

## Incoming 9th grade Course Selection FAQ

Students are assigned a JHS school counselor depending on their last name. Current 8th grade parents should be reaching out to their AJH/SLJH counselor to answer any questions about course selection.

All course selection information will be through SchoolLinks including the course catalog. We also include up to date information on the JHS school website, in the counselor-Course Selection section.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Feeder Schools: SLJH and AJH
- Mascot: Warrior
- Bus transportation is provided. To see if your family is eligible, please visit: <https://busroutes.katyisd.org/wqliveweb/webquery/>

### **Parent Involvement**

Parent involvement is crucial to a student's success in high school. Below are some recommendations on how to monitor your child's progress at JHS.

- Parents will receive weekly newsletters from our principle through Blackboard, but most information goes through the "Class or" Canvas messaging. Please ensure that you are reading Canvas messages as they are helpful reminders of upcoming events and deadlines. Please see the [Canvas Parent Guide](#) for information on how to link your Canvas messaging to your primary email and more.
- Parents will receive an email to check progress reports & report cards through Home Access Center. Please check grades at these critical checkpoints and discuss any academic concerns with your child's teacher. Please use the [Home Access Center guide](#) for information on how to set-up your account and create grade alerts for your student.
- Please do not use 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps to monitor your child's grades. Apps like Gradeway and Saturn have been unreliable in reflecting accurate student grades and/or schedules.

### **General Academic Information**

- The school day consists of seven periods.
- If a student chooses a semester course (0.5 credit), the student will need to choose another semester course (0.5 credit).
- All prerequisites listed in the course catalog are followed at JHS.

- Priority is given to upperclassmen for some courses, please choose your alternate electives carefully.

**What is the timeline/deadline to switch from a KAP class to an academic class in high school?**

Students must make the change within the first ten days of school. After ten days, drops from KAP to Academic are not allowed. *The only exceptions* are if the student receives a failing grade during the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> six weeks, or a teacher recommends a drop during the 1<sup>st</sup> six weeks after conferencing with the student. Students must stay in their KAP/AP course through the 1<sup>st</sup> semester and can request a drop to the academic level for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester within the 1<sup>st</sup> ten days of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

**Can I take 2 study hall/student aide periods?**

9<sup>th</sup> grade students are not allowed to have 2 study hall/student aide periods. Study hall can be taken for one semester or for the entire year. Study hall is a no credit course.

**Do I have to choose alternates?**

Yes. If you do not enter alternates, the counselors will choose for the student.

**Can I take the same high school credit classes again at JHS?**

No. Students *should not* sign up for 9th grade courses for which they have already received high school credit for in junior high, including CBE high school credits.

**Do I need to take Principles of Health Science and health?**

Principles of Health Science (1 year course) and health (semester course) both meet the graduation health requirement. You do **not** need to take both classes. Students can start taking Principles of Health Science in 9th grade, and it is a prerequisite course for several MCTC programs. (Clinical Rotations, Pharmacy Tech., Dental Assisting, and EMT Basic). Students not interested in the MCTC medical pathways should take the .5 one semester Health course.

**Can I take AP Computer Science Principles & AP Computer Science A during the same year?**

No, you can only take one computer science elective (AP Computer Science Principles or AP Computer Science A) per year. You can put a second computer science elective as an alternate if you do not make it into your first-choice elective. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff or computer labs to accommodate students taking multiple computer sciences per year. Upperclassmen are given priority for these courses.

**I'm interested in participating in Future Farmers of America (FFA).**

It is recommended to take Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources in 9th grade.

### **I'm interested in taking Yearbook or Newspaper.**

This is not an open enrollment course and requires instructor approval. Please start with the Journalism class 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.

### **Why can't I take theatre/debate for a semester for my speech requirement?**

Although 0.5 speech credit is required, the following classes are full year courses: Debate, Theatre and AP Seminar (available 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade). Students must complete and pass the full year to receive a speech credit from a full year speech elective. There are semester classes that can meet the 0.5 speech graduation requirement (Leadworthy).

### **What is the time commitment for electives?**

Athletic teams and performing art programs require practices, rehearsals, performances, and games outside of the school day and over the summer break. Theatre, Technical Theatre, and Debate also have after-school and event requirements similar to the commitments of athletics and fine arts.

### **Can you tell me about Class Rank and GPA?**

Class rank is calculated in February of students' 11<sup>th</sup> grade year. It is then recalculated again in June and August. Most students submit college applications August- November of their senior year and class rank is not calculated again until late January. The GPA for college admissions is calculated after the summer semester sessions of a student's 11<sup>th</sup> grade year (this is the GPA calculation used for top 10%, 6%, etc.).

### **Athletics/PE**

- Students should sign up for the sport based on when the season begins and select the sport that happens first in the school year. For example, a student wanting to play football and basketball will sign up for football.
- Only one athletic class/PE should be chosen.
- Students can participate in more than one sport, and JHS counselors will work with coaches later to update the schedule throughout the school year.
- A new physical exam must be given prior to each school calendar year.
- Some sports do require summer participation.
- Students who sign up for a sport and do not make the team will be scheduled for PE during the school year.

- If your student only participates in one sport, they will stay in the athletic period with coach approval for off-season workouts.

### Credit By Exam

Katy ISD offers Credit by Examination for acceleration at every grade level and subject area offered in accordance with the Texas State Board of Education rules. A student is allowed the opportunity to advance one grade level or one course per academic year. Katy ISD offers four Credit by Examination testing windows throughout the year. Contact a junior high counselor for the application. You can also find more information at the link below.

[Katy ISD Credit by Exam Information](#)

### Endorsements

All students will select an endorsement during 8th grade Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) conferences. Students will be permitted to change their endorsement by completing an endorsement change form, which can be found on the counseling website. Students can earn multiple endorsements, and counselors will add any endorsement earned prior to graduation. There is no limit to how many endorsements a student can earn.

There are five endorsement options, which allow students flexibility based on individual interests and career goals. Each endorsement category is designed to prepare students to successfully enter postsecondary education or the workforce upon graduation from high school.

STEM – Science, Technology; Engineering and Mathematics (Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics are required for the STEM endorsement)
PUBLIC SERVICES – Education and Training; JROTC; Health Science; Human Services; and Law and Public Service
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY – Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources; Architecture and Construction; Arts, A/V Technology and Communications; Business, Marketing and Finance; Hospitality and Tourism; Information Technology; Manufacturing; Transportation; and Journalism, and Public speaking
ARTS & HUMANITIES –Social Studies; Languages other than English; Fine Arts; and English Language Arts

MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES – Allows students to take courses in several endorsement areas as listed above.

### **GPA Calculation**

KISD uses a weighted 4.0 grading scale, please see the below chart for GPA breakdown by class level, academic grade ranges and GPA calculation.

- Class Rank is based on a cumulative grade point average for grades 9-12, plus high school courses taken in junior high and credits earned via preapproved Katy ISD provider(s).
- Students are officially ranked for the first time after the fifth semester in high school. Katy ISD only provides the exact rank for the top 10% of the senior class.
- Students who are not given an exact rank will be placed in a quartile. Quartile will only be populated on transcripts for students who are in the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd quartile. Quartile will not show for students in the 4th quartile or students new to Katy ISD.

<b>Graduating Classes of 2023 and Thereafter</b>				
	(90-100) A	(80-89) B	(70-79) C	(69-Below) F
KAP/AP Courses *	5	4	3	0
Academic Core and Elective Courses	4	3	2	0
Dual-Credit Courses	4.5	3.5	2.5	0
Fundamental/Applied Courses	3	2	1	0

### **GPA Exemption**

Students *cannot* GPA exempt any courses in their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. Students are encouraged to pursue their areas of special talents and interest to enrich their academic experience. Courses may be taken on a GPA-exempt basis as established by Board Local Policy EIC. Eligible courses require a prerequisite and an extra/co-curricular component outside the school day throughout the course. Updated GPA Exempt information will be provided each year through our counseling website and through GPA exempt eligible courses.

**If my child takes 4 years of athletics/performing art program, can he/she apply for GPA exemption?**

Students can GPA exempt up to 3 years in athletics or fine arts eligible courses. Students cannot GPA exempt the first level in athletics or fine arts.

**Can my child do off-campus PE in 9th grade and be eligible for GPA exemption the next 3 years?**

No. Students must be in the class for one year at JHS before they can be GPA exempt eligible.

**Is Art 1 a GPA exempt course?**

No, Art is not a GPA exempt course. GPA exemptions only apply to activities that require after school commitments. There are AP Art courses available during the 11th & 12th grade years.

**LOTE requirement**

Texas students are required to take a level 1 & 2 language course as part of their graduation requirement.

- The languages offered at Jodan High School are Spanish, German, Spanish for Spanish Speakers, Chinese and French. ASL 1 & 2 is offered as a virtual course through Instructional Day KVS. Students will have a study hall scheduled to work on their ASL course.
- Some students choose to take specific computer science courses to meet the LOTE graduation requirement. Please have your child visit their counselor for more information and required forms.
- We recommend checking with your child's prospective university options to see if they will accept computer science as a LOTE course for college admissions. While computer science courses can meet the LOTE graduation requirement, several universities still require a traditional LOTE credit for college admissions.

**Katy Virtual School**

- Online summer school classes are available to register at [Katy Virtual School](#).
- Students can take up to 2 credits over the summer through KVS.
- Each summer term is equivalent to one semester or .5 credit.
- High school summer school courses are calculated the same as a fall or spring course on the same GPA scale.
- Summer school courses must be approved by a counselor.

- Courses are not self-paced and have deadlines. Please visit the [KVS FAQ section](#) regarding summer course structure and other information. If you have additional questions, please email [katyvirtualschool@katyisd.org](mailto:katyvirtualschool@katyisd.org).

**What is the difference between AP Human Geography (1 year) and AP Human Geography (semester)?**

AP Human Geography for 9th graders is a full year. It combines all the World Geography TEKS with the AP Human Geography TEKS. A bridge program is typically offered over the summer and information will be provided through 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies classes. The semester course focuses on the AP Human Geography TEKS and is designed for 10-12th grade students only. *Students taking World Geography over the summer cannot take the AP Human Geography full year course in their 9th grade year.*

**What is the benefit of taking World Geography in summer school? Why is this popular?**

Only parents and students can make the decision to take summer school. There are many reasons that students choose to take World Geography in the summer. For example, taking world geography in the summer opens a spot in the student's schedule to take a study hall or an additional elective.

**My child is a GT social studies student but wants to take World Geography KAP in the summer.**

GT students are required to take the highest level offered for a course. GT students who want to take KAP World Geography in the summer or during the school year are exited from GT social studies. Students choosing to take KAP World Geography in the summer cannot take AP Human Geography during the school year.

**Is Algebra 1 available during the summer?**

No, Algebra 1 for original credit is not available for incoming 9th graders. Students can take the Credit By Exam to earn credit for Algebra 1.

**Is Geometry or Geometry KAP available during the summer?**

**No**, Geometry or Geometry KAP for original credit are not available for incoming 9th graders.

**What classes can I take during the summer for original credit?**

KVS has limited course offerings for incoming 9th graders. Please visit the [KISD Katy Virtual School website](#) for a list of courses and additional information.

## Can I take other summer school courses through an accredited program for high school credits?

Per Katy ISD policy, JHS will not be able to accept credits if they are through a different program. The only approved programs are Katy Virtual School, Texas Virtual School (with form submitted for approval), HCC Dual Credit program, or the Faithwest/UHD program (for AP World History or AP US History). All require the appropriate paperwork to be filled out with counselor approval before taking the course.

## **ROTC**

The ROTC program is only available through MCHS. Students zoned to JHS that would like to participate in ROTC will need daily transportation provided to MCHS. Students will be scheduled with a study hall during 6th period, and the ROTC class during 7th period to allow time for transportation from JHS to MCHS. KISD does have a bus transportation option available for ROTC students.

## **Course Prerequisites**

- All course prerequisites can be found in the [KISD Course Catalog](#).
  - **All Art 2 classes (Ceramics I, Drawing I, Painting I, and Sculpture I):** Prerequisite *7511 Art I*
  - **8616 Principles of Applied Engineering:** *Recommended Pre/Co-requisite of Algebra 1*
  - **8602 Engineering Design and Presentation:** *Principles of Applied Engineering*
  - **2000 Computer Science:** *Algebra 1*
  - **2006 AP Computer Science Principles:** *Algebra I*
  - **0271 AP Computer Science A:** *Algebra 1 (Recommended Pre-/Co-requisite of Algebra II or Geometry KAP)*
  - **6320 Spanish 2:** *Spanish 1*
  - **1621 Yearbook:** *Need Instructor Approval*

## **Off-Campus PE**

### Am I eligible for off campus PE?

Off-Campus PE Program is available for 6th-12th graders who meet the following criteria during the Katy ISD Instructional School Year. Off Campus PE information and the application can be found by clicking on the following link. Applications will be accepted until the 5th day of school for each semester.

Once approved by the counselor, the student will receive PE credit after completing the sport requirements each semester.

### [Katy ISD Off Campus PE Information](#)

#### QUALIFYING CRITERIA

**CATEGORY I:** Requires a minimum of fifteen (15) hours per week of exceptional or high quality participation by the student. This category allows the student to miss one period of the school day (as defined by TEA) due to the intensive training required by the program activity. JHS students who are approved for Category I Off Campus PE will leave school early. Students must also meet a 90% attendance requirement to participate.

**CATEGORY II:** Requires a minimum of five (5) hours per week of appropriate participation by the student (i.e. swimming, gymnastics, ballet, martial arts, etc.). The student is not allowed to miss any part of the school day for participation in this type of program. JHS students who are approved for Category II Off Campus PE will earn PE credit. Students must also meet a 90% attendance requirement to participate.

All sports/activities require individual, one-to-one, directly supervised instruction. No team sports, including team sports private lessons, will be approved (i.e. basketball, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball, etc.). Only sports that allow for individual scoring and individual advancement will be approved.

#### **PE**

#### **Is PE mandatory for a freshman or can the credit be earned at another time?**

The PE requirement can be earned during any of a student's 4 years. All students must earn at least 1 year of PE credit as a graduation requirement. The PE requirement can be fulfilled through off-campus PE in an approved activity.

#### **Can band be used as a PE credit?**

Marching band is the first semester of the year-long band course. It is designated with a different course number only for those students who are using the fall semester to meet the PE requirement. Students who are in athletics and are NOT using marching band to fulfill the PE requirement will sign up for the year-long band course number to satisfy their fine arts requirement.

### **Can cheerleading count towards PE credit?**

Yes, the first year of cheer counts as a PE credit. Any cheer classes after the first-year count as elective credits. Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will not be scheduled for cheer until after cheer tryouts.

### **I'm interested in being on the JV Dance Team.**

Please see the flyer for our Golden Line Dance Team to complete the application and see information regarding afterschool commitments. Students who do not complete the application will be placed in the Dance 1 class.

### **My student does not participate in PE as part of their 504 plan/Special Education?**

Please discuss ways to meet the PE graduation requirement at your annual 504/ARD meeting. There are several PE options that are less physical than typical PE that students can take to receive a PE credit, including Athletic Trainer (application & extracurricular commitment), Collaborative PE (listed as Skills Based PE) and team manager. We also have Outdoor pursuits, where students focus on outdoor sports like fishing, archery, and hunting licensure.

### **Miller Career & Technology Center**

For information regarding specific MCTC programs, please see the [MCTC website](#).

- MCTC is only for 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Some programs will require prerequisite courses to be taken in the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- The home campus counselor will work with the MCTC counselor on scheduling MCTC program courses.
- Students can elect to drive to MCTC or take district bus transportation to Miller. The bell schedules of the home campus are staggered from the MCTC bell schedules, so students will have sufficient time to travel without an off period for travel.
- For other questions, please visit the [MCTC FAQ](#).

### **JHS Clubs & Organizations**

- For information about JHS clubs, please visit the [JHS Clubs & Organizations](#) section. Students can also contact club sponsors for more information and meeting dates.