

Freshman 101: A Guide to Your First Year of High School!

Auburn Junior High Counseling Department

9th GRADE FACTS

- ▶ 9th grade is considered high school!
- ▶ You will begin earning **credit** for graduation.
- ▶ Your grades begin to count towards your **GPA**.

9th GRADE FACTS

- ▶ What is a GPA?
 - ▶ Grade Point Average
- ▶ How do I calculate my GPA?
 - ▶ Add the total number of points and divide it by the number of credits.
 - ▶ A = 4 points
 - ▶ B = 3 points
 - ▶ C = 2 points
 - ▶ D = 1 point
 - ▶ F = 0 points

CORE CURRICULUM

- ▶ Students must earn at least 26 credits to graduate.
- ▶ To gain a credit, you must complete a course with a passing grade.
- ▶ Students earn 8 credits per year.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ 4 credits of English
- ▶ 4 credits of Math
- ▶ 4 credits of Social Studies/History
- ▶ 4 credits of Science
 - Must include Biology and Physical Science
- 1 credit of PE
 - If JROTC is used as a PE credit, it cannot be used as a CTE elective credit
- 0.5 credit of Health
 - If Foundations of Health is used as the Health credit, it cannot be used as a CTE elective credit
- 1 credit of Career Preparedness
- 3 electives (**must** be Career Tech, Fine Arts, World Language)
- 4.5 free electives

MATH CREDIT OPTIONS

▶ Option 1:

- ▶ 8th - Math 8
- ▶ 9th - Geometry w/ Data Analysis and Math Lab (1 math credit, 1 math elective credit)

▶ Option 2:

- ▶ 8th - Accelerated Math
- ▶ 9th - Geometry w/ Data Analysis AND Algebra 2
 - Must take a placement test!

▶ Option 3:

- ▶ 8th - Math 8 OR Accelerated Math 8
- ▶ 9th - Geometry w/ Data Analysis AND Algebra 1
 - Must take a placement test!

9th GRADE CREDITS

- ▶ The following credits are earned during the 9th grade year:
 - ▶ English 9 or Advanced English 9 - 1 credit (Alternating Day)
 - ▶ World History or Advanced World History - 1 credit (Alternating Day)
 - ▶ Biology or Advanced Biology - 1 credit (Alternating Day)
 - ▶ Math (Will Meet Every Day)
 - ▶ Geometry with Math Lab - 1 Math credit, 1 elective credit
 - ▶ Geometry and Algebra I with Probability - 2 Math credits
 - ▶ Geometry and Algebra II with Statistics - 2 Math credits
 - ▶ Career Preparedness - 1 credit (Alternating Day)
 - ▶ 2 Elective Credits (or 3 if you take a zero period)

CURRICULUM OPTIONS

- ▶ Grade Level
- ▶ Advanced
- ▶ Advanced Placement (AP)
- ▶ International Baccalaureate (IB)
- ▶ Dual Enrollment

GRADE LEVEL COURSES

- ▶ Meet requirements for graduation
- ▶ Meet requirements for college admittance
- ▶ Grade points for GPA
 - ▶ A = 4 points
 - ▶ B = 3 points
 - ▶ C = 2 points
 - ▶ D = 1 point

ADVANCED COURSES

- ▶ More challenging
- ▶ Good preparation for AP/IB courses
- ▶ Grade points for GPA are different
 - ▶ A = 4.5 points
 - ▶ B = 3.5 points
 - ▶ C = 2.5 points
 - ▶ D = 1.5 points

Prerequisites for Advanced Classes at AJHS

► Advanced Biology

- Minimum of a 93 in 8th Grade Science
- 8th Grade Science teacher recommendation
- Signed Student/Parent Contract
- Must Join Summer Work group on Schoology
 - All Summer Work must be turned in before the 1st day of the Fall Semester

► Advanced World History

- Minimum of a 93 in 8th Grade History
- 8th Grade History teacher recommendation
- Signed Student/Parent Contract
- Completion of Summer Reading Assignments
 - A quiz will be given on the 2nd class of the school year.

Prerequisites Continued

► Advanced English 9

- ☐ Minimum of 93 in 8th grade English
- ☐ 8th grade English teacher recommendation
- ☐ Signed Student/Parent Contract
- ☐ Completion of Summer Assignments
 - A quiz will be given the first week of school
- **If your child does score less than a 93, a parent waiver can be signed. However, no students will be able to move from Advanced to Grade Level Courses.**

AP and IB COURSES

Advanced Placement (AP)

- ▶ Pick and choose the classes that you want, not part of a program
- ▶ More challenging than grade level courses (comparable to college-level classes)
- ▶ Weighted grade points (NOT CREDITS)
 - A = 5
 - B = 4
 - C = 3
 - D = 2
- Must take an exam at the end of the course to receive the weighted GPA points and depending on your score, you could receive college credit for the class

International Baccalaureate (IB)

- ▶ This is a set program. You must take classes labeled IB. One of the requirements for receiving the diploma is 5 Foreign Language credits
- ▶ Starts your junior year
- ▶ Very rigorous
- ▶ Weighted grade points (same as AP)
- ▶ IB Diploma administered on completion of requirements
- ▶ Must take exams - can earn college credit for these!

DUAL ENROLLMENT

- ▶ Dual Enrollment: College classes taken while in high school
- ▶ Earn credit for both high school graduation and college
- ▶ Classes are through Southern Union, Auburn University (Auburn First), University of Alabama (Early College), and Troy University (Accelerate)
- ▶ More information about dual enrollment opportunities can be found in the AHS Curriculum Guide
- ▶ You will receive more information during 10th grade academic session at AHS

DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENTS

- ▶ Advanced Academic
- ▶ Career/Technical
- ▶ Advanced Career/Technical

- ▶ *You can earn more than one!*

ADVANCED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Must have: (in addition to regular Graduation Requirements)

- ▶ Two world language credits
- ▶ One math course higher than Alg. II w/ stats
- ▶ Two advanced sciences (Intro to Biotechnology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy, IB/AP Biology or Chemistry)

CAREER TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

Must have: (in addition to regular Graduation Requirements)

- ▶ Three elective credits from the same Career Tech Education program (must have a 70 or above in each course)

ADVANCED CAREER/TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

Must have: (in addition to regular Graduation Requirements)

- ▶ Three elective credits from the same Career Tech Education program (**must have a 70 or above** in each course)
- ▶ One math course higher than Alg. II w/ Stats
- ▶ Two advanced sciences (Intro to Biotechnology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy, IB/AP Biology or Chemistry)

9TH GRADE COURSE SELECTION

- ▶ Online course selection portal opens March 3rd and closes March 6th!
- ▶ 9th grade schedules will be created based on the courses students select.
- ▶ All available courses are listed on the 9th Grade Course Request Form.
- ▶ All students must select 8 credits.
 - ▶ 1 English
 - ▶ 2 Math (or 1 Math credit and 1 Math elective)
 - ▶ 1 Science
 - ▶ 1 Social Studies
 - ▶ Career Prep
 - ▶ Electives

SUMMER OPTIONS

▶ Beginning Kinesiology

- ▶ June 2 - June 30
 - ▶ 8:30 - 11:30am
 - ▶ Monday - Friday
 - ▶ Cost is \$150
 - ▶ Registration begins Tuesday March 18th at 12:00pm
 - ▶ **50 spots available - registration closes after these have been filled!**
- ▶ AJHS will not be offering credit advancement classes (ACCESS) during the summer.

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

- ▶ Talk to your family about your course selection for 9th grade using your blue course selection sheet
- ▶ CIRCLE which courses you would like to take
 - Must circle 8 CREDITS!
- ▶ Put at least TWO alternate elective courses on the back of your blue course selection sheet
- ▶ Put your course requests into PowerSchool next week
- ▶ Turn your blue course selection sheet into your English teacher after you input your course requests online

Last Name:	First Name:
Date:	Parent Signature:

Auburn Junior High School

9th Grade Course Selection

Directions: Select either Advanced or Regular for each core academic course. The number of credits will equal 6. You may choose any combination of Advanced or Regular level courses.

- For Advanced courses, a student can earn an extra half point towards his or her GPA. For example, an "A" in a regular course earns 4 points towards the GPA. An "A" in an advanced course earns 4.5 points.
- To take Geometry AND Algebra II, a student must currently be in Accelerated Math and will take a placement test at the end of the year. A student must score high enough on the placement test in order to take this course.

Credit (credit)	Core Academic Courses	Requirements/Expectations
2	Geometry w/Data Analysis AND Math Lab Elective	Grade Level Math Class
2	Geometry w/ Data Analysis AND Algebra II	Currently taking Advanced Math High score on Math Placement Test
2	Geometry w/ Data Analysis AND Algebra I	Math Placement Scores will determine Placement
1	English 9	Grade Level English Class
1	English, 9 Advanced Level	See Prerequisite requirements on the AJHS website (or English teacher for paper copy)
1	Biology	Grade Level Science
1	Biology, Advanced Level	See Prerequisite requirements on the AJHS website (or English teacher for paper copy)
1	World History: 1500- Present, Grade 9	Grade Level History
1	World History: 1500- Present, Advanced Grade 9	See Prerequisite requirements on the AJHS website (or English teacher for paper copy)
1	Career Prep	Required for All 9 th Grade Students
*The total number in the box to the left should be 6.		

Directions: Select electives from the list below. The number of credits will add up to 2. Three of the courses are ½ credit courses, so be sure your total credits add up to 2. Students are required to take Beginning Kinesiology (PE) and Health Education to graduate, but they are not required to take those 2 courses in 9th grade. However, many students choose to do so.

Credit (Credit)	Elective Courses	Requirements/Other Info
½	Health Education	Class is required to graduate
½	Visual Arts	
½	Harmonizing Instructions (Piano, Ukulele, Guitar)	
1	Beginning Kinesiology (PE)	Class is required to graduate
1	Intro to Engineering- Project Lead the Way	At least 75 in Math or complete Robotics
1	Hospitality/Tourism	
1	Army JROTC Leader Ed and Training (Can replace PE)	Uniform, hair cut to certain length
1	Music Technology	
1	Spanish I	
1	Spanish II	Must complete Spanish I first
1	Theater	
1	Band	Audition required; \$70 fee
1	Choir	Audition required; \$150 regular choir; \$250 for show choir
1	Music Elements of Arts Literacy (Music Appreciation)	
1	Broadcast (AJHS News)	Application required
1	Yearbook	Application required
1	Write in Access Class:	See below