Scheduling Packet

To schedule your classes for GHS 9th grade

This packet is divided into 3 sections:

- Section 1 is an explanation of Endorsements and Graduation Plans.
- Section 2 is a description of the classes that 9th graders can take.
- Section 3 is the actual instructions for completing your schedule.

SECTION 1: Endorsements, Pathways, and Graduation Plans

I keep hearing people talk about endorsements. What is that?

The Texas Legislature changed the graduation requirements a few years back, and one of those requirements was that each student complete a Four Year Personal Graduation Plan that will lead them to graduate with an Endorsement. Endorsements should focus the classes a student takes in high school and aling with what each student wants to do after high school. Giddings High School offers all five of the Endorsements recommended by the state.

Endorsements

- Business and Industry
- Arts and Humanities
- Public Service
- STEM
- Multidisciplinary

The five endorsements are not very specific, so schools create Career Pathways within each endorsement, organizing specific classes in cohesive sequence. The Course Description Book lays all of the pathways out in detail.

Graduation Plans

All 9th grade students will complete a graduation plan in consultation with their parents and school counselor. It will indicate which Endorsement and Pathway they choose. It also has a place to indicate outside interests and career and college goals, which will help in picking classes.

SECTION 2: Class Descriptions for Common 9th Grade Classes

What is the difference between regular and Honors classes? Honors and AP classes are rigorous courses designed to prepare students to achieve success in college. Students will have the opportunities to develop the reading, writing, problem-solving techniques, and study habits that are expected of college students. An exceptional work ethic and a positive attitude are the two key elements needed for these classes. In regular classes, students are allowed to retake tests lower than a 70 for credit up to a 70. In an Honors class, retakes (of failing tests) are not allowed, and late work is not accepted. There is a significant amount of homework/reading in Honors classes, and students are expected to stretch and expand their learning skills. Honors and AP English classes have required summer reading.

Can I be in both Band and Athletics? Yes, if you can work out practice and schedule times with your coaches and Band Director. Band can also count towards your P.E. and Fine Arts credit.

What do I do if none of these classes looks good to me? First, think about what you want to do after high school, whether it is a job or college, and find a class that would go with those interests. Or, you can just pick one – you might be surprised at finding one you actually like! You could also choose to take one of the fine arts (Art, Theater) classes. Since you have to take one of these anyway to graduate, you might as well get it out of the way.

The Classes

English 1

Prerequisite: None

English I is a world literature survey course integrating literature, grammar, and writing. Students improve reading skills through studying various literary genres and class novels. Major works studied include The Odyssey, Romeo & Juliet, To Kill a Mockingbird, and Animal Farm. Frequent reviews of usage and sentence structure are practiced. Students are given the opportunity to develop skills in research process, which culminates with a research presentation.

Pre-Advanced Placement English 1

Prerequisite: See note in Introduction concerning Pre-AP.

English I Pre-Advanced Placement includes all course work of English I. In addition, this course consists of independent literature study units, creative projects, and major writing assignments. You will learn strategies to develop intellectual reasoning and perseverance. Students will be required to complete summer reading assignments in preparation for fall semester.

Algebra 1

Prerequisite: None

Students will study linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their related transformations, equations, and associated solutions. Students will connect functions in both mathematical and real-world situations. Students will use technology to collect and explore data and analyze statistical relationships. In addition, students will study polynomials of degree one and two, radical expressions, sequences, and laws of exponents.

Geometry

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Students will build on the knowledge and skills for mathematics in K- 8 and Algebra I to strengthen their mathematical reasoning skills in geometric contexts. Students will explore concepts covering coordinate and transformational geometry; logical argument and constructions; proof and congruence; similarity, proof, and trigonometry; two- and three-dimensional figures; circles; and probability.

Pre-Advanced Placement Geometry

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 (90 + average recommended) See note concerning Pre-AP.

This course includes a more challenging and rigorous study of geometric thinking, symbolic reasoning, and properties of figures. Students in this course will further explore proofs and relationships between geometry and other areas of mathematics. Solid Algebra skills are needed.

World Geography

Prerequisite: None

This course is approached by using the 5 themes of geography: location, place, region, human-environment interaction, and movement. In this course students will become acquainted with countries around the world. The physical features, the climate, the location, the type of government, the exports and imports, as well as the relationship of this country to its neighbors will be studied in depth. Cultural awareness will be an important part of this course. Students will be expected to master many map skills. Independent and group projects will be used to measure the student's mastery of world geography.

Honors World Geography

Prerequisite: None

Students will explore five themes throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction between humans and the environment; development and interaction of cultures; state building, expansion, and conflict; creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems; and development and transformation of social structures.

Spanish 1

Prerequisite: None

This class provides an introduction to basic understandings in communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. Students will be expected to listen, speak, read and write Spanish at the novice progress checkpoint. Students will learn correct pronunciation, word order and usage of such topics as days of the week, months of the year, numbers, colors, animals, and telling time. Student success in this course will depend partially on the strength of their background in English.

Spanish 2

Prerequisite: Spanish 1

This class is a continuation of understanding Spanish in communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. More emphasis is placed on novice to intermediate writing skills. Connections focus on speaking and writing "production" skills in the natural process of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. An above average mastery (80 or above) of Spanish 1 is recommended for student success in this course.

Biology

Prerequisite: None

In Biology, students conduct field and laboratory investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students in Biology study a variety of topics that include: structures and functions of cells and viruses; growth and development of organisms; cells, tissues, and organs, nucleic acids and genetics; biological evolution; taxonomy; metabolism and energy transfers in living organisms; living systems; homeostasis; ecosystems; and plants and the environment.

Pre-Advanced Placement Biology

Prerequisite: See note in Introduction about Pre-AP.

In Biology, students conduct field and laboratory investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students in Biology study a variety of topics that include: structures and functions of cells and viruses; growth and development of organisms; cells, tissues, and organs, nucleic acids and genetics; biological evolution; taxonomy; metabolism and energy transfers in living organisms; living systems; homeostasis; ecosystems; and plants and the environment. Students will need to possess a high degree of self-motivation to be successful in this course.

ELECTIVES

Theatre Arts 1

Endorsement: Arts & Humanities

In this class, students will become acquainted with the basic elements of the theater, as well as the roles played by various members of a theatrical production company. Other topics covered will include voice and diction, history of the theater, acting technique and some technical theater, such as lights and set design. Students should be willing to perform in front of class or in an on-stage role. Students will be introduced into the audition process. Work in departmental productions is optional.

Art 1

Endorsement: Arts and Humanities

This course will include the awareness and sensitivity to natural and man-made environment, inventive and imaginative expression through art materials and tools, understanding and appreciation of self and others through art culture and heritage, and aesthetic growth through visual discrimination and judgment. Students will be introduced to the elements

and principles of design and will create original artwork in the areas of design, drawing, painting, ceramics, and sculpture. In addition, the students will learn to appreciate art and then evaluate the artwork of students and major artists.

Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance

Endorsements: Business and Industry, Public Service

In Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance, students gain knowledge and skills in economies and private enterprise systems, the impact of global business, marketing of goods and services, advertising, and product pricing. Students analyze the sales process and financial management principles. This course allows students to reinforce, apply, and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant activities, problems and settings in business, marketing, and finance.

Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

Endorsement: Business and Industry

This is a basic introductory course designed to enhance a student's knowledge of global agriculture. Included in the course will be history of agriculture, food and fiber chain, new research, and new developments in agriculture and agricultural career development. It will also develop personal, social and communications skills and develop democratic leadership skills through the FFA organization conducting effective meetings.

Introduction to Welding

Endorsement: Business and Industry

This course concentrates on welding skills, welding positions, welding variables, and reading WPS sheets. This class takes off from key principles and concepts that were already covered and learned from prerequisite classes. This period also allows for personal welding projects for competitions.

Computer Science 1

Endorsement: Business and Industry; Science, Techonology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

This is an introductory course in computer programming using Java based programming language. Topics include elementary data types, control structures, documentation, basic file manipulation, terminal input/output, problem solving techniques, modular design, and logical implementations of best practice coding techniques. Discussions of contemporary industry trends will be included in lectures. Class assumes no prior exposure to programming and limited exposure to computer hardware and software.

Yearbook 1

Endorsement: Business and Industry

This course is for students who are interested in working on the yearbook. Students in this course will be on the school yearbook staff. The curriculum includes the following: photography; page design and layout; copyrighting; editing; and proofreading. In areas such as yearbook sales, fundraising, photography etc., some work outside of school hours will be required.

Principles of Health Science

Endorsement: Healthcare Services

Discover a medical career that interests you by exploring a wide variety of medical occupations. Meet new people with similar interests in the medical field. Learn about the challenges and rewards of working in the health care field. Explore the history of health care, basic medical vocabulary, introductory anatomy and physiology, human developmental stages, medical ethics, multiculturalism, as well as communication and leadership skills needed to be successful in health care.

Principles of Human Services

Endorsement: Public Service

This course addresses the topics of leadership, decision-making, consumerism, nutrition, child development and careers in the Human Services Career Cluster.

Business Information Management I

Prerequisite: Ability to type

This course is designed to strengthen student computer skills. Emphasis will be placed on developing skills to be successful in the workplace. Students will perform various word processing skills including many business documents. Students will apply spreadsheet technology to formulate and produce solutions to a variety of business problems. Students will apply database technology to perform data management procedures and to produce and analyze business reports. Students will apply desktop publishing technology. Students will be given an opportunity to work with multimedia presentations.

Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness

Endorsement: Public Service

This laboratory course allows students to use principles of lifetime wellness and nutrition to help them make informed choices that promote wellness as well as pursue careers related to hospitality and tourism, education and training, human services, and health sciences.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON CLASSES CAN BE FOUND IN THE COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOK.

Section 3: Instructions for submitting your class choices

How to Actually Enter your Classes

Hello future GHS students!

I am Mrs. Smith-Mott and I will be your counselor next year at Giddings High School. Transitioning to high school is a huge step, but I will be there, along with all of your teachers, Mr. Rood, and Mr. Compton to help if you need it. The good news is that making your schedule isn't as hard as you might think.

Most freshmen take the same 6 classes, and then get to choose 1 elective. Those classes are:

1. English
2. Algebra
3. Biology
4. World Geography
5. P.E. or Athletics
6. Spanish

Some of these classes are available in an Honors level, and some of you may have already taken Algebra or Spanish 1. In order to choose an elective class, please read the course descriptions that I have attached.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE YOUR SCHEDULE:

STEP 1: On a scrap sheet of paper, make your main choice selections:

- English: regular or Honors English
- Algebra, or if you took Algebra in the 8th grade,Geometry or Honors Geometry
- Biology or Honors Biology
- World Geography or Honors World Geography
- Spanish 1 or Spanish 2 (if you took Spanish 1 in the 8th grade)
- P.E. or Athletics
- _____ elective chosen from Course Descriptions

STEP 2: Go to this link to fill out a form that will automatically be sent to me. You will need to use your Giddings ISD email log-in for the form to work. I will review your choices and enter them into the computer. (The URL is **case sensitive**, and you have to type the whole thing, including the https:// part, in)

https://bit.ly/2SRm2tS

STEP 3: There's no step 3! That's it! However, if you have questions, you can always email me at jill.smith-mott@giddings.txed.net

WAIT! What if I can't complete my schedule online or in the survey?

No worries! Write out your schedule NEATLY, or type it, and send it to me at the above address.