

Ninth Grade Course Selection Descriptions

REQUIRED COURSES

English

English 9 – 1 credit

This is a Regents-level course organized around the theme of “passage from innocence to experience,” in which students examine through literature the developing awareness of the realities of the world in which they live. Students will work on integrated reading, writing, speaking and listening units to develop the fundamental skills necessary to master the English outcomes listed above. Students will study an introduction to Mythology, as well as such texts as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Fahrenheit 451* and *Romeo & Juliet*.

English 9H, 1 “Honors” credit (Students eligible for the Honors program will be selected at a later date).

Math

Algebra 1A - 1 credit

Prerequisite: Math 8

This course culminates in a school final examination following the study of the first year of the NYS Integrated Algebra course. Topics covered include properties of numbers, linear equations in one variable, inequalities, polynomials, factoring, and percents with an emphasis on problem solving strategies. This course is supported by an additional lab period one day a week. A graphing calculator is highly recommended.

Math 1 - 1 credit

Prerequisite: Math 8 or Teacher Recommendation

This integrated Algebra course is the first course in a four-year program that concludes with Math 4. The focal point of the class is the algebra content strand. This course will assist students in developing skills and processes to be applied using a variety of techniques to successfully solve problems in a variety of settings. Topics include linear equations in one variable, quadratic functions with integral coefficients, absolute value and exponential functions as well as coordinate geometry. A Regents exam in June concludes the course. A graphing calculator is highly recommended.

Math 2H - Honors - 1 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

This course is the first course in a four-year program designed to conclude with Advanced Placement Calculus. An honors course for specially selected ninth grade students, this enriched course covers the New York State Geometry Curriculum on an intensive level. Students will continually use formal Euclidean proofs to make conjectures about geometric situations. Topics include congruence and similarity of triangles using theorems, transformations, quadrilaterals, and circles. These students will take the new NYS Regents Geometry Exam in June. A graphing calculator is highly recommended.

Math 2 - 1 credit

Prerequisite: Math 1r Teacher Recommendation

This course is the second course in a four-year program designed to conclude with Pre-Calculus. The syllabus is Geometry, the second of a three year program designed by New York State. Students will continually use formal Euclidean proofs to make conjectures. Topics include congruence and similarity of triangles using theorems, transformations, quadrilaterals and circles. Geometry software as well as a compass and straightedge will be used to better simulate the geometric situations. This course concludes with the NYS Regents Geometry Exam in June. A graphing calculator is highly recommended.

Science

Earth Science Regents I - 1 credit

This course provides students with experiences that will:

- allow them to acquire skills and course content that are necessary for future Regents science courses
- generally a large group in nature but allow for some individual and small group activities.

This course is designed to follow the New York State Earth Science Syllabus core curriculum. The final examination in the course will be the Physical Setting: Earth Science Regents examination.

Earth Science Regents II - 1 credit

This course is designed for students whose reading comprehension, mathematics, and/or critical thinking skills are not at grade level. This course provides students with experiences that will:

- allow them to acquire skills and course content that are necessary for future Regents science courses; and
- generally a large group in nature but allow for some individual and small group activities.

This course is designed to follow the New York State Earth Science core curriculum. The final examination in the course will be the Physical Setting: Earth Science Regents examination (the same exam as Earth Science Regents I).

Biology Regents - 1 credit

Recommended Prerequisites: Earth Science Regents and Math 1

This program is organized and designed to emphasize the sharing of ideas, laboratory activities, and other experiences as well as class demonstrations and discussions. This course presents a laboratory oriented approach to the understanding of living things. Emphasis is on the chemical nature of living activities, the structures involved, and the evolution of these structures. Inter-relationships of life forms on earth are emphasized; the principles involved in these relationships are stressed. Projects may be included.

Honors Biology - 1 credit

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the Earth Science teacher and an A or better in Regents Earth Science or B or better in Honors Earth Science

This course covers the material of the Regents course in Biology. In addition, it emphasizes the biochemical nature of life, particularly with regard to the relationship of chemistry and physics to respiration cell structure, genetics and evolution. This course also includes in-depth reading material from college text sources. Lab work and projects are of a more experimental nature than in the Regents course, with more opportunity for students to pursue individual interests. Reports and individual projects will be required.

Social Studies

Global History I - (SS 9R) - 1 credit

This course provides an opportunity for students to learn about key areas of the developing world. A cross-cultural approach is used which stresses a comparative study of social structures and societal values. Students will examine the impact of religion, tradition and family on the individual and the group in various societies. Current economic and political problems confronting key areas will be investigated in depth and the interest of the United States in these areas will be assessed. Sub-Saharan Africa, China, Southeast Asia, Japan and the Middle East will be studied.

Social Studies Skills

Teacher Recommendation and/or Eight Grade Social Studies Assessment Score of 1 or 2

Social Studies skills classes are to assist students who are in need of extra support with the concepts and writing skills required for Global History and Geography.

Foreign Language

Spanish I - 1 credit

This course concentrates on the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Cultural highlights of the Spanish speaking countries are presented. Basic preparation obtained in previous foreign language study at the Middle School or High School serves as a foundation for this course. This course is offered to students who have not passed the Proficiency examination and/or to students who have not had any previous instruction in Spanish.

Spanish II - 1 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Speaking, reading and writing are further developed. Increased emphasis will be placed on listening comprehension. Cultural highlights are discussed.

Italian I - 1 credit

This course concentrates on the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Cultural highlights are presented. Basic preparation obtained in previous foreign language study at the Middle School or High School serves as a foundation for this course. This course is offered to students who have not passed the Proficiency examination and/or to students who have not had any previous instruction in Italian.

Italian II - 1 credit

Prerequisite: Italian I

Speaking, reading and writing are further developed. Increased emphasis will be placed on listening comprehension. Cultural highlights are discussed.

French II - 1 credit

Prerequisite: French I

Speaking, reading and writing are further developed. Increased emphasis will be placed on listening comprehension. Cultural highlights are discussed.

Latin I - 1 credit

Students will be introduced to Latin through a reading, writing, speaking, and listening approach. They will follow the story of a “typical” Roman family and learn about their everyday lives, from food and clothes to travel and entertainment, as well as the beginnings of Roman History and Greco-Roman mythology. Students will be exposed to the foundations of English, resulting in improved English vocabulary and grammar. This course is an excellent way to build English language skills in preparation for the SAT or ACT.

Physical Education

PE 9 A/B and 10 A/B full year – ½ credit

Students will be instructed in concepts of wellness, adventure education and fundamental skills in a variety of activities. Adventure education in PE 9/10 engages students in a series of low element challenges which require cooperation and problem-solving skills. All students must pass each quarter and will receive a final grade for each quarter.

Elective Courses

Computer Science – 1 semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None – Open to grades 9 - 12

This course provides an introduction to the use of computers. The role of the computer as a tool in today's society will be explored with an emphasis on the many applications for the personal computer. The student will gain "hands-on" experience in word processing, spreadsheet programs, presentation software, and graphics software packages. Considerable time will be spent on Web Page Design using software packages as well as HTML programming

Computer Programming - 1 semester, ½ credit

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This is a course in programming the IBM personal computer using QBASIC, Dynamic HTML, and Java Script. Students will learn how to test, edit, and run their programs on the computer. They will also complete a unit on advanced web page design.

Advanced Programming Concepts – 1 semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Successful completion of computer programming or teacher recommendation - Open to grades 9-12

The course will teach the student how to program in Java. Java is the programming language of the Internet with features well suited to the network environment. Creativity and independent projects will be encouraged.

Writer's Workshop - 1 semester, ½ credit

Open to grades 9-12

This course is designed to encourage the writing of short stories, plays, poetry, and creative essays. Course structure follows that of college writing workshops which emphasize in-class review and discussion of student writing. As student writing is discussed, basic techniques and principles of the various writing genres are presented. Word processing is encouraged. A final writing product that is ready for publication is emphasized, and participation in Young Authors, the *Soupstone*, writing contests, and outside publications is encouraged. Professional writers are called on to address the class.

Advanced Writer's Workshop - 1 semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Writer's Workshop - Open to grades 9-12

This course is designed to build on the skills developed in Writer's Workshop. Students will write short stories, creative essays, plays and poetry for publication in various periodicals. Course structure follows that of college writing workshops which emphasize in-class review and discussion of student writing. As student writing is discussed, advanced techniques and principles of the various writing genres are presented. Word processing is required.

TV Production I - 1 credit

Prerequisite: None - Open to grades 9-12

Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of TV Production. This will be illustrated by the compilation of original scripts and a video portfolio that can enhance college applications. Students will perform in all crew positions and demonstrate on-air skills such as interviewing (recorded and live), on-site reporting, ad-libbing, anchoring, and acting. Behind-the-scenes skills such as writing, directing, editing, camera work, and audio work will be explored. Students will produce works that are reviewed and evaluated by faculty and fellow students; maintain a production journal which includes proposals, storyboards, technical issues, and evaluations for each project or assignment. Students will work in a fully equipped TV studio and assist in the production of a periodic show to be broadcast on cable television.

Theater Arts - I semester, ½ credit

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to various aspects of the elements of theater, mask making, improvisations, costuming, and set and lighting design while studying theater history and various playwrights. A willingness to perform experimentally in a class setting, a good attendance record, a sense of deadline and using time well, and respect for others are required. It may be used to fulfill the art/music requirement for graduation.

Drama: Theory and Practice - 1 semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to be mostly performance based with an emphasis on in-class performance of monologues, improvisations, scenes, and one-act plays in order to understand the nature of the stage and acting. There will be great emphasis placed on understanding theories of acting, analyzing and developing characters, and the audition and rehearsal process. The course will culminate in a production that highlights the students' acting skills. A good attendance record and respect for others are required. (This course may be used toward the art/music requirement).

Introduction To Business - 1 credit

Open to all grades (recommended for 9-10)

Prerequisite: None

Be a success! Improve your skills in dealing with people, solving problems, and making decisions. See where YOU fit into the free enterprise system. When you complete this course, you will have a better understanding of yourself and the world of work. Course content includes career exploration, basic economics, finance, marketing, management and entrepreneurship. A must for anyone who is planning a business career.

Power Point and Microsoft Word - 1 semester, ½ credit

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This one-semester course is designed to develop advanced proficiency in the use of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. (This course fulfills 1/2 of the Computer Technology requirement for graduation.)

Web Site Design - 1 semester, ½ credit

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

In this one-semester course students will learn the basics of web page design and will create web pages ready for publication on the Internet. (This course fulfills 1/2 of the Computer Technology requirement for graduation.)

Excel in Spreadsheets - 1 semester, ½ credit

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Master Excel, the most widely used and powerful spreadsheet program on the market today. Start with the basics and go step by step to become a power user. (This course fulfills 1/2 of the Computer Technology requirement for graduation.)

Smart Investing - 1 semester, ½ credit

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Learn the fundamentals of investing in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. Participate in projects that will improve your knowledge and skills relating to investing and personal wealth.

College Note-taking/Study Skills - 1 semester, ½ credit**Open to all grades****Prerequisite: None**

Improve your learning skills. Learn effective time-management techniques. Develop study habits, raise your reading speed and improve your note-taking ability. Students will explore different college options and assess their interests.

Studio in Art – (Art 1) - 1 credit**Open to grades 9-12**

A comprehensive foundation course required in preparation for the major sequence courses: Advertising Design and Illustration, Sculpture, and Drawing and Painting. Following Studio in Art, the courses in the sequence may be taken in any order.

Mechanical Drawing 1 - 1 credit**Open to grades 9-12**

An introduction to the use of tools, materials, concepts and techniques necessary for good drawing production.

Chorus - 1 credit

Performance oriented vocal music organization. Daily rehearsals will consist of vocal training, study of music fundamentals, and preparation of concert literature. Attendance at daily rehearsals, weekly scheduled sectional lessons, and concerts are integral and required parts of the course. This course fulfills the art/music requirement for graduation. Freshman may register for this group without audition.

Concert Choir - 1 credit**Prerequisite: Permission of Director/Audition only**

Chamber Choir will concentrate on singing a cappella and accompanied selections. Styles will range from the Renaissance to contemporary literature. Students will work in small ensembles in addition to performing as a full choir. Improvement in vocal technique, sight-singing, and musicianship will be stressed. Attendance at daily rehearsals, weekly scheduled sectional lessons, and concerts are integral and required parts of the course. Students must audition to register for this course. This course fulfills the Art/Music requirement for graduation.

Concert Band - 1 credit

The acquisition of demanding technical and musical skills will be stressed in Concert Band. In addition, a "how to" approach to practicing more difficult literature is emphasized. Concert Band rehearses on a daily basis. All members are required to attend one group lesson each week and are responsible for one half hour of home practice each day. The Concert Band will study a wide variety of musical material and will perform selections as the ability level of the group permits. Performances take place throughout the year and are an integral and required part of the course. Concert Band is open only to students currently enrolled in band **OR** by permission of instructor. This course fulfills the art/music requirement for graduation.

High School Orchestra - 1 credit**Prerequisite: Permission of the Director**

The High School Orchestra will be centered on the students who play string instruments. It will also provide orchestral experience for the more advanced wind players from the band, in order to explore some of the symphonic literature. The orchestra will perform as wide a range of literature as the ability of the group will allow. Selections will be taken from the symphonic literature, string orchestra, and even chamber music repertoire. The members are required to participate in a daily one period rehearsal and a weekly one period group lesson. Students are responsible for daily preparation and practice at home. Performances take place throughout the year and are an integral and required part of the course. This course fulfills the art/music requirement for graduation.

Music In Our Lives - 1 credit

This course is a general music offering designed to enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding of the place of music in our society. Various types of music (world music, pop, classical) will be studied. Units of study include what sound is, what music is, and how society has influenced music. There are quizzes and tests and a letter grade is given each quarter.

Music In Our Lives - 1 semester - ½ credit

This course will follow a similar outline to the full year course, but will offer a less in-depth study in some areas of specialization.

Science Discovery – ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Science Discovery is a semester-long introductory course of scientific exploration. Students will be researching real world scientific advancements through various scientific publications and Internet websites. Hands-on experimentation will be conducted by the student. Students will be constructing, testing, and analyzing their own experiments. ***This course is recommended for the student who may be applying for the Science Research program in the following year.***

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Special Education classes are designed for those students classified as educationally handicapped by the Committee on Special Education as defined by the Regulation of the Commissioner of Education. The goal is to provide an individual educational program based on the needs of each student.

To earn a high school diploma these students are required to pass the New York State tests required for all students and earn the required number of credits for graduation.

Students may be assigned to Resource Room which is designed to provide specialized supplementary instruction in a small group setting. Emphasis is on developing learning strategies and study skills which provide support for regular class placement.

Special education classes provide instruction in English, Social Studies, Science and Mathematics. Content is comparable with that of mainstream classes. Instructional materials are provided which are compatible with student achievement and ability levels. The goal of these classes is to enable students to meet graduation requirements including state testing requirements.

Collaborative classes are offered in English, Mathematics, Earth Science and Biology. Global History and Geography 1 (SS 9R) offers Social Studies skills classes to assist students who are in need of extra support with the concepts and writing skills required for Global History and Geography. Content of collaboration classes is the same with that of Regents classes.

ACADEMIC POLICY

AUDITING

Auditing will be approved at the discretion of the teacher. The teacher's decision will be based on availability of space in the course, the potential for benefit to the student requesting the audit and the best interests of the class. In general, students are encouraged to enroll in all course work for credit; however, in special situations auditing may be appropriate. Students with full schedules seeking additional academic enrichment, students preparing to retake a Regents or AP exam, students preparing for an SAT II, and students with similar ***bona fide*** educational aims may be allowed to audit. There will be no notation on the student transcript of an audit.

Students seeking to audit a course should discuss the audit with the prospective teacher and complete a request form before the course begins. Admission to the course, continued attendance, and specific academic expectations are all at the discretion of the teacher.

Changing from *credit* to *audit* status is a drop and all rules related to dropping a course will apply. Changing from *audit* to *credit* status is a drop and all rules related to dropping a course will apply. Changing from *audit* to *credit* status is an add and all rules relating to adds will apply.

Attendance rules which apply to students enrolled for credit will also apply to students who are auditing.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

College Courses - Several local colleges have made provisions for qualified students to take college level courses for a reduced fee. See your school counselor if you are interested in exploring these programs. Recommendation for approval of high school credit will be made to the Principal by the Credentials Committee

Credits by Examination:

According to the Regents Action Plan, a student may earn a maximum of 6½ units of credit for either a Regents or local diploma without actually attending a course if:

1. It is determined that a student will benefit academically from such an alternative,
2. the student achieves a score of at least 85% on a State-developed or State-approved examination,
3. the student passes an oral examination or successfully completes a special project to demonstrate proficiency in a subject area.

If you would like further information about this option, please see your school counselor. Requests for credits by examination must be approved by the Principal.

Independent Study - Through independent study a student can earn credit for academic work that has been accomplished independently. This option is available only if a course is **not** available at YHS. **This option will not fulfill a course requirement.** Applications should be obtained in the Guidance Center **prior to starting the academic work.** Recommendation for approval of such a program will be made to the Principal by the Credentials Committee.

Off-Campus Credit - Students earn a limited number of credits for legitimate learning experiences that occur outside the school environment. Applications should be obtained in the Guidance Center **prior to starting the experience.** Recommendations for approval will be made to the Principal by the Credentials Committee.

Home Teaching

The school district provides students with home teachers if the doctor anticipates absence from school for a period of time longer than two weeks. It will be necessary for the student's doctor to verify the illness in writing and approval by the Assistant Superintendent is necessary. The home teacher is responsible for keeping students at the pace of the class so that the return to school is made easier.

CLASS RANK- DETERMINED IN THE FALL OF GRADE 12

In the spring of 1990, the Board of Education approved a weighting plan to be used in computing class rank starting with the class of 1995.

Under this weighting system, the student's actual grade will not change on the report card or transcript. In the senior year, when class rank is determined, the grade in each course will be weighted according to the system indicated below:

All high school courses shall be assigned to one of two levels (except P.E. and courses not taken at YHS or an approved NYS summer school).

When class rank is computed, a factor of 0.5 will be added to the grade point value of all successfully completed courses in Level I.

Yorktown High School Weighting Model

Level I

English

English 12 - Advanced Placement
English 12 - Syracuse U. Project Adv.
English 9, 10, 11 Honors
Science
Earth Science Honors
Biology Honors
Chemistry Honors
Forensics – Syracuse University (SUPA)
Physics – Advanced Placement
Physics Honors
Chemistry- Syracuse University (SUPA)
Advance/AP
Biology - Advanced Placement
Environmental Science - Advanced Placement

Mathematics

Math 9, 10, 11, 12 Honors
Calculus-Advanced Placement A/B and B/C
Statistics - Advanced Placement

Computer Science

Computer Science - Advanced Placement A
and A/B

Social Studies

American History - Advanced Placement
European History - Advanced Placement
U.S. Politics and Government – Advanced
Placement

Business

College Accounting
Economics - Advanced Placement

Foreign Language

College French Level 200 & 201
French Language - Advanced Placement (I & II)
College Italian Level 200 & 201
Italian Advanced Placement (I&II)
College Latin Level 200 & 201
College Spanish Level 200 & 201
Spanish Language - Advanced Placement (I &
II)
Classical Roots

Performing Arts

Music Theory - Advanced Placement
Chamber Choir Honors
Wind Ensemble Honors
High School Orchestra Honors

Art

Art 4 Honors
Studio Art - Advanced Placement

Level II - All courses not assigned to Level I

Grade	Level 1	Level 2
A+	4.8	4.3
A	4.5	4.0
A -	4.2	3.7
B+	3.8	3.3
B	3.5	3.0
B-	3.2	2.7
C+	2.8	2.3
C	2.5	2.0
C-	2.2	1.7
D	1.5	1.0
F	0.0	0.0

Students weighted class rank by decile will be recorded on the official transcript.

The following criteria will also be used:

- Students must have been enrolled for their entire Junior year in Yorktown to be included in the ranking process.
- Grade-point averages will be computed to the thousandths decimal place.
- The student with the highest GPA will be named as valedictorian; the student with the second highest GPA will be named salutatorian. Should there be a tie in either of these places, co-valedictorians and/or co-salutatorians will be named.

GRADING

Progress Reports

Progress reports are mailed to parents in the middle of each marking period to indicate improvement or poor performance in a subject class.

Report Cards and Grading

Report cards are mailed home every ten weeks. If courses or grades are missing from the report card, you should notify the subject teachers.

Incompletes - A two-week period after the end of the marking period may be provided for make-up work. Requests for a grade of incomplete should be made through the subject teacher. At the end of the two-week period a grade is given and recorded, unless, for extenuating circumstances, administrative approval has been granted for a longer period. If the necessary work is not completed within the period agreed upon, a grade of F will be recorded.

Grade calculation - Quarter courses require both a marking period (quarter) grade and a final average. Semester course final average is determined by adding together 2/5 of the grade for each quarter and 1/5 of the final exam grade. Year course final average is obtained by adding 1/5 of the grade of each quarter and 1/5 of the final (or Regents) exam grade. This applies to 8th grade students taking high school courses as well.

Examinations

Final examinations and/or Regents examinations are administered in all courses except as approved by the principal.

All students enrolled in a course in which a Regents examination is given will be required to take that examination. The Regents mark or the final examination grade will represent 1/5 of the student's grade.

If a student does not appear for a final or Regents examination, and the failure to appear is not due to a *verified* illness or other *legal reasons approved by the Principal*, or if the absence is due to failure to meet the lab requirements in a Regents Science, a zero will be averaged as 1/5 of the student's course grade. The taking of the final examination is an academic responsibility of the student.

On non-Regents exams, papers which are graded 62, 63, or 64 will be circled and recorded as a 65%.

Grading of repeated courses

Students who receive a final average of F in a year course should plan on repeating the course in the following year or in summer school if permitted. Both the original failing grade and the grade earned by repeating the course will be shown on the student's transcript. Both grades will be used in determining a student's grade point average and class rank.

Passing grades in courses repeated for a semester only

The final passing grade will be determined by averaging the student's grade for the two marking periods, plus the final examination grade. Each marking period grade will represent 2/5 of the final grade. The final examination mark will represent 1/5 of the grade.

The 3 F Rule

Three quarterly grades of F in a year course will result in failure for the year. However, teachers have the discretion to waive this rule in specific instances with the principal's approval.

Changing Regents Grades

In the event a student takes a Regents examination more than once, the school policy regarding which grade to record is as follows:

- If a parent or student makes a request in writing, only the highest Regents score is recorded on the transcript.
- In cases where this request is not made, both grades will be recorded.
- Retaking a Regents exam will not affect the final average obtained for the class as a result of the initial grading situation.

Awarding of School/Regents Credit

The successful passing of a Regents examination does not automatically grant a student credit in that subject toward graduation at Yorktown High School. The school considers the Regents examination to be a minimum requirement of the course. It represents 1/5 of the student's final average grade, and 1/5 of what the school expects each student to accomplish.

Class assignments, laboratory experiments, school test results, and student contributions in class activity represent additional course requirements students are expected to meet.

Honor Roll

Eligibility for honor roll standing is determined by calculation of a student's grades during a given marking period. The grade point average is calculated using unweighted grades. In addition, the student must be enrolled in at least three credit-bearing subjects.

Grade Point Equivalent	
A	4.3
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D	1.0
F	0.0

Principal's List (GPA 3.90-4.30), **High Honor Roll** (GPA 3.50-3.89) **Honor Roll** (GPA 3.20 - 3.49)

Repeating Failed Courses

Students may repeat failed courses in two ways:

- In an approved N.Y.S. Summer School
- At Yorktown High School

In cases where the student's academic preparation in a failed course is especially poor, the school may require a full-year repeat. If a full-year repeat is required, the student may take the course in a N.Y.S. approved summer school *only if the course is offered for "advanced" credit*, or by repeating the entire course at Yorktown High School.

For half-year repeats made up in Yorktown High School. The school may specify the semester which must be repeated.

The students who repeat a course because of failure and who receive a final passing grade at the end of a semester will receive full credit for the course.

Exceptions to this policy will be considered only for students whose class has graduated and only in special circumstances.

Scheduling

Adding Courses

Year courses may be added until the fifteenth day of the school year. In unusual circumstances, requests for additions will be considered until the fifth week.

Semester courses may be added until the tenth day of the semester.

Dropping Courses

Full year courses may be dropped before the end of the first quarter without notation on the student's transcript.

Semester courses may be dropped until the mid-point of the 1st or 3rd marking period without notation on the student's transcript.

A "Withdraw" will be noted on a student's transcript if a full year course is dropped after the 10th school day of the 2nd semester, or if a semester course is dropped the 5th school day after the semester mid-point. If the student is passing at the withdrawal time, a Withdraw-Pass will be noted.

Students may not withdraw from a full year course after the beginning of the 4th quarter or from a semester course after the mid-point of the 2nd or 4th marking period, without special permission from the Principal.

Students who are removed from a course for disciplinary reasons will receive a grade of "Drop." These students are not eligible for a semester repeat of the course.

Attendance is required in a course being dropped until the student receives official notification of the change

Changing Course Level

Requests for a change in level of a course will be considered only if made by the midpoint of the third marking period.

Program Changes

The student desiring a program change should see his/her counselor to discuss the change and obtain the appropriate forms, which must be signed by his/her parent, teacher, and returned for signature to the counselor. Attendance is required in the course being dropped until the student receives *official notification* of the change. If a student begins to cut an old class before being officially assigned to the new one, he/she will be subject to the cut policy and may be dropped from his/her course, assigned to internal suspension for that period, and denied admission to the new class.

Program Scheduling

Counselors help students select courses for the following year during January/February. All 9th and 10th graders are to develop a schedule with a minimum of 6 classes plus physical education. 11th and 12 graders need to schedule a minimum of 5 classes plus physical education.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1). **What subjects are required?**
English, mathematics, social studies (Global 9), science, physical education, second language.
- 2). **Does the student have room for an elective?**
Yes, unless the student is scheduled for collaborative classes with extra skills classes. The student with extra skills classes may have room for the elective if the student decides not to have a scheduled lunch period. Ninth graders will have room for only one elective in most cases.
- 3). **What elective should I choose?**
In order to graduate a student must have one full year of Art and/or Music and a full year of computer courses (two semesters). It is suggested to take these courses early in the high school career - preferably beginning in the ninth grade if possible.
- 4). **When will I receive my schedule?**
Schedules will be mailed home approximately the third week of August.
- 5). **What if my schedule is not correct?**
Counselors will be available the week before school begins to help with schedule **corrections**. Schedule changes will be made only if an academic class is missing. **There will be no teacher/counselor changes.**
- 6). **What if my schedule does not include a lunch period?**
Many students do not have a scheduled lunch. Most teachers will allow students to bring a lunch to class as long as it is not messy, the student cleans their area, and the student can focus on the work. The exception is students cannot eat in a computer lab or a science room. The cafeteria is open from 7:30 am until 1:45 pm.
- 7). **If my child is sick, how do I request homework?**
If your child is absent for one or two days, you can check homework assignments with a classmate or with the individual teachers who have their own websites through www.yorktown.org or email the teacher. If your child is absent for **three or more days**, parents can contact the Guidance Department by **8:00 a.m. on the third day** to receive assignments and worksheets, etc. for your child. Please call (914) 243-8060 and speak to one of the secretaries. Do not leave a message on a counselors' voice mail. Assignments requested by parents, and submitted by teachers are normally available in the Guidance Office after 2:30 p.m. on the day they are requested. This does not guarantee that the teacher will receive the homework request and be able to submit homework for the day that it is requested. Many teachers retrieve their mail early in the morning. While we will try to fill all requests for assignments within this time period, this is sometimes impossible.
- 8). **When will I know my counselor's name?**
The counselor's name will be on your schedule which will be mailed home in August (see above).
- 9). **When can I meet with the counselor? Can I meet with a counselor before school ends?**
Counselors will be in the office the week before school begins in September. This time is for schedule conflicts and/or corrections. You can schedule a meeting with the counselor after school begins for other types of discussions. Call the Guidance office for an appointment with the student's counselor. It is not possible to meet before school ends in June as the counselors are involved with final exams, graduation requirements for seniors and summer school registration for the high school students.

- 10). What if I have a question regarding a grade?**
You will call or email the teacher.
- 11). If I have a problem with a teacher who do I call?**
The parent should call the teacher. If need be the parent would then call the teacher coordinator of the department.
- 12). How can I receive extra help?**
Teachers are in the building on Monday through Thursday from 1:35 until 2:20 for extra help. The student should ask the teacher if extra help is available for that day.
- 13). How do I make an appointment with my child's teacher?**
You can call or email any teacher and make an appointment directly with the teacher.
- 14). If my student is classified who should I contact regarding his/her performance and/or accommodations?**
All classified students are assigned a resource or contact teacher. This would be the person to contact.
- 15). Who should I contact about a locker problem?**
The student will come to the Assistant Principal's office and speak with Mr. Maher, Mrs. Aversano, or Ms. Blau. *(Next door to the Guidance Center)*