

# PARENT GUIDE TO

# 9th GRADE Fall Semester

## LOOKING AHEAD COLLEGE & CAREER

### FRESHMAN TO-DO (Fall Semester)

- ☐ Maintain Good Grades.
- ☐ Begin researching your career choices and the educational requirements of each.
- ☐ Search for information from colleges with degree programs that interest you and plan your high school program of studies accordingly.
- ☐ Develop good study habits.
- ☐ Participate in a variety of extracurricular activities.
- ☐ Learn about opportunities to earn college or advanced placement credit (College Board Advanced Placement Testing).
- ☐ Attend a College Fair.
- ☐ Meet with college representatives as they visit your school.
- ☐ Attend a military academy presentation in your regional area.
- ☐ Create your Résumé: list awards, extracurricular activities, work experience, and other pertinent information.
- ☐ Visit “Helpful Resources” in Section 5 of the High School student handbook for more information.

## PLAN YOUR PATH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

As part of graduation requirements, students must earn one or more endorsements by completing a series of courses grouped together by content or skill set, including four credits of math and science and two additional elective credits. Endorsements give students in-depth knowledge of a subject area and should align to career interests. The five endorsement areas are Arts & Humanities; Business & Industry; Multi-Disciplinary; Public Services; and STEM.

In ninth grade, students should be enrolled in the first course necessary to achieve the endorsement credits by graduation. Counselors can assist with verifying course planning to ensure requirements for endorsements are met. Should a student want to change the endorsement they chose, the counselor or administrator should be notified and a discussion with the student and parent should take place.

There are 16 CTE programs that meet endorsement requirements, each with a career pathway. End-of-program, industry-recognized certificates and/or licenses are available for some, and dual credit CTE courses can lead to Level 1 certifications and associate degrees.

**News and Resources All Year Long**



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## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD'S COUNSELOR



- Are the classes my student is taking meeting the requirements and recommendations for graduation?
- What do we need to consider now if college is the goal after high school or my student has a vocational/technical interest?
- How is GPA calculated?
- How do credits and endorsements work?
- How can I help my student transition into high school successfully?
- What are the advantages of taking pre-AP courses?

## HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD ADVOCATE FOR THEIR OWN SUCCESS

- Set expectations and boundaries regarding school responsibilities, grades, and consequences, and come up with possible resolutions together.
- Get involved in your student's academic journey. Parent participation is important, and it helps you stay informed. Meet the teachers and staff members of your student's school. Consider joining a parent organization or booster club for your student's extracurricular activities.

## DIGITAL TOOLS FOR SUCCESS FOR HOME & SCHOOL



The below tools are accessible through DISD's [ClassLink Portal](#). Click the ClassLink Icon to the left and login with Student ID and Password.



## BEYOND ACADEMICS SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL BEHAVIOR

### Tween to Teens... It doesn't last forever

- The onset of adolescence typically coincides with the beginning stages of puberty but can vary slightly. Keep in mind that every student is different and what's "normal" for one isn't the case for another.

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