

# **High School**

## **Course Selection Information:**

### **8th to 9th Grade**

**2024-2025**

# Foundation High School Program + Endorsement

## Graduation requirements (26 Credits)

### English-4 credits

- English I, II, III, and an additional/advanced English

### Math-4 credits

- Algebra 1, Geometry, and 2 additional/advanced math course

### Science-4 credits

- Biology, and one course from IPC, or Chemistry, or Physics, and 2 additional/advanced sciences

### Social Studies-3 credits

- US History, 0.5 credit Government, 0.5 credit Economics, and either World History or World Geography

### LOTE (Languages Other Than English)-2 credits

- Credits must be in the same language and taken consecutively

### Fine Arts-1 credit

### Physical Education-1 credit

### Health-0.5 credit (KISD requirement)

### Electives-6.5 credits

- One elective must have a communication skills component

### Endorsement

- Students are expected to earn an endorsement in one of five areas. Each endorsement requires electives related to their specific endorsement.

# Endorsements: Basic Information

- ★ Students must choose at least one endorsement at the time they enter 9th grade
- ★ There are multiple pathways to complete each endorsement
- ★ Your endorsement should be selected based on your individual interests and goals
- ★ Students can change and/or confirm their endorsement along with their course selections each year

# The Endorsements

- STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics)
- Business and Industry
- Public Services
- Arts and Humanities
- Multidisciplinary Studies

NOTE: Each endorsement is different and has its own requirements. When selecting an endorsement you should think about the courses you want to take. Endorsements are listed at the top of your Course Selection Planning Sheet that you will receive from your Science teacher at the end of this presentation. The course catalog includes information about endorsements in greater detail.

# Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA)

- To graduate with a Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA) you need to successfully complete:
  - All requirements for the Foundation High School Program, plus
  - The requirements of at least one endorsement, including
    - Algebra II among the four required math credits, and
    - A fourth science credit
- A student must graduate with a Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA) to be considered for the Top 10% and eligibility for automatic admission to a Texas public college or university.

# Algebra II Notice

Algebra II is not specified as a graduation requirement; however, students who do not earn Algebra II credit are not eligible for the following:

- Earning the Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA), which requires completion of an endorsement with Algebra II among the four math credits
- Recognition as an honors or high honors graduate
- Automatic admission to a state public college or university
- Certain financial aid opportunities

# Top 10% RULE

- A student whose class rank\* is in the top 10 percent of the graduating class may be eligible for automatic admission consideration at a Texas public college or university.
- Requirements to qualify for automatic admission consideration include:
  - Completing the FHSP+Endorsement, including the Distinguished Level of Achievement
  - Earning a satisfactory ACT or SAT score
  - Submitting the college application before the college or university's deadline
  - Providing a final high school transcript verifying completion of the FHSP+Endorsement, including the Distinguished Level of Achievement

\*Class rank must be based on the student's rank at the end of the 11th grade, middle of 12th grade, or at high school graduation, whichever is most recent at the college or university's application deadline.

# UT Austin Exception: Top 10% RULE

- The University of Texas at Austin does not extend automatic admission consideration to students in the top 10% of their graduating class.
- Seniors of the class of 2023 who ranked in the Top 6% were eligible for automatic admission consideration at the University of Texas at Austin.



# KISD GRADING SCALE

<b>Course</b>	<b>90-100 A</b>	<b>80-89 B</b>	<b>70-79 C</b>	<b>69 and Below F</b>
Advanced	5	4	3	0
Dual Credit	4.5	3.5	2.5	0
Academic	4	3	2	0

- The alphabetic identification for scores 70-79 is a C
- KISD no longer uses a D in the grading scale
- This benefits students by aligning the district grading scale with other school districts in the state. This allows KISD students to be more competitive in college admissions and scholarship application processes.

# Course selection information

- ★ Found on the WCJH webpage under the Counselor's tab
- ★ Under the Counselor's tab, click on "Course Selection Information 2024-25"
- ★ Scroll down to the heading that says "Current 8th Grade Course Selection Information"
- ★ Resources include:
  - Course Selection Sheets for Katy HS and Tompkins HS
  - Course Selection Timeline
  - SchoolLinks Step-by-Step Guide (directions for entering course requests)
  - High School Course Selection Presentation for 8th to 9th Grade
  - OTHS Course Selection Presentation
  - Katy Course Selection Presentation
  - Video: How to Select Pathway of Study and Endorsement in SchoolLinks
  - KISD Course Catalogue (paper copies do not exist)

# Course selection Sheet

- ❖ Today during your Science class you will receive a Course Selection Sheet and a Course Planning Sheet
- ❖ The Course Selection Sheet is a list of all the courses offered in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade
- ❖ Pay close attention to prerequisites BEFORE choosing your 9th grade courses
- ❖ **Tompkins ONLY**: Computer icons were added beside courses that might end up being offered virtually, not face-to-face

# Virtual Courses on Course Selection Sheet

- ★ As Counselors learn more about which courses will be offered virtually, we will let you know.
- ★ **Tompkins HS:** If you choose a course that has the computer icon beside it on the Course Selection Sheet, please indicate if you would like to opt-in or opt-out of the virtual option by checking one of the boxes at the bottom of the Planning Sheet.
  - Yes, my child can participate in virtual instruction.
  - No, do not place my child in a class with virtual instruction.  
Please place my child in one of their alternate classes.

# 2024-2025 Course Planning Sheet

- ★ After reviewing the Course Selection Sheet, you will complete the 2024-25 Course Selection Planning Sheet
- ★ Please indicate your course requests by filling out the chart on the Planning Sheet
- ★ **Choose enough courses to fill 7 class periods**
- ★ If you choose a semester course, remember to choose another semester course to complete the year

# 2024-2025 Course Planning Sheet

- ★ **IMPORTANT**: Remember to complete the “Alternate Course Selections” section on the Planning Sheet
  - Limited availability in some courses
  - Scheduling conflicts may prevent you from getting a course you requested, so listing alternates is VERY important
  - List 3 alternate electives that could replace a class if it is full
- ★ **Tompkins HS**: **Student & parent signatures are required** on the Course Planning Sheet

# Schoolinks Course Planning

- Students are required to enter their 9th grade course requests into Schoolinks
- Follow the directions from the Step-by-Step Guide (located on WCJH website) on how to enter course requests
- Here's a picture of what the Schoolinks tile looks like on MyKaty Cloud:



# NEXT STEPS

- ★ Take your Course Offerings Sheet home & review it with your parents
- ★ Complete the 2024-25 Course Selection Planning Sheet
- ★ Enter 9th grade course requests in SchooLinks:
  - The course requests you enter in SchooLinks need to match the selections you've written on your Planning Sheet
  - Remember to enter alternate elective choices into SchooLinks in the same order they are written on your Planning Sheet
  - **Only enter enough courses in SchooLinks to fill 7 class periods**



# Course Selection Deadlines

- ❖ SchoolLinks is open for students & parents to submit course requests from Feb.5<sup>th</sup> - Feb.19<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Return your completed Course Planning Sheet to your Science teacher by Jan.31<sup>st</sup>
- ❖ Counselors will make copies of the Course Planning sheet on Feb.1<sup>st</sup> and Feb.2<sup>nd</sup>
- ❖ Counselors will return the copy to your Science teacher on Feb.5<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ **If you run into difficulty using SchoolLinks, don't worry. Just make sure you return your completed Course Planning Sheet on time. That's the MOST important thing!!**

# Course Selection Meetings With Counselors

- ★ Counselors will meet with students individually to verify course requests for 9th grade between Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> - March. 8<sup>th</sup>
- ★ These meetings will occur during Science classes

# 4-Year Plans

- ★ During your individual meeting you will also complete your 4-Year Plan with a counselor
- ★ This is a PRELIMINARY plan. It is NOT permanent!
- ★ Your 4-year plan will change
- ★ Each year you will meet with your high school counselor to make changes
- ★ Do NOT stress about your 4-Year Plan
- ★ The purpose of our meeting is for you to start thinking about what pathway you want to pursue in high school

# Entering 4-Year Plan in SchoolLinks

- ★ To practice making your 4-year plan, visit the WCJH website and click the Counselor's tab:
  - Under the Counselor's tab, click on "Course Selection Information 2024-25"
  - Scroll down to the heading that says "Additional Course Selection Resources":
    - Click the link that says, "Sample 4-Year Plan"
- ★ After you enter your course requests in SchoolLinks for your 9th grade year, fill in as much as you can for 10-12th grade.
- ★ Do NOT stress about 10-12th grade because you will meet with a counselor to help you complete this

# Course Verification

- ★ The course verification window is **March 18<sup>th</sup> - March 26<sup>th</sup>**
- ★ The purpose of course verification is for you to finalize course requests or make changes to your requests, if needed
- ★ This is your ONLY opportunity to request changes to electives for 9th grade
- ★ You will receive instructions for completing course verification in March
- ★ Course verification will be completed via Schoolinks

# Not Sure Where To Begin?

1. Complete your Course Selection Planning Sheet
2. Enter your 9th grade course requests in SchoolLinks by Feb.19<sup>th</sup>
3. Return your Course Selection Planning Sheet to your Science teacher by Jan.31<sup>st</sup>

Need help with course selection?

- Remember, resources are available on the WCJH webpage under the Counselor's tab. Please take advantage of these resources.
- Feel free to contact the 8th grade Counselor with questions regarding 9th grade. To get a faster response I highly recommend sending an email.
- GO TIMBERWOLVES!