

## **Incoming Freshmen FAQ's**

### *What is a weighted GPA?*

An Honors or Advanced Placement Course passed with a grade of 'C' or higher will receive an additional grade point in the calculation of the overall GPA. In regular coursework a GPA is calculated using the following numerical scale: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1 and F=0. Using a weighted scale, A=5, B=4, C=3, D=1, F=0. The total number of grade points are added together and divided by the number of classes used to determine that grade point total. All courses except for PE and Athletics are used in the calculation of the overall GPA, including high school level courses taken while in middle school.

### *How do I get into Athletics?*

All students will be placed into PE 9. The only sports currently enrolling all students are Wrestling, Cross Country, and Football. All other sports are made by selection from tryouts or participation in the summer program. We recommend that students attend Athletic Night and reach out

### *Can anyone join the THS Band or Colorguard?*

Anyone can join the Band by selecting PE Band and Advanced Band (1st Year) when selecting courses on PowerSchool. You will also have room for an additional elective since PE Band is a 7th period class. Colorguard will have a tryout.

### *What is composite citizenship?*

Each semester, a student receives an 'E, S, or U' citizenship mark for each class. If a student earns 3 or more 'U' marks in any of their 6 or more classes, they will earn a single 'composite' citizenship mark on their transcript or 'U'. To earn a composite 'E' mark, you must earn 'E' marks for all classes. Any other combination will earn an 'S' mark.

### *Should I take Health over the summer?*

Taking Health during the summer is not required, but does allow students to free up space in their freshman year schedule. This extra room allows them to enroll in an additional elective—perfect for students who have a strong interest in a particular subject but still want to meet the A-G requirements for 4-year colleges. For example, many college-bound students take a World Language, but they may also be passionate about subjects like the Arts, Engineering, or Career Technical Education. By completing Health in the summer, students don't have to choose between the two—they can do both.

### *Is it better to take an Honors/AP class and get a 'C,' or a regular class and get an 'A'?*

This is a common—and tricky—question. The answer really depends on your student's individual goals, strengths, and habits. Honors and AP classes are challenging and require strong time management and study skills. While it's great to push for academic

rigor, it's just as important to set your student up for success and maintain a healthy balance.

Colleges do value rigorous coursework, but they also look for strong grades and signs that a student can handle their academic load without being overwhelmed. Mental health and stress management are key factors, too. Ultimately, the best choice is the one that fits your student's goals, abilities, and well-being.

*Can I take Math in summer so I can advance the next year?*

Advancing in Math by taking these courses over the summer is generally not recommended. Algebra 1 is a critical foundational course that sets the stage for success in all future high school and college-level math classes. Mastery of the concepts is essential, and it's difficult to achieve the same depth of understanding in a fast-paced, 6-week summer course. It's important that students build a strong math foundation rather than rush ahead, especially if they plan to take higher-level math in the future.

*Is there Independent Study PE for my student who plays organized Hockey (or another sport)?*

If your student participates regularly in an organized sport, such as Hockey, Gymnastics, Ice Skating, or another program not offered at THS, you can apply for Independent Study PE (ISPE). Please contact Student Services for further details.

*What is the difference between quarter vs semester grades*

In high school, quarter grades are progress reports that show how a student is doing partway through the semester. These grades give a snapshot of current performance but do not appear on transcripts, with the exception of PE, Teacher's Assistant, and Office Aide.

Semester grades are the final grades earned at the end of the term. These do appear on transcripts and determine whether credit is awarded—credit is given for grades of D or higher.

Once a semester grade is placed on the transcript, it stays there. If a student retakes a class to improve a low or failing grade, both grades will appear on the transcript, but only the second grade is used in the GPA calculation. Keep in mind, credit is only awarded once per course, even if it's repeated.