

# INCOMING MedSci 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS TO DO LIST

## TO DO TODAY, MAY 9 BEFORE YOU LEAVE HHS, TURN IN ALL COLORED FORMS:

Students & Parents: Fill out and turn-in the front page of the course request worksheet.

Students & Parents: Fill out and turn-in the YES Contract

Parents: Join the Academy Booster Club.

Students & Parents: Turn in the MedSci Commitment Form

Parents & Students: Mix and mingle with HHS students, parents, and teachers.

## TO DO ONLINE:

- ⇒ **Student:** Complete the online datasheet to be matched with a mentor. Do this this week. Go to <http://www.fortbendisd.com/medalscience> Click “New Students: Class of 2023” link on the left hand side of the page, and then click the appropriate link.
- ⇒ **Students and Parents:** Subscribe to newsletter. Go to <http://www.fortbendisd.com/medalscience> Click “New Students: Class of 2023” link on the left hand side of the page, and then click the appropriate link.
- ⇒ Coming Soon: **Student:** Confirm attendance at the mandatory Mentor/Mentee Meet & Greet. Date TBD. Go to <http://www.fortbendisd.com/medalscience> Click “New Students: Class of 2023” link on the left hand side of the page, and then click the appropriate link.
- ⇒ Coming Soon: **Parent/Student:** Purchase your Academy polo shirt online. The polo shirt is required for almost all group activities. Go to <http://www.fortbendisd.com/medalscience> Click “New Students: Class of 2023” link on the left hand side of the page, and then click the appropriate link.

## TO DO SOON:

- ⇒ **Students:** Register online for summer school courses (NOT Required) Speak with your 8th grade counselor for more information.
- ⇒ **Students:** Buy your ELA Summer Reading books. List to come out in soon.
- ⇒ **Students/Parents:** Watch for information about summer school. Watch for information regarding the mentor/mentee Meet & Greet. Watch for information for prepayment of the Academy t-shirt. The Academy polo shirt is required for many events and all students need to purchase one.

## Miscellaneous Information and FAQ related to the Academy:

### Important Information:

- Hightower High School Website: <http://www.fortbendisd.com/hhs>
- Hightower High School Twitter: [https://twitter.com/hhs\\_canes](https://twitter.com/hhs_canes)
- Medical Science Academy website: [www.fortbendisd.com/medicalscience](http://www.fortbendisd.com/medicalscience)
- Digital Media Academy website: [www.fortbendisd.com/digitalmedia](http://www.fortbendisd.com/digitalmedia)
- Mentor/Mentee Meet & Greet: TBD—generally during academy orientation
- Cane Camp: Beginning of the year orientation for incoming freshman. Date: TBD--generally early August; Location: HHS

### Enrollment for students not currently in a FBISD school:

- Enrollment appointments occur in mid-late July. Please call 281-634-5257 (Ms. Bussell) **no earlier than** July 1<sup>st</sup> to make an appointment for July or August. At that time, she will provide you with any necessary instructions and inform you of any necessary documentation.

### Skyward/Parent Portal

- Please be sure to have access to the parent portal on the FBISD website. You do this by filling paperwork out IN-PERSON at the campus. You can do this now on your 8<sup>th</sup> grade campus if you are a current FBISD student! It is the best way to keep up with your child's academics. You can see current grades, calendars, and email teachers through the parent portal.

### FAQ's for incoming freshman about the Academy:

1. How many volunteer hours do we need and how do we track them? Can volunteer hours be completed during the summer or during the previous year? What counts as volunteer hours?
  - a. You need 100 volunteer hours for the Academies; that breaks down to 12.5 each semester for a total of 25 a year (these are your minimums). Volunteer hours done during your 8<sup>th</sup> grade year do not count. You may start volunteering after you complete 8<sup>th</sup> grade but please note there is a limit on the amount of summer hours you can earn. Academy hours are done in partnership with YES. You must adhere to all HHS YES guidelines when volunteering. To learn more visit [www.fortbendisd.com/Page/21119](http://www.fortbendisd.com/Page/21119).
2. What exactly are enrichment activities and how many do I need?
  - a. You will need to participate in 4 enrichment activities each academic year (minimum of 1 each grading period until a total of four is earned). Enrichment activities can include but are not limited to: attending monthly student meetings, attending industry presentations, field trips, going to guest lectures, attending museums, etc.
3. Do I have to take PreAP and AP ELA?
  - a. If you are **DMA**: Yes. ELA classes Levels I-III have to be PreAp/AP. You will be cohorted together with the Academy ELA teacher as master scheduling allows. Level IV can be AP or Dual Credit. **MedSci** students do not have an ELA specification.
4. Do I have to take PreAP and AP Science classes?
  - a. If you are **MedSci**: Yes. Science classes must be PreAP/AP. You will be cohorted together with the Academy Science teacher as master scheduling allows. **DMA**: students do not have a Science specification. We recommend PreAP/AP Math for MedSci, but not require it.
5. Is transportation provided for students not zoned to HHS?
  - a. Yes. The district provides bus transportation if you are not zoned, but live within FBISD during the Academic year. You will receive correspondence from the district providing you with more details during the summer.
6. Miscellaneous Information based on previous FAQs:
  - a. Classes start at 7:30 am and end at 2:45 pm. Tardies are taken very seriously. Do not be late.
  - b. Academy students are eligible for Free/Reduced lunch just like any other student. The paperwork is provided at the beginning year, along with the handbook, computer use form, etc. Enrollment in FRL provides eligibility for various scholastic opportunities such as financial aid and need based scholarships, as well as reduced testing fees.

## Medical Science Academy 4-Year Plan      College Readiness Plan    C/O 2021 and beyond    (Updated 2/7/2017)

Note: This is a **SAMPLE** high school plan, variations such as involvement in athletics, fine arts, and summer courses taken will affect the actual high school plan for each student. Courses that are in **BOLD** are requirements for the Medical Science Academy. You are required to take Pre-AP/AP/Dual Credit Science courses and highly encouraged to take advanced level math all four years. It is highly recommended for Academy students to take speech and health outside of the academic school year.

### Sample MedSci 4-year plan:

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
9 <sup>th</sup>	English I	World Geography	Algebra I	<b>Biology Pre-AP</b>	Language I	Health / Prof. Communications	<b>Principles of Health Science</b>
10 <sup>th</sup>	English II	World History	Geometry	<b>Chemistry Pre-AP</b>	Language II	Elective	<b>Med Terminology</b>
11 <sup>th</sup>	English III	US History	Algebra II	<b>Physics AP</b>	PE	Elective	<b>Anatomy &amp; Physiology</b>
12 <sup>th</sup>	English IV	US Government/ Economics	4 <sup>th</sup> Math	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Science AP</b>	Fine Arts	<b>Medical Microbiology Or Health Science Theory</b>	<b>Pathophysiology Or Health Science Clinical</b>

Your *PROPOSED* plan—This is what you want to take and it can be adjusted. See your counselor about options.

\*When making your plan, indicate level if honors, AP, dual credit, etc. Remember you must enroll in Pre-AP/AP Science courses.

	<u>1—English</u>	<u>2—SS</u>	<u>3—Math</u>	<u>4—Science</u>	<u>5—Language/ Electives</u>	<u>6—Elective</u>	<u>7—Elective</u>
9 <sup>th</sup>							Principles of Health Science
10 <sup>th</sup>							Medical Terminology
11 <sup>th</sup>							Anatomy & Physiology
12 <sup>h</sup>						Academy Elective	Academy Elective

Classes that you took in Middle School that counted for High School Credit (if applicable):

Proposed Summer School or online classes (if applicable):

### Checklist:

Did you plan for...

- |                                                               |                                              |                                                       |                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 credits of English                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 years of Math     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 years of Science           | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 credits of SS   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 credits of the same world language | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year of PE        | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year of Fine Arts          | <input type="checkbox"/> Health            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Coursework | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Health Science/CTE credits | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-AP/AP Science |

\*\*\*Requirements subject to change per state/district guidelines. All CTE courses are currently undergoing changes with TEA.

**Hightower High School Course Selection  
Frequently Asked Questions (Non-Academy Specific)**

**1. How many credits do I need to graduate?**

A student needs **26 credits** to graduate on the Foundations + Endorsements Plan. Please see the **Course Guide** for further details/course requirements.

**2. How many Math and Science credits do I need to graduate?**

All students must complete **4 years** of Math and Science for graduation.

**3. Are all of the courses listed in the program guide available at HHS?**

**Not necessarily.** Course offerings are dependent on staffing and demand. Also, please be aware that there are many courses that students cannot take as a freshman.

**4. Do all students have to take PE?**

All students must satisfy 1 credit of Physical Education. Please see the course guide for P.E. substitutions.

**5. Can I take one year of French, then one year of Spanish to satisfy my World Language credit?**

**No.** You must complete level I and II of the same language.

**6. I would like to take a class in summer school, what is available?**

As of last year, the courses that incoming freshman could enroll in were Health, Speech, P.E. and Art. These offerings are subject to change. Summer School forms will not be available until later in the semester. **Forms will be available in your middle school counselor's office.** Summer school sessions:

Session 1: June 10-June 27; Session 2: July 8-July 25

**7. What if I was not recommended for Pre-AP level courses?**

We value the professional judgment of your 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. However, we encourage students to challenge themselves with rigorous courses early on in their high school career so that they are better prepared for college. Although we would like you to have a conversation with your current teacher regarding your placement in Pre-AP level courses, you may sign up for an Pre-AP course without a recommendation. \*Please note that MedSci students must sign up for Pre-AP Biology.

**8. Will I have a chance to make corrections after I have completed my course selection sheet?**

**Yes.** Students will verify their course selection choices online during March, and course changes can be made at that time. Please note that we may not be able to accommodate change requests after the deadline in March, as the master schedule is set based on the choices made up to that time, teachers are hired and books ordered.

**9. What happens if I sign up for a sport and do not make the team?**

If you do not make the team, you will be placed in a P.E. course.

**10. What if I have more questions later?**

Your middle school counselor should be able to answer all of your general course selection questions while you are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. You can also visit the HHS Counseling website to view additional FAQs:

[www.fortbendisd.com/Page/14543](http://www.fortbendisd.com/Page/14543)

**\*\*\*Review of Requirements for Graduation\*\*\***

**English: 4 Credits**  
**Math: 4 Credits**  
**Science: 4 Credits**  
**Social Studies: 3 Credits**  
**World Language: 2 Credits**

**Health: ½ Credit**  
**Speech: ½ Credit**  
**PE: 1 Credit**  
**Fine Arts: 1 Credit**  
**Electives: 6 Credits**

**\*\*\*TOTAL: 26\*\*\***

# **Fort Bend ISD Medical Science Academy Commitment Form**

Students enrolled in academies are held to higher standards and therefore must complete all graduation requirements and specific academic courses, enrichment activities, community service and performance measurements as outlined below.

## **Academy Expectations:**

1. Academy students must be enrolled in the appropriate sequence of academy and academic courses at all times.
2. Academy students must maintain a grade of 75 or higher in all academy specific courses.
3. Academy students must maintain a grade of 70 or higher in all other courses.
4. Academy students must complete 100 hours of community service. Students must complete a minimum of 25 hours per school year as approved by the Academy Coordinator until a total of 100 hours is reached.
5. Academy students must participate in four enrichment activities per academic year as outlined by the Academy Coordinator.

Probation in the Academy is defined as notification and required interventions as outlined by the district administration. All probationary requirements will be implemented to improve student success in needed areas.

Dismissal is defined as removal from the academy program and return to the zoned campus. All dismissals will be reviewed by the Academy Review Committee.

## **Grades:**

Academy coordinators will monitor student grades at each progress report. If a student's grades fall below the expectation at a progress report, the student will be required to attend tutorials as outlined by the Academy Coordinator and appropriate classroom teacher. In the event that a student fails to meet expectations at the end of a semester, he/she will be placed on probation for one semester.

Two consecutive semesters below the standard will result in dismissal from the Academy and return to the zoned campus at the end of the semester in which the second violation occurs.

Failure to pass any course at the end of the academic year will result in a review by the Academy Review Committee to determine probation or dismissal.

## **Conduct:**

Discipline referrals resulting in In School Suspension (ISS) will be handled in the following manner:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense = warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense = probation to remain in place for one academic year. Parent/Guardian and student will be required to sign an acknowledgment of consequences for further ISS referrals.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense = discretionary removal from the academy at the end of the semester during which the dismissal is made. Decision will be made by the Academy Dismissal Committee.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense = mandatory removal from the academy at the end of the current semester.

Discipline referrals resulting in Out of School Suspension (OSS) will be handled in the following manner:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense = probation to remain in place for one academic year. Parent/Guardian and student will be required to sign an acknowledgement of consequences for further OSS referrals.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense = discretionary removal from the academy at the end of the semester as determined by a review committee.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense = mandatory removal from the academy at the end of the current semester.

Discipline referrals resulting in ISS and/or OSS will be considered collectively. Three or more total offenses will result in discretionary removal. Four or more total offenses will result in mandatory removal.

Referrals resulting in placement in the District Alternative Education Program (DAEP) will result in immediate removal from the academy and return to the zoned campus upon completion of the DAEP assignment.

### **Community Service:**

Academy students must complete a minimum of 25 hours of community service each academic year until a total of 100 hours is logged. Community service must be preapproved by the Academy Coordinator and meet all guidelines as outlined by the Coordinator.

The Academy Coordinator will monitor community service progress on a semester basis. In the event that a student fails to meet expectation at the end of a semester (minimum of 12.5 hours each semester until a total of 100 hours is logged), the student will be placed on probation for one semester.

Two consecutive semesters below the standard will result in dismissal from the Academy and return to the zoned campus at the end of the semester in which the second violation occurs.

### **Enrichment Activities:**

Participation in enrichment activities are designed to increase student success through application of information learned in academic settings. Academy students must complete four enrichment activities each academic year (minimum of two each semester until a total of four is earned).

The Academy Coordinator will monitor student participation in enrichment activities each semester. In the event a student fails to meet expectation at the end of the semester, the student will be placed on probation for one semester.

Two consecutive semesters below the standard will result in dismissal from the Academy and return to the zoned campus at the end of the semester in which the second violation occurs.

### **Medical Science Academy:**

1. Complete five Medical Science credits in a coherent sequence inclusive of Medical Terminology and Anatomy and Physiology as identified by the Medical Sciences Academy pathways on the campus.
2. Must be enrolled in PreAP, AP, Honors or Dual Credit science all four years inclusive of Biology, Chemistry and Physics on the campus.
3. Take and pass all appropriate course certifications.
4. Participate in 4 pre-approved Medical Science Academy activities annually, 1 per nine weeks.
5. Complete 1 graduation project from the approved list.
6. Complete 100 hours of community service while enrolled in the Academy, 12.5 hours each semester.

Our signatures acknowledge our understanding of the Academy specific requirements with regards to academic courses, grades, conduct, community service and enrichment activities and the consequences of non-compliance with these requirements.

---

Student's Printed Name

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ID#

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Student's Signature

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Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

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Parent/Guardian's Signature

A copy of this commitment form will remain on file with the Academy student's records for the duration of their enrollment in the Academy.



**Y.E.S.**  
**(Youth Expanding Service)**  
**Community Service Program and Contract**



One of the distinctive characteristics of the United States is our conviction that each individual can make a difference through volunteer service. This is reflected in the recent trend of colleges asking for community service involvement as one of their criteria for acceptance. The Y.E.S. program provides our students with the opportunity to get involved through voluntary service at the local level and to make a difference in their own neighborhoods and communities.

**Please review the Y.E.S. Guidelines for all rules concerning what is and is not acceptable prior to submitting hours for consideration**

**Students will need to perform 100 hours of service prior to March 31st of their senior year in order to receive a Y.E.S. medal at graduation. No more than 6 hours per day may be documented and no more than 25 total summer hours can be credited to your required 100 hours.**

Participation is voluntary and students may join anytime during their high school career. They cannot be paid for any service they perform. The required hours must be fulfilled with a **NON-Profit (501c3)** organization or agency. All necessary forms and information can be accessed on the counselors' page of Hightower High School's webpage and in the guidance counselor's office. Students will have the ability to check their total hours on the website.

**The Y.E.S. Program is YOUR responsibility**

Self-motivation and self-reliance are two important parts of the Y.E.S program. It is up to you to find volunteer opportunities that meet the program criteria and to make your own arrangements to work for the organization. We do not schedule you, nor communicate with the agency on your behalf. It is up to you to turn in the forms, make copies, and keep track of your hours.

**You MUST have a signed contract turned in** to the counselors' office. The Y.E.S. Service Form must be signed by you and your parent/guardian and a representative from the agency you volunteered for (not a student). If the service is on a weekly basis, a sign-in sheet/log from the agency must be attached to the form. If you are receiving credit from another club or organization, you cannot claim Y.E.S. hours too. After making a copy of the form, the original should be turned in to the guidance counselor's office. Completed forms must be turned in **within 6 months of volunteering. If at any time during this process, a student has falsified documentation his or her name will automatically be removed from the program.**

We are very excited about the Y.E.S. program and hope that you will choose to be a part of it. If you have any questions please visit with your counselor.

**I understand that to earn Y.E.S recognition, I must complete the required hours and have all documentation submitted prior to March 31st of my senior year. (You should also verify your total submitted hours by this date.) All hours are subject to random verification as well as the Y.E.S. school sponsor's approval. Falsification of any service hours will result in permanent dismissal from the Y.E.S. program.**

Complete and return to the guidance counselor's office.

(PRINT legibly)

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT ID# \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_ GRADUATING YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and agree to adhere to the Hightower High School Y.E.S. Program Guidelines.**

STUDENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS**



# General Information

## District Guidelines for Award of Grade Points

1. Grade points are awarded for any high school course successfully completed. Grade points are determined by the level at which the course is taken.
2. All high school credit courses taken in Fort Bend ISD Summer School or Evening School receive regular/on-level points on the GPA scale with the exception of identified Pre-AP/AP courses that may be offered.
3. All high school credit courses taken in summer school programs outside of Fort Bend ISD receive regular/on-level points on the GPA scale unless otherwise designated by the sending program.
4. Online learning course credit, credit by exam, and night school course credit receive regular/on-level points on the GPA scale unless otherwise designated.
5. High school courses taken through credit by exam with no prior instruction are awarded credit and grade points. A student must earn a grade of 80 percent or more on each exam in a subject area to be awarded a .5 unit of credit and grade points.
6. Off Campus Physical Education receives regular/on-level points on the GPA scale.

## The 100 Point GPA Scale

The GPA system utilized in Fort Bend ISD is referred to as a 100 Point Scale. With this system, the 100 Point Scale is calculated by adding all of the semester averages earned by a student and dividing by semesters attempted. The 100 Point Scale can be converted to the Four Point Scale which is the most common scale for college admissions, National Athletic Collegiate Association (NCAA) and scholarship applications. Courses in Fort Bend ISD are weighted differently in the GPA calculation used for class rank. See chart below:

Advanced Placement (AP)/ Beyond AP Courses	Pre-AP, Honors Courses, Dual Credit Courses	On Level Courses
Receives 10 point weight	Receive 5 point weight	Non-weighted

### Example of a high school student's grades:

Physics (on level)	86 = 86 points
AP English III	94 = 104 points
US History Dual Credit	84 = 89 points
Athletics	100 = 100 points
Choir	100 = 100 points
Pre-AP Pre-Calculus	86 = 91 points
Journalism	94 = 94 points

Total points = 664 points, divided by 7 = 94.8571429

## Senior Class Rank

All courses recorded on the Academic Achievement Record (high school transcript) shall count toward Grade Point Average (GPA) and Rank in Class (RIC), using the grades received.

1. RIC is determined by the grade point average (GPA) of all high school credit courses taken through the end of the eighth semester. Rank for honor graduation status is determined by the GPA through the end of the third 9 weeks of the senior year.
2. Grade points for other courses taken for high school credit outside of the regular school day or earned through Advanced Placement exams will be determined according to District guidelines.
3. To be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, students must be enrolled for their sixth and seventh semesters in a District high school, and graduate in no fewer than eight regular semesters.
4. To be eligible for graduation with honors, a student shall:
  - a. complete the designated program for their cohort;
  - b. present grades for all required courses prior to the established date for calculating rank-in-class (RIC); and
  - c. be enrolled for their last two semesters in a District high school.

## GPA-Exempt Courses

Fort Bend ISD encourages all students to pursue their areas of special skills and interests in order to enrich their academic achievement and to foster continued student participation in four-year, co-curricular programs. FBISD allows juniors and seniors to participate in the third and fourth years of the following courses on a GPA-exempt basis:

- Advanced Journalism/Individual Study in Journalism (newspaper and yearbook)
- Athletics (not PE)
- Band
- Cheerleading
- Choir
- Color Guard
- Debate/Oral Interpretation
- Dance Team
- JROTC
- Orchestra
- Theatre (technical theatre, theatre arts, theatre production)
- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (specific junior- and senior-level courses as approved by CTE District administration for FFA members)

An application is required. See counselor for more information.



# General Information

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## GPA-Exempt Courses Q&A

### Who is eligible to take a course on a GPA-Exempt basis?

This option is available to juniors and seniors who wish to take courses from the approved list that are beyond the requirements for graduation. To qualify for the GPA exemption for the third or fourth year course, students must have an overall B average in the prerequisite courses for the third- or fourth-year course for which he/she is seeking a waiver. He/she must also have already taken the first two years of this particular course (exception: cheerleading and dance team) at the high school campus. All students must meet the prerequisites of each course and have parent, teacher, and counselor approval.

- Full-year courses must be exempt in full (not on a semester-by-semester basis).
- Junior students may receive a GPA exemption for only one course during the junior year. If the course is worth two credits, no other exemptions may be taken.
- Senior students who have not used any of the GPA exemptions during their junior year would qualify for two exemptions (two credits) during their senior year as long as prerequisites are met.
- The option of securing exemptions for two classes (two credits) in the same year is only available to seniors for whom no GPA exemptions have been used prior to the senior year.

NOTE: Students may take only two (2) full-year courses or four (4) half-year courses for a maximum of 2 credits, on a GPA-Exempt basis.

### How are grades handled in a GPA-Exempt course?

Students who are eligible and choose to take one of these courses for a GPA-Exempt grade:

- Will receive a numeric grade all year on the report card.
- Will receive the actual numeric grade with a comment or label indicating "GPA-Exempt" on the Academic Achievement Record (transcript).
- Will have these courses excluded from the computation of GPA and class rank.

### What are the performance standards for these courses?

- Students must complete all of the assigned work. The numeric grade earned will be reported on the report card.
- Students must take tests and final exams for the course unless exempt from finals.
- Students must maintain a passing semester grade average in order to remain eligible for the GPA exemption.

### How will grades in a GPA-exempt course affect eligibility for extra-curricular activities?

The numeric grades earned in a GPA-exempt course will be used to determine eligibility for participation in all extra-curricular activities. Furthermore, numeric grades will also be used in determining: academic excellence; qualifying criteria used in the selection of students for various positions such as dance team officers, class officers, exam exemptions, etc.; and eligibility for academic awards, including admission to organizations such as the National Honor Society, etc.

### How do students enroll in a GPA-exempt course?

Students interested in taking one of the GPA-exempt courses must discuss this option with the counselor promptly at the beginning of the course. If the student meets all of the criteria, he/she must:

1. Complete the appropriate form.
2. Have the form signed by the parent and teacher.

3. Return the form to the counselor no later than the end of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) week of each semester. At this time, if all criteria are met, it will be approved and a course change will be made to reflect enrollment in a GPA-Exempt course.
4. Once a student signs up to take a course as GPA-exempt, the decision cannot be changed.
5. Students enrolled in full-year courses do not need to reapply during the second semester.
6. Students, including transfer students, who miss the deadline for application for the first semester, may apply for exemption for the second semester if they meet the criteria.

AN APPLICATION HAS TO BE FILLED OUT AND SIGNED BY THE STUDENT, THE PARENT AND THE TEACHER.

### Can a student exempt Cheerleading as a junior or senior?

Yes. If the student was a cheerleader as a sophomore, he/she can exempt the junior year. If the student becomes a cheerleader as a junior, he/she can exempt the senior year as a cheerleader.

### What are the requirements for the Dance Team waiver?

If the student was a dance team member as a sophomore, he/she can exempt the junior year. If the student becomes a dance team member as a junior, he/she can exempt the senior year of the course.

### If a student exempts a course during the junior year, but does not enroll in the same course during the senior year, does he/she lose the exempt status for the junior year?

No. Each year will stand alone.

### What if a student drops the exempt course?

Students are expected to complete a full-year course for which a GPA exemption has been approved. In extenuating circumstances where a student is approved to drop a GPA-exempt course after the first semester is completed, the student receives the first-semester credit as GPA-exempt. However, the remaining .5 GPA exemption cannot be applied to another course during the second semester or the following year. The requested 1-point GPA exemption is considered to be fully

expended. If a student drops a full-year course for which a GPA exemption has been approved during the first semester, per established guidelines, the student enters a new course with no GPA exemption. In this case, the GPA exemption is available for use the following semester/year, if requested and approved according to established guidelines.

### If a one-season athlete does not have an athletic program to enter in the spring semester of their senior year, may they exempt only one semester of the course?

Yes, in some cases the courses eligible for exemption are semester courses.

### When do exemption requests have to be turned into the counselor?

Exemption requests, with all signatures affixed, have to be turned into the counselor by the end of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) week of each semester.

### Can a student take Art or Dance courses as GPA-exempt courses?

No. Art or Dance courses (other than dance team) are not offered as GPA-exempt courses for juniors and seniors. A freshman or junior varsity dance team course can be used as a prerequisite for the dance team exemption in the junior and/or senior year.

# Assessment Programs

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Students in FBISD participate in a variety of assessment programs. These include national, state, and locally-developed tests used to assess student achievement. At the state level, the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) program includes students in grades 3–8 and five high school courses.

## High School STAAR End of Course Requirements

- Applies to students who first entered grade 9 beginning in the fall of 2011 or later
- Students are required to take STAAR End of Course (EOC) tests in each of the following subjects and meet the satisfactory achievement standards.

<b>April</b>	English I and English II
<b>May</b>	Algebra I, Biology, US History
<b>June</b>	Retest, all subjects
<b>December</b>	Retest, all subjects
- EOC's are offered in May, December, and June.
- Students served by special education and who meet specific participation requirements may be given STAAR-Alternate 2. The ARD committee determines which test is appropriate for the student.

## Credit by Exam With No Prior Instruction

At the high school level, Credit by Exam (CBE) with no prior instruction allows the student to obtain credit for core academic courses. (This option is available only one time for each course.) Award of credit for courses is given if student scores 80 or above on the exam (if administered by semester, average of two exams to meet or exceed 80). Students may use credit by examination to fulfill their course requirements and the score on the CBE will be entered on the transcript. Exams for all academic courses are coordinated through the Testing Department. Credit by Exam for World Languages will be offered for only Levels 1, 2, and 3 as tests are available for the following languages: ASL, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, Korean, Vietnamese, and Spanish. All test administration information will be available on the Testing page of the district website. Letters describing the CBE process, the difference between With Prior Instruction and No Prior Instruction, study guides, and applications will be available on the District website. Course credit earned through credit by exam will not be recognized by NCAA. Students will be awarded regular grade points for credit received through Credit by Exam. However, only passing grades (80 or above) are recorded. Students who are interested in earning credit by examination should see their counselor for approval, or call the Accountability and Assessment Department at (281) 634-1404.

## Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS)

Based on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) mandates, the TELPAS requires teachers of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students to rate these students according to indicators set by the state in the following domains of English language in Grades K–12: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Based on state law and State Board of Education rules, all students in grades 2–12 who are identified as LEP will take the TELPAS reading test. This includes LEP students whose parents have denied the program. LEP students served through special education will also participate unless their admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee exempts them on the basis that their disability prevents appropriate measurement in one or more domains. LEP students will participate until they meet the English Proficiency exit criteria.

## Validation Testing (Credit By Exam With Prior Instruction)

Students who have previous formal instruction and do not have credit in a course may earn credit by taking an approved examination. Students must have made at least a 60 in the course to take a CBE. This option is available only one time for each course. Only two credits may be earned toward graduation through this method, with the exception of World Language courses. Students must score a 70 or above to receive credit, but it may not be used to gain UIL eligibility. There is a fee for these examinations. Students from non-accredited high schools and home schooling environments will be administered validation tests for the award of credit. These students may exceed the two unit limit. The grade on the validation test will be recorded on the transcript. Grade points will be awarded as determined by District guidelines. Students who are interested in earning credit by examination should see their counselor for approval and confirmation.



Hightower High School Academies Booster Club  
2019-2020 Membership Registration  
(One registration form per household)

Digital Media \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Science \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Information**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact Number: Circle One Home or Cellular

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Information**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card or \_\_\_\_\_ Cash

*If paying via Credit Card, processing fees will be added to the total.*

**Membership level details are on the back of this form**

This form and membership registration fee (check only) may be mailed to the following address:

HHS Academies Booster Club P.O. Box 1488 Fresno, TX 77545

Make checks payable to "HHS Academies Booster Club"

Booster Club email: hightowerabc@gmail.com

# Hightower High School Academies Booster Club

## 2019-2020 Membership Levels

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### Black Level Membership

\$75/year

Includes: Booster Club Parent T-shirt (Size \_\_\_\_\_)

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### Silver Level Membership Fee

\$50/year

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### Green Level Membership Fee

\$35/year

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Projects we plan to help fund with membership dues and other fundraising activities include:

- Academy field trips / transportation
- Enrichment speakers
- Banquets
- Academy teacher appreciation
- Academy teacher grant program where funds can be requested for items/programs specific to the HHS Academies that fall outside normal FBISD budgeting parameters.

The HHS Academies Booster Club needs your support. Join today and show your commitment to students' academic endeavors.