

FRESHMEN

Welcome to High School!

How to Thrive

- Join a club, sport, or extracurricular activity!
- Get help or tutoring when you need it, not after you are behind and panicking.
- Be kind to your teachers and classmates. They are your greatest resource while in high school.

Things to Think About

- You have more independence. This can be good! It also means more responsibility and self-discipline.
- You may need to stand up for yourself and what you believe in. Don't be afraid to speak up and ask for help when you need it.
- More is expected of you and the workload may be heavier. You can do this!
- GPA matters, even as a freshman! Get good grades when you can.
- It is never too early to start thinking about college, a career, or the military.

Know your Graduation Requirements

- The state of Texas requires the completion of a minimum of 22 credits and at least 1 endorsement. Plan to complete at least 26 credits if you want to go to college.
- Distinguished Level of Achievement is required for you to be eligible for the top 10% automatic admission rule for public Texas Universities.
- You can graduate with the Distinguished Level of Achievement if you have met requirements for 4 maths, 4 sciences, and 1 endorsement.

TERMINOLOGY

GPA: grade point average; calculated using the grades you make in your classes; determines rank and can affect college acceptance

RANK: your numerical placement amongst students in your graduating class

PSAT: Preliminary SAT; a test administered by the College Board involving both math and English that prepares you for the SAT and can qualify you as a national merit scholar

SAT: Scholastic Aptitude Test; college entrance exam for some colleges and universities; multiple-choice exam consisting of math and English questions

ACT: American College Test; college entrance exam for some colleges and universities; multiple-choice exam consisting of math, reading, scientific reasoning and English questions

DUAL CREDIT: courses that earn you both high school and college credit

CREDIT: you earn credits for graduation by passing courses; each semester of a passed course is worth 0.5 credits

CBE: credit by exam; you can earn credit for particular courses by taking an exam and scoring a certain percentage

WEIGHT: the way a grade for a course is factored into your GPA; talk to your counselor for more information about which classes are weighted higher