notes, follow up from advisory teacher

GRAND PRAIRIE Independent School District 2026-2027 CALENDAR

July 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	(11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8)	9	10
11	12	13	(14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18)	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

July
4 ..... Independence Day
1-3 ..... Non-school Day / Unified Closure

August
3 ..... Professional Development
4 ..... AM Campus PD / PM Split (New Teacher Academy or Campus PD)
5 ..... Professional Development
6 ..... Teacher Work Day
7 ..... Professional Development
10 ..... Vector Solutions
11 ..... First day of school

September
7 ..... Non-school Day / Labor Day

October
9-13 ..... Fall Break
12 ..... Indigenous Peoples' Day

November
2 ..... Professional Development / No Students
3 ..... AM: PD / PM: Teacher Work Day / No Students
23-27 ..... Thanksgiving Break

December
21-31 ..... Winter Break

January
1 ..... Winter Break
4 ..... Professional Development / No Students
5 ..... Teacher Work Day / No Students
18 ..... Non-school Day / MLK Day

February
15 ..... Non-school Day

March
12 ..... Professional Development / No Students
15-19 ..... Spring Break
26 ..... Non-school Day

April
19 ..... Inclement Weather Day

May
27 ..... Last day of school
28 ..... Teacher Work Day
31 ..... Non-school Day

June
19 ..... Juneteenth

- Non-School Day
- Professional Development
- Teacher Work Day
- Inclement Weather Day
- Vector Solutions
- AM Campus PD / PM Split (New Teacher Academy or Campus PD)
- AM PD / PM Teacher Work Day
- ( ) Beginning/Ending Nine Weeks

Semesters/Nine Weeks

August 11-October 8 ..... 42 days
October 14-December 18 ..... 41 days
First Semester ..... 83 days

January 6-March 11 ..... 45 days
March 22-May 27 ..... 47 days
Second Semester ..... 92 days

Total Days ..... 175 days (77,875 mins.)

Students: 175 Days
Teachers: 187 Days
Note: Subject to change by legislative action

January 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	(6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11)	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	(22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27)	28	29
30	31					

June 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Approved: 12/11/2025