



COURSE SELECTION FAQ's

([click here for Current 8th Grade FAQs](#))

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND AFTER SUBMITTING MY COURSE SELECTION FORM?

Students will have an opportunity during Course Verification in April to request a change to their course selections. More information can be found [here](#).

Additionally, students will receive their course schedule in August during Pioneer Days and will have another opportunity to request a change via a Google Form. **These changes are not guaranteed and only granted if there is space in the class. It is critical to select the courses you are committed to during the initial course selection window.**

HOW MANY AP/HONORS COURSES SHOULD I TAKE?

Colleges do not require students to take AP or Honors classes. Only students who have been successful in previous classes should consider taking AP classes. We believe that students should consider their interests, past performance, overall course load, extracurricular commitments, and mental health when choosing their courses. Students should assess themselves carefully and choose an appropriate schedule based on their skill and motivation. **Keep in mind that AP classes are considered college-level coursework and require good study habits and significant [time commitments](#).**

CAN I TAKE AN EXTERNAL CLASS OVER THE SUMMER (for current 9th-11th grade CHS students)?

Students are not required to but may take courses outside of CHS over the summer; however, School Counselors recommend that prior to enrollment, students and their families consider the following:

- Is the outside educational institution UC/CSU accredited? A list of accredited institutions can be found [here](#). CHS does not endorse any specific outside educational institutions. Additionally, students can take external courses through our Dual Enrollment program with [De Anza](#) or [Foothill](#) community colleges.
- **External classes will not be placed on CHS transcripts**; however, students must self-report these courses alongside their CHS courses on their college applications.
- If an external course is taken to skip a course/advance in a particular subject area like math, science, or world language, please keep in mind that external courses generally do not align with CHS courses in terms of content and rigor.

- Consider the balance between health, mental health, other interests and academic drive when deciding on summer course work.

CURRENT 8th GRADE/INCOMING 9th FAQs

CAN 8TH GRADE FAMILIES MEET WITH A CUPERTINO SCHOOL COUNSELOR?

School Counselors are happy to schedule time with you or your student after they begin the first day of high school. We do not schedule time with 8th grade families or students until after they are officially a 9th grader enrolled at Cupertino. Please note there are Counselor Office Hours during the Course Selection season to help students and families make informed decisions. More information can be found [here](#).

IF I DON'T TAKE 7 CLASSES, AM I GOING TO STILL GRADUATE ON TIME?

Yes, students do not need to take 7 classes to graduate on time. A full-time schedule is considered to be 6 classes. Most 9th graders take 6 classes (60 credits). Many 12th graders take 5 classes (50 credits). Students need to earn a total of 220 credits to graduate. There is no additional recognition for earning more than the required 220 credits for graduation.

WHAT CLASSES DO MOST 9th GRADERS TAKE?

Every 9th grader must take Biology, Literature and Writing, and PE. This leaves three additional courses a student may register for that typically includes a math class, a world language class, and one elective.

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CAN I TAKE A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL CLASS PRIOR TO THE START OF 9th GRADE AND RECEIVE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT?

No, external classes are not transferable to CHS. If you are taking a class to advance in a particular subject area, please consider the following:

- Is the outside educational institution UC/CSU accredited? A list of accredited institutions can be found [here](#). CHS does not endorse any specific outside educational institutions.
- **External classes are not transferable to CHS**; however, students will self-report these courses in addition to their CHS courses on their college applications.
- If an external course is taken to skip a course/advance in a particular subject area like math, science, or world language, please keep in mind that external courses generally do not align with CHS courses in terms of content and rigor.
- Consider the balance between health, mental health, other interests and academic drive when deciding on summer course work.

AS A 9th GRADER, CAN PARTICIPATION ON A CHS ATHLETIC TEAM EXEMPT ME FROM TAKING PE OR EARN PE CREDIT?

No. PE for 9th grade is a state requirement and 9th grade students cannot earn PE credit through athletics to satisfy this requirement. No 9th grade student can be exempt from PE. 9th grade students who successfully complete a season will earn 5 elective credits.

Additionally, no additional PE credit can be earned by being on a CHS athletic team during the 9th grade. After the 9th grade, students can earn five PE credits for each successfully completed season.

HOW DO I SELECT A MATH COURSE?

Please refer to the many resources we have available to make the best informed decision:

- [Math Pathways](#)
- [Recommendations for Advancement](#)
- Math FAQ's for 8th Grade Families (link will be updated in February 2026)

IS HEALTH/ETHNIC STUDIES REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION?

Yes, Health/Ethnic Studies is a required course for the Class of 2030. Students will have the option to take this [graduation requirement](#) only during the 9th or 12th grade years. It is designed to be a 12th grade course; however, students will have the option to take it during their 9th grade year until 2030.