A Guide to AHS

Welcome to Arlington High School

This form was created with input from OMS and AHS staff to help ease your student's transition to AHS and to give you some additional guidance on how that transition may look. We have kept this short and direct to give important information. There is additional information available for all these points in the Program of Studies

Scheduling

We start the scheduling process in January, by asking your student's current teachers to enter recommendations into PowerSchool. Based upon their experience with your student, the teachers make an informed decision on what Curriculum level may best suit their needs and challenge them freshman year. Special Education Liaisons will communicate with teachers these recommendations to ensure alignment with the IEP and ensure students are not overextended.

From here, the portal opens and students may request courses. (Course Selection Guide) Once the window is closed, these requests are sorted and reviewed by: AHS Special Education Liaisons, Counselors, Administration and dept. heads. If there is a concern, the guardians will be contacted for clarification. The schedules are released during the summer and there are several days set aside in August for guardians/students to come in and meet with guidance counselors to address concerns and make changes.

How to choose your level

Please use this guide to aid in your course level planning

Course changes

Once the school year starts, students are able to change course levels if there is an agreement between the counselor, the dean, special education liaison and the guardian that the student would benefit from this change. Sometimes, this results in a W (withdrawal) in the student's grade; this is not credited and not a failure. It is to demonstrate that the student was enrolled in the class.

The change in schedules from OMS & support services

AHS has a 5-day rotation, as opposed to Ottoson's 4-day rotation. For example, in relation to Academic Support, 3 days of academic support become 2 days at AHS. This does not shorten your student's academic support, as the sum of time on learning is cumulative and fulfilled by the close of the year.

Levels

Arlington High School offers several levels to choose from for most of our courses. There are no prerequisites for choosing a level.

Honors: Driven by Independent work	Curriculum A: Advanced: College Preparatory and our standard level
Heterogeneous: Courses offered at the advanced level, where students can elect to receive Honors Credit for more challenging and in-depth work.	Curriculum B: Remediation while offering College Preparatory services.
Co-taught: Typically a heterogeneous class taught with two instructors (Content Area and Special Education Cert.)	

Please note that students may change levels from year to year, and in some cases during the year. All students have access to curriculum levels.

Physical Education

All 9th graders must take 9th-grade PE, which meets twice a week. Students must then complete 4 more quartered PE courses by the conclusion of their senior year to fulfill the graduation requirement.

Electives

When generating a schedule, sometimes there are more courses than what may fit into a student's schedule. We attempt to offer 1 elective to all Freshman but are limited to 7 courses a week. Opportunities for more electives increase with each year.

Attendance Policy

The attendance policy states that a student may have 6 unexcused absences. Once a 7th absence is reached, the student receives a Failure due to Attendance (FA) with a 59%. There are excused absences:
Medical necessity, funerals, receiving support services (social worker, guidance, dean, etc.), suspensions, and religious observance.

Graduation Requirements

1. Pass four years of English
2. Pass three years of History/Social Science (to include World History, and US History I)
3. Pass three years of Science (to include Physical Science to pass Introductory Physics MCAS)
4. Pass three years of Mathematics (to include Algebra & Geometry)
5. Pass four years of Physical Education (1 full yr and 4 quarter electives)
6. Pass one year of Fine Arts (5 credits) (* see below for further information)
7. Pass two years of World Language (two years of the same language is strongly recommended)
8. Demonstrate competency in Computer Technology
9. Perform and document 40 hours of community service
10. 106 credits minimum

World Languages

There is a two-year world language requirement that must be completed at AHS. Sometimes a student's schedule does not allow for this to be completed freshman year. AHS does offer several world languages at the introductory level, which are open to all grade levels.

Please visit the Arlington High School website to for more information on Scheduling and the Program of Studies.
http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/schools/ahs

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