



**Columbia County**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Rising Freshmen Orientation**



# Semester System

- School year divided into two halves of approximately 90 days each.
- Each half of a year is a semester.
- HS credits are earned by semester.

## **Fall Semester**

1st 9 weeks  
2nd 9 weeks  
Semester Exam  
Semester Grade  
Half-credits earned

## **Spring Semester**

3rd 9 weeks  
4th 9 weeks  
Semester Exam  
Semester Grade  
Half-credits earned



# Units of Credit

- Credits are awarded for courses based on semester hours.
- Each course is 18 weeks long and earns a half-credit.

Semester	Course	Credit
Fall Semester	English 9A	0.5 Credit
Spring Semester	English 9B	0.5 Credit
	<b>TOTAL CREDIT</b>	<b>1.0 Credit for English 9</b>



# 24 Units Required to Graduate

Subject	Units	Required Units	Additional Information
<b>English</b>	4 Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 unit 9th Grade Literature</li><li>• 1 unit 10th Grade Literature</li><li>• 1 unit 11th Grade American Literature</li><li>• 1 unit of 12th British Literature* OR Multicultural Literature* OR Advanced Composition</li></ul>	Dual Enrollment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dual-enrolled students must earn credit in ENG101/102 or ENGL1101/1102 to meet this requirement.</li></ul>
<b>Math</b>	4 Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 unit Algebra I</li><li>• 1 unit Geometry</li><li>• 1 unit Advanced Algebra</li><li>• 1 unit Pre-Calculus or Additional Math</li></ul>	4th Math Options <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statistics</li><li>• Adv. Math Decision Making</li><li>• Calculus</li><li>• AP Calculus (A/B or B/C), AP Statistics</li></ul> Additional Pathways to Earn Math Credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support Classes</li></ul>



Subject	Units	Required Units	Additional Information
<b>Science</b>	4 Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 unit Physical Science or Physics</li><li>• <b>1 unit Biology</b></li><li>• 1 unit Chemistry or <b>Environmental Science</b> or Earth Systems</li><li>• 1 unit Additional Science</li></ul>	Additional Sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anatomy and Physiology</li><li>• Astronomy</li><li>• Forensics</li><li>• Microbiology</li><li>• AP Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science</li></ul>
<b>Social Sciences</b>	3.5 Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>0.5 unit American Government</b></li><li>• 1 unit Personal Finance and Economics</li><li>• 1 unit World History</li><li>• 1 unit United States History</li></ul>	
<b>Health &amp; Physical Education</b>	1 Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 0.5 unit Health</li><li>• 0.5 unit Personal Fitness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students earning 3 or more units of JROTC can waive the health and personal fitness requirement.</li></ul>



Subject	Units	Required Units	Additional Information
<b>Modern Language OR CTAE OR Fine Arts</b>	3 Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>CTAE Career Pathway</b>- 3 credits in same area of CTAE: Agriculture, Architecture/Construction, AV Technology, Business, Education, JROTC, Health Science, Hospitality, Human Services, Information Tech, Law/Public Safety, Marketing, STEM and Transportation</li><li>• <b>Fine Arts Pathway</b> -3 credits in the same area: Art, Band, Chorus, Drama/Theater</li><li>• <b>Modern Language Pathway</b>- 3 credits in same language. State Colleges and Universities require two sequential years of modern language credit.</li></ul>	
<b>Additional Electives</b>	4.5 Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• College and Universities recommend electives from the core areas of English, Math, Social Studies, Science and Modern Languages</li></ul>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24 Units</b>	<b>24 total units required to graduate</b>	

# Typical Freshman Schedule

- 9th Grade English
- Algebra I or Geometry
- American Government and World Geography
- Physical Science, Biology or Environmental Science
- Physical Education and Health
- Elective- World Language, CTAE, Fine Arts
- Elective- World Language, CTAE, Fine Arts

# Grade Classification Requirements

- Freshmen (9th Grade)- Successful completion of 8th grade
- Sophomore (10th Grade)-Earned a minimum of **5** units
- Junior (11th Grade)- Earned a minimum of **11** units
- Senior (12th Grade)- Earned a minimum of **17** units



# Course Grade Calculation

- 1st 9 weeks- 40%
- 2nd 9 weeks- 40%
- Final exam or EOC- 20%

EXAMPLE	English 9	%	Total
1st 9 Weeks	75	40	30
2nd 9 Weeks	95	40	38
Semester Exam	80	20	16
<b>Final Grade</b>			<b>84</b>

# Weighting of Courses



Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) course grades are weighted with an additional 10 points added to the final semester average.

Course	1st 9 Wks Grade	2nd 9 Wks Grade	Exam Grade	Semester Avg	Final Average
AP Government	80	90	70	82	92

# *Cumulative Average*

- Determination of academic letters and honor graduates are based on a cumulative average of all course grades received in high school.
- Students must have a 90.0 or higher cumulative average to receive academic recognitions.
- High school credits earned in middle school are included in the cumulative average.

# *HOPE Scholarship*

- Merit based scholarship that provides assistance with tuition at eligible public/private Georgia post-secondary institutions.
- Requires a minimum 3.0 HOPE GPA (as calculated by GSFC) and meet specific rigor course requirements.
- GPA based **solely on core courses** taken in high school-English, math, social studies, science, and foreign language only.
- High school credits accepted in middle school are **not** included in the HOPE GPA.

# HOPE Scholarship

- GPA calculated based on a 4.0 scale.
  - A equals 4.0
  - B equals 3.0
  - C equals 2.0
  - D equals 1.0
  - F equals 0
- The AP/IB weighting applied by the district is stripped prior to HOPE GPA calculation.
- HOPE adds back a half a point (0.5) to Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Dual Enrollment (DE) degree-level core course grades.
- For additional questions regarding HOPE, please talk to your high school counselor and go to [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org).



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# Acceptance/Rejection of HS Credits in MS-

**NEW**

- All HS credits earned in MS will be placed on the high school transcript. If a student retakes the course in 9th grade, the HS course taken in MS will be deleted and the HS course grade and credit will replace the MS grade/credit.
- For example, if a student makes an 72 in Algebra I in middle school, the grade/credit will automatically go on the HS transcript. The student has the option to retake Algebra I in HS. The student makes a 92 in Algebra I in high school. The 72 middle school credit will be removed from the HS transcript and a 92 will replace the Algebra I grade and credit.
- Credit accepted in middle school will not be used to calculate the grade point average (GPA) for HOPE scholarship.
- Credit accepted in middle school will be used in the grade point average (GPA) calculation for high school.



# High School Transcript

- Record of all student academic accomplishments in high school.
- Lists every course a student takes, when the course is taken, and the grade received.
- Transcripts are used for scholarship selections and part of the application process to post-secondary schools.



# Registration and Course Options

- Based on input from middle school teachers and student data, the four core courses have been pre-selected for students.
- Students have the option to select three additional electives for a total of 7 courses.
- Most freshmen take the required elective:
  - Health (0.5) credit
  - Personal Fitness (0.5) credit
- Students can select two additional electives– consider pathways.
  - Select three alternates in case a course is not available.
  - **Elective options for Freshmen** (HS will provide a copy)



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# High School Programs

CTAE Pathway	Available Schools				
Agriculture and Natural Resources	EHS			HHS	
Audio Video Technology and Film	EHS		GTHS		
Automotive Repair and Maintenance	EHS		GTHS	HHS	
Business, Marketing, Finance & Entrepreneurship	EHS	GBHS	GTHS		LHS
Carpentry and HVAC	EHS				
Cosmetology			GTHS		
Culinary Arts and Nutrition	EHS	GBHS	GTHS		
Cyber Security	EHS	GBHS	GTHS		LHS
Education and Teaching	EHS	GBHS	GTHS	HHS	LHS
Engineering and Technology			GTHS	HHS	LHS
Fire Fighting and Public Safety	EHS				
Graphic Design	EHS	GBHS	GTHS		
Health Science	EHS	GBHS	GTHS	HHS	LHS
JROTC - Army	EHS		GTHS	HHS	LHS
JROTC - Navy		GBHS			
Law Enforcement and Public Safety		GBHS	GTHS	HHS	
Welding and Metal Fabrication	EHS		GTHS	HHS	

## CTAE



*Linking Classroom to Career*

Many programs provide students with Work Ready Industry Certifications

Work Based Learning Internships are available with most programs





# youscience

- Youscience is an assessment that provides students with feedback to select a career pathway program that matches their interests and aptitudes.
- All 8th grade students that took the Youscience assessment will receive a passport.
- The YouScience Pathway Passport provides rising Freshmen with the top best fit aptitude and interest results for the career pathway programs offered at your school.
- Use the Youscience Pathway Passport during the Freshmen Orientation at your high school to determine which programs to visit and which electives to select.



Columbia Middle School

Student Name	Student Name	Student ID #
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organization

### Top Three Pathway Matches Offered

#### APTITUDE

Aptitude 1
Aptitude 2
Aptitude 3

#### INTEREST

Interest 1
Interest 2
Interest 3

### Top Three CCSD Pathways Available

#### APTITUDE

Aptitude FD1
Aptitude FD2
Aptitude FD3

#### INTEREST

Interest FD1
Interest FD2
Interest FD3

### Top Three Pathway Matches Offered

#### APTITUDE

Health Science
Engineering
Law & Public Safety

#### INTEREST

Health Science
Engineering
Law & Public Safety

### Top Three CCSD Pathways Available

#### APTITUDE

Business
Agriculture & Natural
Law & Public Safety

#### INTEREST

Engineering
Agriculture & Natural
Law & Public Safety



# Advanced Placement

- Provides students the rigor of college-level courses in a high school setting.
- AP exams are administered in May.
- Based on the score earned, students can earn college credit.

## Why Take AP?

- AP exam takers
  - Have a higher probability of graduating college in 4 years.
  - Earn the same or higher grades in subsequent college courses in the same content area.



# International Baccalaureate

- Academically challenging curriculum, address intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being of students.
- IB students experience IB in cohorts.
- High college acceptance rate.
- IB core classes, conducting college level research, community service and investigating assumptions about what we know.
- District program housed at Lakeside High School; students transfer.
- Application process: If interested, contact your middle school counselor.





# Dual Enrollment

- Funding provided for students enrolled in both high school and an eligible postsecondary institution.
- Postsecondary coursework for credit counts toward both high school graduation and a postsecondary degree/certificate.
- **9th grade** – Not eligible
- **10th grade** – Eligible for CTAE courses or must have a SAT score of 1200 or ACT score of 26 to take other courses
- **11th and 12th grade** – Eligible to take any approved DE course



# Columbia Virtual Academy

- CVA is an online school for students in grades 6–12 that are residents of Columbia Columbia School District.
- Students take online courses full-time or part-time that are taught by Columbia County School District teachers .
- Students continue to participate in extracurricular activities/sports at zone school.
- Consult your school counselor for more information.
- Registration Deadline: **January 20th**



# Registration for High School Courses





- **Core courses are pre-selected based on 8th grade teacher recommendations and student data.**
- **Students will receive a registration form to select electives. The registration form can be turned in at Freshmen Orientation or to the middle school counselor the following week.**
- **January 17th** – Deadline to submit registration form



**To learn more:**

**Freshmen Orientation Night**

**January 12, 2023**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Zone High School**



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