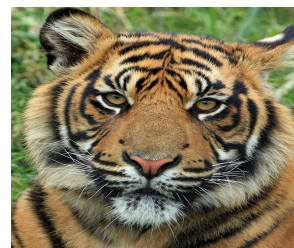


Rising Freshman Parent Frequently Asked Questions



Who do you need to know next year?

- ✓ Mr. Chris Duncan, Principal
- ✓ Mrs. Diana Penny, Vice Principal (Curriculum & Instruction)
- ✓ Mr. Reginald Gipson, 9th grade Administrator
- ✓ Mrs. Ellen Payne, 9th grade School Counselor
- ✓ Mrs. Joy Bowser, Attendance Administrator
- ✓ Ms. Sherri Buchanan, Registrar
- ✓ Mrs. Sharon Stutts, Attendance Operator
- ✓ Mrs. Connie Hawkins, Attendance Operator

**email address and contact information available on the AHS webpage*

When do I receive my 9th grade schedule?

- ✓ Students will receive schedules during the Arlington High School Freshman Orientation. The date for Freshman Orientation is still to be determined. The date will be shared in the Spring. If you cannot attend this date, students will need to report for Student Enrollment Verification/New Student Registration Day Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

What is a credit?

- ✓ Students earn credits in high school for courses in which they earn a 70% or higher
- ✓ Credit is earned each semester (0.5) when a student earns 70% or higher for each course.
- ✓ A student must earn 1.0 to successfully complete a yearlong course.
- ✓ If a student does not pass semester one of a yearlong course, semester grades may be averaged together to obtain 1.0 credit for the year.

How many credits do I need to graduate?

- ✓ To meet state and local requirements, all students shall have achieved the specified 22 units of credit.
- ✓ Students must earn 4 English credits, 4 Mathematics credits, 3 Science credits, 3 Social Studies credits, 1 Lifetime Wellness credit, 0.5 credit additional Physical Education, 2 credits in the same World Language, 1 Fine Arts credit, 3 Focus Area credits, and 0.5 credit in Personal Finance.
- ✓ Students who have taken the equivalent of a high school level course in middle school shall receive high school credit for graduation, provided that the students receive a passing grade in the course (as explained in ACS Policy 4.604). The credit will be placed on the student's transcript and calculated in the high school GPA. Students must take the semester examination for the course as required for students in grades 9-12 who earn credit for graduation.

What is an Alternate PE credit?

- ✓ The Tennessee Diploma Project requires 1.5 credits in Lifetime Wellness/Physical Education
- ✓ Lifetime Wellness (1.0 credit) is earned in 9th grade.
- ✓ The additional 0.5 credit may be earned through Recreational Games, Lifetime Sports, Weightlifting, JROTC. or Alternate PE.
- ✓ **Alternate PE**=Participation in band, sports, or JROTC with 80 hours of physical activity. Your coach/sponsor signs off on the Alternative Credit PE form.
**Lacrosse and swimming are clubs offered at AHS not TSSAA sanctioned sports. However, they may count toward the Alternate PE credit.*

What is the purpose of the 4-year plan?

- ✓ The 4-year plan helps students plan out their four years of high school. It gives them an opportunity to map out where all the required 22 credits will be placed.
- ✓ Students will have an opportunity to reevaluate, update, and make corrections every year of high school.
- ✓ Students also have the opportunity to see where they have space for additional course options beyond the required 22 credits during their four years of high school.

What is the difference between required courses and electives courses?

- ✓ **Required courses** meet graduation requirements set by the Tennessee Diploma Project through the Tennessee Department of Education
- ✓ **Focus area courses** are required courses for graduation. Three (3) credit must be earned in one Focus area
- ✓ **Electives** are any additional course options students use to fill their schedule each year. Each student will accrue between 24 and 28 credits during their four years of high school. Students who take HS credit bearing courses in MS may earn up to 31 credits. These additional courses past the 22 required are called electives.

What is a Focus Area?

- ✓ Students must choose a Focus Area in the 8th grade during the course selection process.
- ✓ Students must earn 3 Focus Area credits to meet graduation requirements.
- ✓ These courses focus on a particular concentration beyond the CORE requirements.
- ✓ Focus areas are not college majors. They are courses that peak a student's interest. Focus areas may be changed during the course selection process in 9th grade.
- ✓ Focus Area choices include: Welding, Mechatronics, Machining Technology, Advanced Placement, Office Management, Fine Arts, Emergency Services, Nursing Services, Human & Social Sciences, Humanities, Coding, Cybersecurity, Criminal Justice & Correction Services, Entrepreneurship, Math & Science, Leadership in Government (JROTC), BioSTEM, and STEM.
- ✓ Some Focus area courses begin with Level 1 in the 9th grade and matriculate to Level 4 in the 12th grade.

How do I select a world language?

- ✓ Students are required to take two years of the same world language.
- ✓ A world language may be started either 9th or 10th grade.
- ✓ For 8th graders taking Spanish I Honors, they will earn one credit toward graduation requirements, as this course may count as one of the two required world language credits needed for graduation. The student should continue with Spanish II in 9th grade to complete the world language requirement. Students are encouraged to continue with Spanish II Honors.
- ✓ The other option for 8th graders taking Spanish I Honors is to select a new world language 9th grade or 10th grade. The student would still be required to obtain 2 credits in the same world language to meet graduation requirements. Spanish is a great basis for either Latin or French!

How many courses do I take each year? How many study halls can I have each year?

- ✓ All students are scheduled for 7 courses and a lunch.
- ✓ AHS operates on a 7 course rotation schedule, with one course scheduled daily and six block courses scheduled on alternating days.
- ✓ Students are allowed to take one study hall each semester in a school year. Students typically do not take a Study Hall in 9th grade but wait until 11th and 12th because of more difficult course work.

What is STRIPES?

- ✓ **STRIPES = System To Reach Intervene Push and Enrich Students**
- ✓ STRIPES is a stand-alone intervention and enrichment period that occurs approximately 45 minutes each day Monday – Thursday to meet the needs of all students.
- ✓ Students are released to a pre-determined, teacher assigned destination in order to attend intervention or enrichment sessions based on individual evidence of learning.

What does a typical school week look like?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st 7:00-8:34	2 nd 7:00-8:34	1 st 7:00-8:34	2 nd 7:00-8:34	1 st 7:00-8:48
3 rd 8:40-9:28	3 rd 8:40-9:28	3 rd 8:40-9:28	3 rd 8:40-9:28	2 nd 7:54-8:41
STRIPES 9:34-10:15	STRIPES 9:34-10:15	STRIPES 9:34-10:15	STRIPES 9:34-10:15	3 rd 8:47-9:34
4 th 10:21-12:20	5 th 10:21-12:20	4 th 10:21-12:20	5 th 10:21-12:20	4 th 9:40-10:27
6 th 12:26-2:00	7 th 12:26-2:00	6 th 12:26-2:00	7 th 12:26-2:00	5 th 10:34-12:15
				6 th 12:21-1:07
				7 th 1:13-2:00

What is an EPSO?

- ✓ We believe ALL students should have access to rigorous and relevant early postsecondary opportunities (EPSO).
- ✓ Types of EPSO's include: Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, Dual Credit, Industry Certification
- ✓ Early postsecondary opportunities allow students to:
 - earn postsecondary credits while in high school
 - become familiar with postsecondary expectations
 - develop confidence and skills for success in postsecondary
 - make informed postsecondary and career decisions
 - possibly decrease the time and cost of completing a certificate or degree

What are honors/AP/Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit/Industry Certification points? What is a G.P.A.?

- ✓ Honor/AP/Dual/Industry certification points are given each quarter because your course work is more advanced and rigorous than standard course work.
- ✓ Honors/AP/Dual/Industry certification points earned in your classes generate a **weighted Grade Point Average** because of the added value associated with them.
- ✓ If you take all standard courses then your G.P.A. is not weighted.
- ✓ Your G.P.A. (Grade Point Average) is determined by grades/courses completed each semester.
- ✓ G.P.A. is calculated 2 times a year (end of August and end of January).
- ✓ Your credits matter! Your G.P.A. will start to be calculated with your first high school credit bearing course!!

What is the difference between standard, honors, AP, Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit and Industry Certification courses?

- ✓ **Standard**=no honors points
- ✓ **Honors**=more rigorous course work, 3 points added to grade per quarter, faster paced classes
- ✓ **Advanced Placement**=Advanced Placement course is college level course work through College Board, national exam given in May, approximately \$94 per course, 5 points added to grade per quarter and exam.
- ✓ **Dual Enrollment**= partnership with The University of Memphis, Southwest Tennessee Community College, The University of Tennessee at Martin, and Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT), these courses allow students to participate in college level courses conducted during the school day on the AHS campus, 4 points added to grade per quarter and exam.
- ✓ **State Dual Credit**= Dual Credit Pre-Calculus (11th and 12th) sponsored through the Tennessee Department of Education, statewide challenge exam required, 4 points added to grade per quarter and exam.
- ✓ **Local Dual Credit**= Lifetime Wellness (9th), Business Management, and Personal Finance (12th) partnered with Southwest Tennessee Community College, 4 points added to grade per quarter and exam.
- ✓ **Industry Certification**= provides a professional continuum in which students receive credentials enabling them to succeed in their postsecondary academic/career path, 4 points added to grade per quarter and exam.

What is the Laude System? (ACS Policy 4.605)

- ✓ Effective with the graduating class of 2022, a laude system, rather than a class ranking system, will be used to delineate three categories of High Academic Distinction, for 12th grade graduating students.
- ✓ The categories shall be determined by cumulative weighted grade point average. All high school credit grades earned in grades 8-11 and the first semester of the 12th grade year will be counted toward the student's grade point average. The final semester of the 12th grade year shall not be taken into account when determining the grade point average.
- ✓ The categories of High Academic Distinction shall be as follows:
 - Summa Cum Laude ("With Highest Honors") – GPA of 4.4 and above
 - Magna Cum Laude ("With Great Honor") – GPA of 4.10 – 4.39
 - Cum Laude ("With Honors") – GPA of 3.90 – 4.09

What is the Arlington Collegiate Academy (ACA)?

ACA is an academic and career leadership program allowing students many avenues to obtain college credit and career leadership experiences while in high school.

Benefits include:

- ✓ Obtain up to 24 hours of college credit before leaving high school
- ✓ Get early access to more than 60 academic courses including Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, Dual Credit and Honors Courses
- ✓ Get early access to the college admission process and college-level academic coursework
- ✓ Leave high school with a professional leadership portfolio detailing community & high school experiences
- ✓ Access to Collegiate Academy Leadership and Career Speaker Series
- ✓ Partnerships with a peer and teacher mentor
- ✓ Receive an Arlington High School Honors Diploma
- ✓ For more information and an Application please visit the ACS website – www.acsk-12.org

What is the PAVE Academy?

PAVE, a Performance Arts & Visual Experience Academy, is a fine arts program fast tracking you to a successful future in the arts and beyond.

Benefits include:

- ✓ Gain access to more than 50 Fine Arts Course offerings including numerous Advanced Placement and Honors courses
- ✓ Multiple showcase opportunities
- ✓ One-to-one personalized mentoring with seasoned arts educators
- ✓ A culminating capstone project at the end of the fine arts strand
- ✓ Challenging experiences that prepare you for your future
- ✓ For more information and an Application, please visit the ACS website – www.acsk-12.org

What is the Academy of Engineering and Innovation (AEI)?

AEI offers a unique insight for students who are interested in engineering. The goal of this program is to prepare our Academy students to be career and college ready for STEM and Engineering careers of the future!

Benefits include:

- ✓ Through innovative measures of learning, engaged communities of practice and real-world problem solving, AEI students will be prepared learners for the future.
- ✓ Integrated Projects
- ✓ One-to-one personalized mentoring
- ✓ Challenging experiences that prepare you for your future in Civil/Mechanical/Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, or Engineering Technology
- ✓ For more information and an Application, please visit the ACS website – www.acsk-12.org

What is JROTC?

JROTC – Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps – prepares high school students for responsible leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as American citizens.

- ✓ Offered to students in the 9th through 12th grades
- ✓ Stimulus for promoting graduation from high school, and provides instruction and rewarding opportunities that benefit the student, community, and nation
- ✓ Successful completion of 2 years of JROTC substitutes for one credit of Lifetime Wellness and ½ credit of Physical Education
- ✓ Successful completion of 3 years of JROTC substitutes for one credit of Lifetime Wellness, ½ credit of Physical Education, and ½ credit of Personal Finance.
- ✓ Students successfully completing two or more years in the program may receive advanced promotions upon enlistment into a branch of the armed services.
- ✓ This is not a recruitment for the military services. There is no military obligation for participating in the program.

ACT Frequently Asked Questions

Sophomores are scheduled in the Preparing for the ACT, Post-secondary and Career semester course. The course may be waived if a student scores a 25 or higher Composite and meets all 4 ACT College Readiness Benchmarks prior to enrollment in the course. Visit www.act.org for information regarding the College Readiness Benchmarks.

When should I take the ACT?

- ✓ As soon as you are ready but no later than the 2nd semester of the year you take Geometry or as soon after you complete Geometry

How many times can a student take the ACT?

- ✓ Up to 12 times

Where do I get practice/test prep information?

- ✓ Register for ACT's Test Question of the Day
- ✓ In high school, stop by the Guidance office for free materials and check out our Counseling Cove for college/scholarship resources.

When do I send my scores to colleges?

- ✓ ACT sends your scores to places you request when you register at no cost.
- ✓ 12th grade when you apply to college.
- ✓ Review the Help/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) link
<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/help.html>