

If a student exempts a course during his/her junior year but does not enroll in the course during his/her senior year does he/she lose the exempt status for the junior year?

No. Each year will stand alone.

What if a student drops the exempt course?

The exemption is a full course commitment for it to be implemented on the student's GPA. If the student drops a one-semester course or a full-year course before completion, **NO** exemption will be applied. The student receives the earned grade for the course and it **WILL** count toward the student's GPA. The student does not forfeit the option of being able to exempt the fourth year of that same course.

Can a student exempt Cheerleading as a junior or senior?

Yes. If he/she was a cheerleader as a sophomore, he/she can exempt the junior year. If he/she becomes a cheerleader as a junior, he/she can exempt the senior year as a cheerleader.

What are the requirements for Dance Team waiver?

They are the same as for all other identified four-year electives. A student must be in Dance Team or Dance Team Training as a freshman and sophomore to exempt their junior year and/or senior year.

If a one-season athlete does not have an athletic program to enter in the Spring of their senior year, may they exempt only one semester of the course?

Yes. In some cases the courses eligible for exemption are semester courses.

When do exemption requests have to be turned in to the counselor?

Exemption requests, with all signatures affixed, have to be turned in to the counselor by the end of the third (3rd) week of each semester.

Can a student take Art or Dance courses as GPA Exempt courses?

No. Art or Dance courses (other than Dance Team or Dance Colorguard) are not offered as GPA Exempt courses, nor can Dance be used as a prerequisite for Dance Team the junior or senior year.

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INFORMATION BROCHURE • QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



GPA EXEMPT COURSES

2011 - 2012

INFORMATION REGARDING GPA EXEMPT COURSES

Katy Independent School District strives to encourage students to pursue their areas of special talents and interests to enrich their academic achievement. To encourage this group of students to maintain their participation in these classes, the District allows juniors and seniors to participate in the third and fourth years of the following courses on a GPA Exempt basis:

- Advanced Journalism
Newspaper
Yearbook
- Agricultural Science Courses:
8110 8141 8160
8120 8143v 8170
8122 8144 8190
8125 8144v 8232
8130 8145 8237
- Athletics (not PE)
- Band
- Cheerleading
- Choir
- Dance Colorguard
- Dance Team
- Debate
- Oral Interpretation
- Orchestra
- Theatre
Technical Theatre
Theatre Arts
Theatre Production

Who is eligible to take a course on a GPA Exempt basis?

This option is available to juniors and seniors who wish to take courses from the above list that are beyond the requirements for graduation. To qualify for the GPA exemption for the third or fourth year course, the

student must have an overall B average in the course for which he/she is seeking a waiver. He/she must also have already taken the first two years of this particular course (exception: cheerleading) at the high school campus. All students must meet the prerequisites of each course and have parent, teacher, and counselor approval.

- Junior students may only receive a GPA exemption for one course their junior year.
- Senior students who have not used any of the GPA exemptions during their junior year would qualify for two exemptions during their senior year as long as prerequisites are met.
- The option of securing exemptions for two classes in the same year is only available to seniors for whom no GPA exemptions have been granted prior to the senior year.

NOTE: Students may take only two (2) full-year courses or four (4) half-year courses on a GPA Exempt basis.

How are grades handled in a GPA Exempt course?

Students who are eligible and choose to take one of these courses for a GPA Exempt grade:

- Will receive a numerical grade all year on the report card.
- Will receive the actual numeric grade with a comment or label indicating “GPA exempt” on the Academic Achievement Record (transcript).
- Will have these courses excluded from the computation of GPA and class rank.

What are the performance standards for these courses?

- Students must complete all of the assigned work. The numerical grade earned will be reported on the report card.
- Students must take tests and final exam for the course unless exempt from finals.
- Students must maintain eligibility to stay in the GPA Exempt course by having a passing semester grade average.

How will grades in a GPA Exempt course affect eligibility for extra- curricular activities?

The numerical grades earned in a GPA Exempt course will be used to determine eligibility for participation in all UIL or school-sponsored activities. In addition, numerical grades will also be used to determine honor roll each six-weeks; for qualifying criteria used in selection of students for various positions such as Dance team officers, class officers, exam exemptions, etc.; for eligibility for academic awards, including admission to organizations such as National Honor Society; etc.

How do students enroll in a GPA Exempt course?

Students interested in taking one of the GPA Exempt courses must discuss this option with the teacher of the course on the first day the class meets. If the student meets all of the criteria, he/she must:

1. Complete the appropriate form.
2. Have the form signed by the parent and teacher.
3. Return the form to the counselor no later than the end of the third (3rd) week of each semester. At this time, if all criteria are met, it will be approved and a schedule change will be made to reflect enrollment in a GPA Exempt course.
4. Once the student signs up to take a course as GPA-exempt, the decision cannot be changed.
5. Students enrolled in full-year courses do not need to reapply during the second semester.
6. Students, including move-in students, who miss the deadline for application for the first semester, may apply for exemption for the second semester if they meet the criteria.

**AN APPLICATION HAS TO BE
FILLED OUT AND SIGNED BY
THE STUDENT, THE PARENT,
AND THE TEACHER.**