

## Meet with Your Counselor

**Your counselor is an expert on the courses and programs available at your school.**

*Here are some questions you may want to ask your counselor.*

- ▶ What courses should I take next year?
- ▶ What required courses do I still need to take?
- ▶ What courses do I need for college?
- ▶ Am I on track to graduate on time?
- ▶ What courses should I take to prepare for a career in \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., business, math)?
- ▶ Should I go to summer school?
- ▶ What courses do I need to take to be eligible to play a sport in college?
- ▶ Should I be taking any honors or advanced classes?
- ▶ What are the advantages and disadvantages of dual-credit courses?
- ▶ I like hands on courses. Are there any courses or programs I should consider?
- ▶ I'm having a hard time in several of my classes. Is there any help available for me?

**Your counselor can help you choose courses that will put you on the road to success!**



## Make a Four-Year Plan

**Having a four-year plan will ensure that you take the required courses, the courses you need to achieve your goals, and the electives you want to take.**

*In the lines below, list the courses you've taken, and the courses you are planning to take.*

### 9th Grade

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### 10th Grade

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### 11th Grade

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### 12th Grade

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



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Taking the Right Classes

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# Taking the Right Classes

Information to help you schedule courses that will be right for you





## Taking the Right Classes

- ▶ Are you unsure which courses you need to graduate?
- ▶ Do you have questions about which courses you should take for college? To prepare for a specific career?
- ▶ Are you uncertain about the courses you should take next year?

*If you answered "Yes" to any of the above, learn more about the courses your school offers, and about which ones you should take.*

To succeed in school, you need to be in the right classes. If you're in courses that are too hard, you'll be frustrated and discouraged. If you're in courses that are too easy, you'll be bored. And if you're taking courses that don't interest you, you'll have a hard time staying motivated.

**You want to choose courses that are right for your abilities, courses that will help you achieve your education and career goals, and courses you will enjoy.**

## Choose Your Courses Wisely

**Choosing the right classes is the first step to academic success.**

### Explore your options

In order to meet the needs of their students, most schools have a variety of academic programs. These often include:

- ▶ career and technology programs for the students who like a more "hands on" approach to learning
- ▶ programs allowing students to take college courses in high school (dual enrollment)
- ▶ advanced, honors, and AP classes for students who excel in specific subjects
- ▶ assistance for students who need extra help

*If you have questions about the programs available at your school, see your counselor.*



### Consider taking summer school

Taking a class during the summer can be a good way to earn credits toward graduation, and lighten your course load for the following school year.

In order to stay on track for graduation, students who are short on credits, or have failed a required course, should go to summer school whenever possible.

### If you want to go to college

Students planning to go to college should follow a college prep program, and take the following recommended courses in high school:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of science
- 3-4 years of math
- 3 years of social studies
- 2-3 years of one foreign language
- 1 year of fine or performing arts

Competitive schools and programs consider the above to be the minimum requirements. They recommend that students challenge themselves by taking advanced courses whenever possible.

### If you're interested in a specific career

Choose electives that relate to the career field(s) you're considering. For example, if you're thinking about a career in business, take as many accounting, math, and computer courses as you can. This is a good way to find out if a career field might be one you would enjoy.



### If you want to play a sport in college

Athletes going to NCAA Division I and II colleges must have a minimum GPA in a specified number of *core courses*.

If you want to play a sport in college, talk to your counselor about the courses you need to take to meet NCAA requirements.