

## Centennial High School Counseling FAQs

### SCHEDULING

#### Should I take Pre-AP/AP classes?

Obviously, this is a very individual decision, and there are many factors to take into consideration: areas of strengths, previous grades, other commitments, teacher recommendations, etc. Your current teacher knows your skill set the best. They will be the best judge of your academic readiness. Taking all Pre-AP in all areas is very challenging and time consuming, especially for those who have extracurricular commitments. Please know very few students can juggle this load well. We encourage you to balance your life and your school load. Students who decide to take Pre-AP classes are required to complete the entire first 6 weeks of the class before a move to regular level would be considered.

#### Can I play multiple sports at CHS?

Yes, however, only the sport that occurs first will appear on your schedule. It is important to discuss your plans with your coaches because some sports' seasons overlap quite a bit, making it very difficult to participate in both.

#### Should I sign up for athletics?

Anyone can sign up, but you must make the team in order to stay in the class. Our athletic programs are competitive and not designed to teach a student the sport; students are already expected to have experience and skills. Students who do not make the team are removed from the class and then placed into PE and/or alternates from their schedule card. If this happens, you might get switched to new teachers and even a new lunch assignment. This occurs around week two of the semester.

#### Can I request a particular teacher/period/lunch?

We do not honor requests for certain teachers, class periods, or lunches.

#### Who is eligible for Late Arrival/Early Release?

Juniors and seniors who are on track with their credits, have parent permission, and who have transportation at the appropriate times may request late arrival or early release. Students should be aware that this may impact the other courses available to them and that selective colleges do not look favorably upon this option.

#### How can I be a teacher or office aide?

Juniors and seniors, who are on track with their credits and who have parent and staff permission, may request to be a teacher or office aide. It is the student's responsibility to seek out a staff member who needs them as an aide. You earn no GPA points and no credit as an aide.

#### Can I be in the band and also in athletics?

Maybe. You need to consult with both the band director and the coach of the sport you wish to play. It is very time consuming to do both of these activities. While it might be allowed, it will be a challenge.

#### Can I take classes at the CTE Center?

There are a couple of classes open to 9th graders at the CTE center. These are noted on the back of your schedule card. Transportation is provided. Many CTE classes have prerequisites so be sure to check the course catalogue to see if you are eligible. The course catalogue is posted to the CHS home page.

<http://www.friscoisd.org/schools/chs/>

#### How does the A/B block work?

We have a total of 8 classes. Four classes meet each day for an hour and a half each; the next day, four different classes meet. The first four classes are 'A' day, the second four classes are 'B' day, and they alternate all year long.

#### Can I change my mind and change my schedule after I turn in my card?

You can make any changes you need to up until our final schedule verification. In April, you will be mailed a copy of the courses we have entered for you at CHS. If your courses are entered correctly, you will not need to return the verification form. If there is an error, or you have changed your mind, you have until April 17<sup>th</sup> to return the verification form to CHS and make any changes you wish. After April 17<sup>th</sup>, elective choices cannot be changed. Remember that once school begins, students who have signed up for Pre-AP classes will be required to complete the first six weeks before a move to regular will be considered. Students who wish to move to regular level at the close of the first six weeks will need the permission of the teacher, parent, and counselor.

### Can you explain the PE options at CHS?

There are several classes that count for PE. You can take actual PE class. You have 4 choices under the PE option: Aerobics, Team Sports and Individual Sports, Weightlifting and Personal Fitness (healthy living). Each of these classes lasts for the full year. If you do not take PE class, you can take one of the following instead: Band, dance class, color guard, athletics, and drill team. Anyone can sign up for dance class, but the rest of these require a try out or approval of the instructor. Go ahead and sign up and then the try out will happen once you are at CHS. Band students should contact Mr. Rein for more information about band. Cheerleaders also earn PE credit.

### One technology class is required to graduate. Can you tell me which classes will count for my technology credit?

Business Information Management (BIM), Digital & Interactive Media (DIM), Broadcast TV, Computer Maintenance, Computer Science, Yearbook, Journalism, Photojournalism, Web Technologies, Digital Graphics & Animation, Intro to Engineering and Architectural Design. Not all of these are open to 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Check your schedule card or the course guide to see if 9<sup>th</sup> graders can enroll.

### One fine art credit is required to graduate. Can you tell me which classes will count for my fine art credit?

Art, theater, technical theater, choir, band, dance, orchestra, digital graphics and animation and elements of floral design all count as a fine art credit towards graduation.

### What classes at the middle school level count toward high school for graduation?

The 2 year Spanish program at the middle school gives you credit for Spanish 1 at the high school. Students who took this should sign up for Spanish 2 in ninth grade. Other high school credits include Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and health.

### Where can I find more information about the classes offered at CHS?

The course guide is posted to our home page. <http://www.friscoisd.org/schools/chs/>

The guide will tell you how many credits you earn, what grade level you have to be in to take the class, if there are any fees, and if there is a prerequisite. It will also give you a description of the class.

## ACADEMICS

### How can I find my GPA?

Weighted GPAs are calculated twice per year after semester grades are finalized; they are posted to Family Connection, and an email is sent when they are uploaded. The first time a freshman will see their class rank is in February of their freshman year. Occasionally, seniors will need to know their unweighted GPA for a scholarship or college application. Please contact your counselor for this information. Both types of GPA appear on the transcripts we send to colleges.

### What is the difference between weighted and unweighted GPA?

The weighted GPA gives extra point value for the PAP, AP, and dual credit classes. CHS uses a 5.0 weighted GPA system. This is how we determine class rank, Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and honor grads. Unweighted GPA is figured on a college 4.0 system, and sometimes out of state colleges ask that your GPA be converted to the 4.0 system.

### Can I take classes in the summer?

Yes, you can take health, professional communications (speech), medical terminology, Business Information Management (Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and DIM (digital and interactive media). These are the only classes offered in summer school for advancement (to get ahead). There are two sessions of summer school. You can only take one class each session of summer school. Each session lasts approximately 3 weeks and each session costs approximately \$250. BIM and DIM require both sessions. Summer school dates, location, and registration will be available on the website in May. All other classes taught in summer school are only open to students who need to repeat the class due to failure. Summer school classes will not be computed in GPA.