Agenda Items

❖ Introductions–REMIND APP (Mr. Morgan)
❖ Communication via HSI–Sugar Land College & Career Website
❖ Why a focus on transition to ninth grade? (Ms. Richardson)
❖ High School Expectations (Mrs. Kose)
❖ Endorsements (Pathways) (Mrs. Kose)
❖ Why Us? (Ms. Dok)
❖ AP/Dual Credit/PLTW Courses (Ms. Dok)
❖ College Counseling Services (Ms. Richardson)
❖ Let’s Review 9th Grade Core Classes (Mrs. Shay)
❖ Course Selection Process (Mrs. Shay)
❖ Career Planning Support (Mr. Fatih)
❖ Extracurricular Activities (Mr. Kucuk)
❖ Q & A Session
Hello!

We are a College Counseling Team at HSI–Sugar Land

Mr. Morgan  wmorgan@harmonytx.org  Dean of College & Career
Mrs. Dok  sdok@harmonytx.org  Starting with A-Ca (By Last Names)
Mr. Fatih  ffatih@harmonytx.org  Starting with Cb-E (By Last Names)
Mrs. Kose  skose@harmonytx.org  Starting with F-Kh (By Last Names)
Mr. Kucuk  ali.kucuk@harmonytx.org  Starting with Ki-Mi (By Last Names)
Mrs. Richardson  jrichardson@harmonytx.org  Starting with Mi-Pi (By Last Names)
Mrs. Shay  gshay@harmonytx.org  Starting with Pj-Z (By Last Names)
REMIND APP

Remind is a communication platform that helps every student succeed. Whether you're in the classroom, at home, or anywhere in between, Remind makes it easy to stay connected to your school community.

+ Communicate in real time—on any device.
+ Keep personal contact information private.
REMIND APP

To: 81010
Subject: @8thhsipar
**Why a focus on transition to ninth grade?**

Compared to other high school grades, ninth grade students nationally have:

- Lowest grade point average
- Most missed classes
- Most failing grades
- Most misbehavior referrals
- Highest enrollment because 22% are repeating the grade

Success in ninth grade is critical to on-time graduation from high school.
High School Expectations

+ Monitor Academic Progress (check Report cards, use of Skyward, schedule a meeting with teachers/counselors)
+ Encourage your child to become involved in a variety of activities
+ Review course selection process with your student in the spring of each school year
+ Counselor Information on summer programs are available in counselors offices
Why is it important to choose right classes in high school?

What can help you to choose right classes?

How can Endorsements help you in choosing the right path?
High School Graduation Requirements

Texas & Harmony Public Schools

8th Grade Transition to High School
High School Graduation Requirements

- HPS High School Credit Requirement (4x4)
- Passing Score on Texas State Assessments (STAAR)
  - Algebra I, Biology, English I-II, and US History
- Admission by a 4-Year College
- Minimum 100 Community Service Hours
  - Community service requirement is 25 hours per year.
# Completing Required High School credits

## New Graduation Requirement

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Social St.</th>
<th>LOTE</th>
<th>FA</th>
<th>PE</th>
<th>Electives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Plan (22 credits)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endorsements (26 credits)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinguished Level of Achievement (26 credits)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Alg2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
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8TH GRADE TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL
Five Endorsement Options

ENDORSEMENTS

STEM
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
PUBLIC SERVICE
ARTS & HUMANITIES
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY STUDIES

8th Grade Transition to High School
Distinguished Level of Achievement

The Distinguished Level of Achievement requires more math and more science than the Foundation High School Program. The Distinguished Level of Achievement requires:

- 4 Credits in Math, including Algebra II
- 4 Credits in Science
- Successful completion of an endorsement

8th Grade Transition to High School
Why it matters — Benefits
The Distinguished Level of Achievement opens a world of educational and employment opportunities for you beyond high school. The Distinguished Level of Achievement:

- Allows you to compete for Top 10% automatic admissions eligibility at any Texas public university;
- Positions you among those first in line for a TEXAS Grant* to help pay for university tuition and fees; and other financial aid options
- Ensures you are a more competitive applicant at the most selective colleges and universities.
- Prepares you for college-level coursework at community/technical colleges and universities
- Provides opportunity for immediate enrollment in classes related to your chosen field of study; and
- Lays a strong foundation to successfully complete an industry workforce credential or college degree.
Why us?

#158 in the US
Overall ranking by US News

# 31 in the state
High School Ranking

#8th H School & #16
With Highest SAT In Houston Area

#Top 10 in the state
According to Children at Risk

# 3 Standout HS in Houston Area
According to Niche

8th Grade Transition to High School
Why us? (Cont..)

+ School Environment—cultural diversity, small safety school, faculty quality, close relations between faculty and students
+ College Readiness—approximately 85%–90%
+ Graduation rates—approximately 99%
+ State Distinguished Award—all seven possible distinctions for academic progress
Why us? (Cont...)

+ Counseling Services—1-1 meeting, counselor student ratio is 1/200 compare to 1/450 at public schools, curriculum
+ Academically challenged curriculum
+ Free SAT Classes within curriculum and free SAT test during Junior years
+ Academic competitions—Robotics, H-SEF, VEX, etc.
+ College Acceptances—Brown, Cornell, Harvard, NYU, Notre Dame, Emory, Stanford, USC, Yale, etc...
+ Extracurricular Activities—more than 55 clubs
**Honor Courses**

The Pre-AP Program serves as a stepping stone for students in preparation for rigorous AP courses. Participation provides students with a powerful opportunity to acquire the knowledge, concepts, and skills needed to engage in a higher level of learning.

**Benefits:**
- Rigorous course level
- 4.5 GPA calculation.
Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

+ Advanced Placement (AP) courses are designed to help high achieving students earn college credits while in high school.
+ In order for students to earn college credits through AP courses, students must take and pass the AP exam at the end of the school year.
+ Students who earn a 3 or higher on the AP exam will earn college credit.
+ If a student is unsuccessful on an AP exam, the AP exam grade will not appear on the student’s college transcript.
+ All AP courses carry a 5.0 weight.
**Dual Credit**

+ Dual Credit courses are designed to help students earn college credits while in high school.
+ Students must take and pass the TSI exam in order to take a Dual Credit course.
+ Students who enroll in Dual Credit courses will earn college credit at the end of the semester.
+ Unlike AP, students in Dual Credit do not have to take an exam in order to earn college credit.
+ Unlike AP, if a student is unsuccessful in Dual Credit, the grade will appear on the student’s college transcript.
+ All Dual Credit courses carry an 5.0 weight.
Project Lead The Way (PLTW)

+ PLTW courses give students the opportunity to learn how to solve real-world problems while collaborating with classmates
+ We offer courses in Computer Science, Biomedical Science and Engineering
+ The PLTW pathway provides students with an opportunity to earn college credit
+ All PLTW courses carry a 5.0 weight
College Counseling Services

+ Individual counseling
  + Individual Counseling
  + Academic Advising
  + Career Exploration
  + Post-Secondary Education Planning

+ Parental counseling and support - Parent Nights, Workshops

+ Academic support
  + College list recommendations
  + Step-by-step application assistance; hands-on application workshops
  + Brag sheet/resume development
  + Essay workshops-organizing, brainstorming, development, revision, and improvement
  + College visit recommendations and preparation
  + Financial Aid preparation and workshops for parents
  + Assistance with final college decision

8th Grade Transition to High School
## 9th Grade Courses

### Math
- Algebra I **OR**
- Honors Algebra I **OR**
- Geometry Honors*
- Algebra II

### Science
- Biology **OR**
- Biology Honors
- Chemistry **OR**
- Chemistry-D **OR**
- Chemistry Honors

### English
- English I **OR**
- English I Honors
- English II **OR**
- English II Honors

### Social Studies
- Geography World **OR**
- Geography AP Human

### Electives/Endorsements
- STEM (IED, CS)
- Public Service (PBS)
- Art & Humanities (Art)
- Business & IT (PIT, Networking)

### Fine Arts/PE
- Art I **OR**
- Music
- PE

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## 8th Grade Transition to High School
**Course Selection Process & Timeline**

**HSI-Sugar Land College & Career Counseling Website**

**Steps on the Course Selection**

+ **Step 1:** Review the Course Offerings with Your Teachers

+ **Step 2:** Schedule a meeting with the student’s counselor.
  + **DEADLINE:** January 23, 2021 - February 5, 2021

+ **Step 3:** During the Meeting;
  + Select your courses and Do **NOT** forget to sign and copy of the following documents below for your records
    + Personal Graduation Plan (PGP for Newcomers & 8th Grade Students)
    + Course Selection Form-Finalized

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**8th Grade Transition to High School**
Course Selection Process & Timeline

+ **Step 4:** Appeal Honors/AP/Dual Credit Courses if needed
  + If you need to appeal any Honors/AP/Dual Credit courses, please talk to your counselor and fill out the “AP/Dual Credit/Honors Course (s) Appeal Form” by Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 4:00 pm. 
  + No submissions will be accepted after the deadline.

+ **Step 5:** Submit the “Schedule Request Change Form” by Friday, May 7th, 2021 at 4:00 pm if the student needs to change their schedule.
  
  *Please note that anything submitted after the deadline will **NOT** be considered.*

+ **Step 6:** Contact your assigned counselor if you ever need help.
Career Planning Support

- Mission:
  - To engage and support Harmony students
  - Collaborate w/ alumni to increase their skills
  - Build strong and sustainable college-going atmosphere in our schools

- Vision:
  - To raise responsible, caring and productive HARMONIANS

- Goals:
  - Build sustainable college-bound school culture btw HPS –HS students and alumni
  - Create smooth college transition for HPS HS seniors by engaging them w/ alumni
  - Help and support HPS alumni to increase HPS postsecondary enrollment, persistence and graduation rate
Career Planning Support

- Helping students learn their own potential
- Exposing students to options and pathways they might not have known about or explored before
- Guiding students with knowledge and resources to reach opportunities
Career Planning Support

- **Schoollinks**
  - is a modern, AI-powered platform that supercharges counseling departments while delivering a fun and personalized experience to students and families.
  - post-secondary planning activities from career interest inventory all the way to post-secondary outcome tracking

- **Career Fairs**
  - Planned twice a Semester
  - Bridgeyear – Career hands-on test drive, on campus

- **Career Talk Series**
  - Working with Junior Achievement
Career Planning Support

- Career Tests, YouScience Assessment
  - Frequently asked Questions
  - Highschool Parents
- Career Talks and Fairs
  - Planned twice a Semester
  - Bridgeyear – Career hands on test drive, on campus
- Career Talk Series
  - Working with Junior Achievement
- Internship/Job Shadows
Extracurricular Activities

+ Student Clubs
  + NHS, Key Club, eSports, Robotics, Student Council, etc..
+ Academic Competitions
+ After School Activities
+ Athletics (not during the pandemic)
+ Volunteer Activities, Home Visits
+ Camps

8th Grade Transition to High School
Question & Answer Session

8th Grade Transition to High School