

# ***General Information***

## **GRADE LEVEL**

Promotion is based solely on academic achievement, with a passing grade of 70 and 90% attendance required to earn credit. Any required course failed during the school year should be retaken in summer school, night school, virtual school, correspondence or credit-by-exam. Prior approval from your **counselor** or principal designee is **required**. Grade classifications as determined by credits are as follows:

<b>Freshman:</b>	0 to 5.5 credits
<b>Sophomore:</b>	6 to 11.5 credits
<b>Junior:</b>	12 to 17.5 credits
<b>Senior:</b>	18 credits

## **CREDIT DEFICIENT STUDENTS**

**There are several disadvantages and challenges a student must overcome when he/she becomes deficient in credits earned:**

- Any student who does not meet the requirements for promotion will be classified according to the number of credits he/she has earned.
- A fourth year high school student who has been reclassified to junior status can be moved to senior status by January of that school year if they achieve all deficient credits and are passing all courses required for graduation. **This does not apply to underclassmen.**
- Students take standardized tests according to their current, not pending, grade classification. For example, a student who has deficient credits will take the 10th grade TAKS test, even though this is the student's third year in high school.
- Contrary to middle school, a high school student must retake only the courses failed as opposed to repeating the entire year of courses. See a dean if you have questions.

**Remember—ALL graduation requirements, including passing all parts of TAKS, must be Met before you can take part in the graduation ceremony.**

## **DAILY SCHEDULE**

Student schedules will include 7 classes per day. Students will attend periods 1 thru 7 daily. See attached bell schedule.

## **RANK IN CLASS**

Class standing is calculated after the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> semesters (end of 11<sup>th</sup> grade year).

Senior students are ranked by their cumulative grade point averages. All students within the top 10% of their class are eligible for consideration for automatic admission to Texas public universities provided application procedures are followed.

For further information pertaining to ranking, please see HISD Board Policy (section 10).

**Note: HISD policy provides for the ranking of senior students eligible for graduation, and does not provide class rankings for under classmen; however, an underclassmen's cumulative GPA will suffice for scholarship, internships, and/or other specialized programs in which a rank might be requested.**

## GRADUATION CEREMONY

To participate in commencement ceremonies, students must meet **ALL** graduation requirements, including passing all state exit level exams and required course credits.

## HONOR GRADUATES

Graduates are recognized by their cumulative grade point averages as follows:

Summa Cum Laude -Top 5%

Magna Cum Laude -Next 10%

## EARLY GRADUATES

A Texas resident who completes all graduation requirements within 36 months (3 years) of entry into ninth grade is eligible to receive an Early Graduation Scholarship to attend a Texas public college or university, provided all high school years were taken in Texas. Students wishing to apply for early graduation must contact their dean and the registrar by the beginning of the early graduation school year

## NCAA

Student athletes will be required to file with the NCAA Clearinghouse to determine initial eligibility to participate in college athletics. Some Washington courses which count towards graduation are not accepted by the NCAA as core courses for college. For more information see the Play It Smart Coach.

## GRADING SYSTEM

90-100	=	A
80-89	=	B
75-79	=	C
70-74	=	D
69 and below	=	F

### REPORT CARDS/PROGRESS REPORTS

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, students will be given a progress report. Report cards will be issued at the end of each six-week grading period. Parents should refer to the school calendar for dates. The calendar can be accessed at <http://hs.houstonisd.org/WashingtonHS/>.

## GRADEPOINT AVERAGE

Grade point averages (**GPA**) are calculated by averaging the number of points awarded at the completion of a course.

Grade	Preparatory Courses	Pre-AP/AP Courses	Modified Courses
A	4 points	5 points	3 points
B	3 points	4 points	2 points
C	2 points	3 points	1.5 points
D	1 point	2 points	1 points
F	0 points	0 points	0 points

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT


The College Board offers a series of Advanced Placement (AP) exams which allow students to earn college credit with certain scores. Washington High School offers the following courses to help prepare students for these exams:

### PRE-AP

English 1, English 2, World Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, Computer Science

### AP

English Language III, IV, English Literature, World History, U.S. History, Government, Economics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics "B" and "C", Environmental Science, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Spanish Language.



**Be sure to check Advanced Placement information for the colleges to which you are applying. Each school awards credit differently.**

**REMEMBER...**Pre-AP and AP Courses award extra points towards your grade point average and class rank!

## **TESTING INFORMATION**

### **TAKS – REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION – CLASS OF 2005 AND THEREAFTER**

This test was given for the first time to students in the spring of 2004. Ninth graders will test in Reading and Math. Sophomores and Juniors will test in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. State of Texas graduation requirements will include passing all parts of the junior level test for students who entered the ninth grade in 2001 or after.

Retests will be available in the fall and spring of each year.

**Price: No charge**

**Registration: Handled through the school. No special registration is needed.**

**Type: One section given on each of four separate days**

### **PSAT- PRELIMINARY SAT**

The PSAT is given one time only, in October. This practice test for the SAT is also the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship. Only juniors are eligible for scholarship consideration, but sophomores should take the test for practice. Many scholarship or college applications will ask for junior year PSAT scores. This test covers verbal and math reasoning skills and writing skills. It is a valuable predictor for success in higher level courses, such as AP, future SAT scores, and college success.

**Price: About \$15. Subject to change**

**Registration: See College Access Coordinator  
September and early October.**

**Type: Five 30 minute sections**

### **ACT – COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM**

The ACT is one of the two college entrance exams required by most colleges and universities. ACT test skills in English, Math, Science Reasoning, and Reading. Scores range from 1 to 36 on each section. Those scores are combined into a composite score, which also ranges from 1 to 36. A score above 20 is generally in the top 50%. ACT exams are given on Saturdays about 6 times a year. Pre-registration is required, about six weeks in advance.

**Price: About \$30- \$45. Subject to change**

**Registration: By mail or on-line at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)**

**Type: Four sections of varying lengths.**

**Washington School Code:  
443340**

## **SAT REASONING – COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM**

SAT Reasoning is one of two college entrance exams required by most colleges and universities. SAT Reasoning measures verbal and math reasoning ability needed to succeed in college-level work. Scores range from 200–800 on each section. A score of 500 on each section, or a total score of 1000, is generally in the top 50%. The SAT Reasoning is given on Saturdays, about 7 times a year. Pre-registration is required about six weeks in advance.

**Price: About \$43. Subject to change**  
**Registration: By mail, or on-line at**  
**www.collegeboard.com**  
**Type: 10 tests, varying times**

## **SAT SUBJECT TESTS – COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT EXAMS**

SAT Subject tests consist of a series of one hour achievement tests in various subjects. Some universities will require certain exams for admission and placement. Colleges or universities may award college credit for high scores above 560. You should register for these tests after you complete the highest level course in that subject that you plan to take. Up to three exams may be taken on any given Saturday, but SAT Reasoning may not be taken on the same date. The SAT Subject tests are given on Saturdays, about 6 times a year. Pre-registration is required about six weeks in advance.

**Price: Basic registration about \$20, with each test ranging from \$8 - \$20. Subject to change.**  
**Registration: By mail, or on-line at**  
**www.collegeboard.com**  
**Type: One hour each subject.**

## **AP – ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS**

The College Board AP Exams are given once a year in May. Each four-hour exam covers college level content in a specific course. The tests consist of both multiple choice and free-response (essay) questions. Foreign language exams include speaking and listening sections. Scores range from 1 to 5, with most colleges awarding credit for scores of three or better. Registration takes place in February.

**Price: About \$54 each. Subject to change**  
**Registration: See Magnet Coordinator**  
**Type: Four hours each subject.**

**\*\*All Engineering students are required to take at least (4) Advanced Placement Exams over a four year period.**

## **THEA – COLLEGE READINESS TEST**

The State of Texas requires all students attending a public college/university to demonstrate college level readiness in reading, math, and writing, before taking any courses that count towards a college degree. Students may be exempt from THEA with specified scores on TAKS, SAT, or ACT, or if they have maintained a 3.5 overall grade point average on a 4.0 scale, while completing the Recommended or Distinguished High School Program. This test is given mainly on college campuses. Pre-registration is required. More information may be obtained at [www.thea.nesinc.com/](http://www.thea.nesinc.com/).

**Price: About \$29. Subject to change**  
**Registration: By mail.**  
**Type: Three separate tests**

Fee Waivers are available for all tests for those who qualify. Check with your College Access Coordinator.

Subject: House Bill (HB) 3 and Graduation Requirements for 2009-2010

With the passage of House Bill (HB) 3, new graduation requirements will take effect on September 1, 2009. These new requirements supersede the graduation requirements in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 74.

### **Recommended High School Program (RHSP) and Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP)**

For the recommended (RHSP) and advanced (DAP) high school programs, the total number of credits required for graduation and the requirement of 4 credits in the 4 foundation areas of mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies/economics did not change. HB 3 changes include:

- providing more flexibility in the enrichment areas of the RHSP by increasing the number of elective credits to 6, requiring 1 credit of physical education, 2 credits of a language other than English (LOTE), and 1 credit of fine arts; and
- providing more flexibility in the enrichment areas in the DAP by increasing the number of elective credits to 5, requiring 1 credit of physical education, 3 credits of LOTE, and 1 credit of fine arts.

### **Minimum High School Program**

Permission to graduate under the minimum high school program must be agreed to in writing and signed by the student, student's parent (or other person standing in parental relation to the student), and a school counselor or school administrator.

Under HB 3, to graduate under the minimum high school program, students must:

- be at least 16 years of age;
- have completed 2 credits required for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum; or have failed to be promoted to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade one or more times as determined by the school district.

Students already in the minimum high school program do not have to meet the HB 3 requirements to enter the program, but must be given the choice of opting back into the recommended high school program.

Local districts may continue to adopt additional graduation requirements that go beyond the state requirements for graduation.

**Typically, new graduation requirements take effect with the incoming freshman class. However, the flexibility in the new HB 3 graduation requirements impacts all high school students beginning with the 2009-2010 school year.** All students are able to graduate under the HB 3 high school graduation requirements beginning in the 2009-10 school year, unless the district has adopted additional local requirements.

Attached is a side-by-side comparison of the current RHSP and the newly required HB 3 graduation plan. The State Board of Education will address changes to graduation requirements in 19 TAC Chapter 74 in the upcoming months.

For further assistance [curriculum@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:curriculum@tea.state.tx.us).

## Recommended High School Program

	<b>Graduation Requirements Current – 26 credits</b>	<b>Graduation Requirements HB 3 - 26 credits</b>
<b>English Language Arts (4)</b>	English I	English I
	English II	English II
	English III	English III
	English IV	English IV
<b>Social Studies (4)</b>	World History	World History
	World Geography	World Geography
	US History	US History
	US Government / Economics	US Government / Economics
<b>Mathematics (4)</b>	Algebra I	Algebra I
	Geometry	Geometry
	Algebra II	Algebra II
	4 <sup>th</sup> mathematics; can be an advanced CTE course approved by SBOE – after completion of Algebra II	4 <sup>th</sup> mathematics - can be an advanced CTE course approved by SBOE – after completion of Algebra II
<b>Science (4)</b>	Biology	Biology
	Chemistry / IPC	Chemistry / IPC
	Physics or Principles of Technology	Physics or Principles of Technology
	4 <sup>th</sup> science; can be an advanced CTE course approved by SBOE – after completion of Physics	4 <sup>th</sup> science - can be an advanced CTE course approved by SBOE – after completion of Physics
<b>Enrichment / Electives</b>	<b>( 6 ½ required + 3 ½ open)</b>	<b>(4 required + 6 open)</b>
	LOTE – 2 required in same language	LOTE – 2 required in same language
	Fine Arts – 1 required	Fine Arts – 1 required
	PE - 1½ required	PE – 1 required
	Technology Applications – 1 required	Technology Applications
	Health - ½ required	Health
	Speech – ½ required	Speech
	Career and Technical Education	Career and Technical Education
	ELA, Math, Science, or Social Studies electives	ELA, Math, Science, or Social Studies electives

## OTHER GRADUATION PLANS

### Distinguished Achievement Plan

The State of Texas seeks to recognize those students with exceptional achievement in high school. The Distinguished Achievement Program is for those students whose accomplishments are of such caliber as to be acknowledged on a national level. This program requires completing the Recommended 24 Credit Plan (26 Credits for the Class of 2011 and beyond), taking one additional credit in foreign language, and completing four Advanced Measures in any combination.

### Core Graduation Plan

All students will be enrolled with anticipation of completion of the Recommended High School Program. Occasionally a situation occurs where a student is unable to meet those requirements. For those students, the minimum graduation plan is available. The chart below shows the Core Graduation Plan with a total of 24 credits.

English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
Foreign Language	1 credit
Physical Education	1.5 credits
Health	0.5 credit
Speech	0.5 credit
Technology Applications	1 credit
Electives	5.5 credits

***Remember---ALL graduation requirements, including passing all parts of TAKS, must be met before you can take part in the graduation ceremony***

It is critical that each student, and his or her parent, review very carefully the requirements for graduation to ensure the proper classes are selected to meet graduation requirements. The counselors will work diligently with you to select the proper classes, but remember – your graduation is ultimately your responsibility. Opportunities to retake classes failed typically do not exist or pose a financial and logistical challenge to complete in time for graduation. Failed classes must be made up outside of school hours, sometimes at considerable expense. By senior year, you should have plans for after graduation, so be sure your course selections adequately prepare you for your future plans.

- **College/University** – Choose 3 to 5 schools: one dream school that may seem like a stretch, one sure thing, and several choices in between. Make sure you meet the admission requirements and are registered for the proper entrance exams. APPLY EARLY!! Do not wait until just before the deadline or you may be too late.
- **Community College**- Some students choose to complete college credits locally prior to attending the college from which they will graduate.
- **Technical school** – Check with several to make sure they have the kind of training you are looking for. Compare their job placement rates and financial aid opportunities to determine which is your best choice.
- **Military** – Talk to recruiters from several branches of the service. See which one offers you the best opportunities. Make an appointment to take the ASVAB, keep in touch with the recruiter of the branch you select

## GENERAL GRADE LEVEL INFORMATION

**NINTH GRADE** –Students in the ninth grade will take English 1, Algebra 1 or Geometry (for those students who earned Algebra 1 credit in middle school), IPC or Biology (for those students who earned IPC credit in middle school), and World Geography. Other options include P.E., Health, Communication Applications, a fine arts course, a technology graduation credit course, and/or a world language. If a student begins the study of a world language in middle school, it is strongly recommended that study be continued in the ninth grade, as credit is awarded for continuous instruction in one language, not a variety of languages.

**CREDITS: 0 – 5.5**

**TESTING: Required - TAKS, Stanford**

**TENTH GRADE** –Tenth grade requirements include English 2, World History, and the next sequential math and science courses. Other requirements that need to be taken over the next two years include P.E., Health, Communication Applications, a fine arts course, and a technology graduation credit course if these are not yet completed. Consider beginning or continuing the study of a world language. Select electives with an eye toward an ultimate career goal or college major. Make note of the prerequisites of courses that you may want to take as an eleventh grader to ensure that these are being met.

**CREDITS: 6.0 – 11.5**

**TESTING: Required – TAKS, PSAT, Stanford**

**ELEVENTH GRADE** – Eleventh grade students should carefully check required courses for the Recommended High School Program and make sure the proper courses have been selected. New classes to be added include English 3, U.S. History, and third math and science courses. All selections should be made with an ultimate college major or career in mind. TAKS is the exit level examination requirement for this class.

**CREDITS: 12 – 17.5**

**TESTING: Required – TAKS, PSAT, Stanford**

**Recommended –SAT/ACT in spring of this year; check university requirements regarding SAT Subject tests**

## SENIORS!

### TWELFTH GRADE

**CREDITS: 18 +**

**TESTING: Required – TAKS if not yet mastered**

**Recommended – SAT Reasoning, ACT, THEA if needed, AP, SAT subject tests if appropriate**

**COURSES: English 4, Government, Economics, math, science**

## SENIOR PRIVILEGE

If all of your graduation requirements and needs for your future plans can be met, you may request to take only 6 classes per day instead of 7. In order to apply for off campus privileges the following requirements must be met:

- No credit appeals during the previous school year, even if credits were reinstated
- No failed courses during the previous school year, including PreAP and AP courses
- No P's or U's in conduct for any six weeks
- Pass all sections of the TAKS test
- Meet all requirements outlined on off campus privilege contract

*Note: Administration reserves discretion to change requirements during school year.*

## **SAT vs. ACT**

The road to college can be a confusing and hectic experience. Choosing the right admissions test to take, (SAT or ACT) doesn't have to be. While most colleges across the country accept scores from either test, the SAT and ACT are significantly different, and in many ways, they measure different skills. Use the information below to decide which test is best for you.

### **DIFFERENCES AT A GLANCE**

#### **SAT**

No science section  
No trigonometry questions  
Vocabulary emphasized  
Non multiple-choice questions included  
Guessing penalty  
No English grammar  
Math accounts for 50% of score  
Questions go from easy to hard in most sections

SAT Critical Reading is like analyzing a debate

If you are good at interpretation, you'll do well on the SAT

#### **ACT**

Science reasoning section  
Math includes trigonometry  
Vocabulary less important  
Entirely multiple choice  
No guessing penalty  
English grammar tested  
Math accounts for 25% of score  
Easy and hard questions mixed within sections  
Reading is more like researching a term paper  
If you are more of a quantitative thinker, you might be more comfortable on the ACT

## **Helpful Web Sites-Booker T. Washington High School Code 443340**

### **College Information/Profiles**

[www.collegenews.com](http://www.collegenews.com)  
[www.collegequest.com](http://www.collegequest.com)  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)  
[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)  
[www.collegeexpress.com](http://www.collegeexpress.com)  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.gocollege.com](http://www.gocollege.com)  
[www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool](http://www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool)  
[www.newslink.org](http://www.newslink.org)  
[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)  
[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)  
[www.supercollege.com](http://www.supercollege.com)

### **Prepare for the SAT/ACT**

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)  
[www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)  
[www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)  
[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)  
[www.testprep.com](http://www.testprep.com)

### **Essay Tips**

[www.supercollege.com](http://www.supercollege.com)

### **Scholarship Search**

[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)  
[www.college-scholarships.com](http://www.college-scholarships.com)  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)  
[www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)  
[www.salliemae.com](http://www.salliemae.com)  
[www.supercollege.com](http://www.supercollege.com)  
[www.tgslc.org](http://www.tgslc.org)

**Request, download, or bookmark applications for colleges, complete your application on-line**

[www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)  
[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)  
[www.collegequest.com](http://www.collegequest.com)  
[www.collegelink.com](http://www.collegelink.com)

**Financial Aid Information, submit your FAFSA or register for the profile**

[www.ed.gov/prog/SFA/FAFSA](http://www.ed.gov/prog/SFA/FAFSA)  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)