

How to Use the Program of Studies Guide

This Program of Studies Guide will help students and parents plan high school courses for the coming school year. This is not a process that should be taken lightly or done in a rushed fashion. The courses you take in high school will provide you with the skills and understandings necessary to become a well-educated person, and they will provide the foundation for life beyond high school. In addition to planning a schedule for next year, we strongly advise that you draft a plan for all four years of high school. This draft will help you to see how the courses you take each year will prepare you to graduate from high school, ready and prepared to meet your personal goals.

Developing an appropriate schedule is the shared responsibility of the home and the school. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to seek guidance and assistance from teachers and counselors. Guidance counselors are particularly helpful in advising families on topics such as preparation for college, identifying and preparing for other post-high school options, meeting NCAA course requirements for playing college sports, meeting the requirements for a high school vocational program, and selecting an appropriate list of courses for desired careers. *No question is too simple.* Everyone, especially those who are experiencing this planning process for the first time, has questions. All questions can be directed toward guidance counselors who welcome the opportunity to share information with students and parents. In some cases, counselors will direct parents or students to specific faculty members who can provide information about the content and recommended sequence of courses.

This Program of Studies Guide lists all of the courses that will be offered during the 2012-2013 school year in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Courses are organized by program or department. The table of contents lists all programs and departments, and it will help you to navigate through the book. If you cannot find a course that you are expecting to find, please contact a counselor for assistance. Each course listing includes information about the length of the course, the credit, any fees that will be charged, any prerequisites that may apply, and a description of the content that will be covered. Teacher names are not listed because teacher schedules are not developed until students have submitted course requests.

At both the Freshman School and the Senior High School, the academic day is divided into seven class periods. Each period is approximately 45 minutes in length. Most courses are 36 weeks in length (two semesters) and are worth one credit. Some courses, such as Health and a few electives, are 18 weeks long and are worth one-half credit. Physical Education is an 18-week course, but by Ohio law it is only worth one-fourth credit.

This Program of Studies Guide lists high school graduation requirements and other valuable information related to planning a successful high school experience. A study period (study hall) can be scheduled in place of a class if parents agree that this is in the student's best interest or if schedule conflicts make it impossible for a student to take a needed course. The school tries hard to avoid schedule conflicts, but they do occur. Planning ahead can help to minimize the chance of schedule conflicts.