

## Course Selection Night 2026 Parent Questions & Answers

### 1. Is Spanish offered as an elective and when?

Students are able to take Spanish I or Spanish for Spanish Speakers in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Spanish is a High School credit course and will count towards your child's GPA.

### 2. Any High School class credits you recommend completing in Middle School?

Students have the opportunity to take High School credit courses while in middle school. Students should take the courses they feel most confident in and can be successful. We offer many high school credit courses for students to choose from.

### 3. For courses with an application requirement, where is that information located regarding deadlines and application requirements? What is the application criteria?

We have courses that require an application prior to placement. Each teacher has their own system for the application process, which is explained during the application window. For upper-level Fine Arts and Athletics/Kickstart students must try out to be placed in the course. Students will need to contact the subject teacher for the placement criteria. Make sure to listen to morning and lunch announcements for information regarding application windows. There will also be signage posted around the school regarding the application process.

### 4. How can my child apply and be accepted for Technovation II?

For the 2026-2027 school year, there is not an application process or prerequisite course for Technovation II. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are able to select Technovation II when completing their course selection worksheet.

### 5. Can a student take Math or Science AAC in Grade 7 even if he didn't in Grade 6?

Students are able to take Math 7 AAC and Science 7 AAC without taking either in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. Regarding Math, if a student took Math 6 On-Level and wants to take Math 7 AAC, we assign modules in the summer for students to complete that prepare them for Math 7 AAC. Students will have missed approximately 50% of the content covered in Math 7 if they did not take Math 6 AAC. The TEK breakdown is included.

Course	Percent of Grade 6 TEKS	Percent of Grade 7 TEKS	Percent of Grade 8 TEKS	Algebra 1 TEKS
Grade 6 Math AAC	100%	49%		
Grade 7 Math AAC		51%	100%	
Algebra 1 AAC				100%

**6. Is it possible to change Course selection in August or September of the next academic year?**

No, students are unable to change their course selection after the course verification window. The course verification window is March 9 – March 13. Students should change/update their selection during this window.

**7. Can students only get into the Technovation course by taking Technovation I in 6th grade or can they enroll in Technovation II without taking Technovation I?**

For the 2026-2027 school year, 6<sup>th</sup> graders who select Technovation will be placed in Technovation I and all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who select Technovation will be placed in Technovation II. There is not a prerequisite for Technovation II as a 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grader.

**8. Is Fundamentals of Computer Science a high school elective and do students receive high school credit?**

Fundamentals of Computer Science is a High School credit course, and students will receive High School credit. This course counts towards a student's high school GPA.

**9. How does 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent University differ from Course Selection Night?**

On January 21, we have invited our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents to Parent University to take a deeper dive into the course selection process. We will discuss 6<sup>th</sup> grade specific courses and answer 6<sup>th</sup> grade specific questions. The counselors will have a short presentation and address commonly asked questions.

**10. How do the course selection deadlines work if we are also considering the Quail Valley - GT academy?**

If your child is considering the GT Academy at Quail Valley, they will still complete the course selection process as a Sartartia student. The GT Academy application window is February 1 – February 28.

**11. Where can I find the presentation from Course Selection Night?**

The presentation is on the Sartartia Middle School counseling website. On the SMS website, go to Students & Parents > Counseling > 2026 Course Selection > Course Selection Night Information.

**12. Is selecting one Fine Arts course mandatory?**

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, every student is required to take a Fine Arts course. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may continue to select to take Fine Arts courses, but it is not a requirement.

**13. If my child is a GT identified student, are they required to take AAC courses?**

Students are required to take AAC courses in the area they are GT identified in. For example, if you are GT identified in Math/Science, you are required to take Math and Science at the AAC level.

**14. What is Kickstart? And how is it different from PE or Pre-Athletics for rising 6th grade. What sports are covered in pre-athletics?**

The purpose of Kickstart is to teach students the tools and support necessary to resolve conflicts, avoid participation in gangs, choose a drug-free lifestyle, resist negative peer pressure, and remain in school using karate. This safe and structured program focuses on the discipline and philosophies of the martial arts while engaging the students in fitness and educating them about self-defense.

The middle school Physical Education program offers a variety of activities to enhance the physical and social development of each student. The activities include physical fitness, team sports, individual sports, and lifetime activities.

Pre-Athletics prepares students for successful participation in the middle school athletic program. The focus of the program would be to provide students with a preview of upcoming UIL sports in which they will be eligible to participate as 7th graders and to prepare them for the behavioral and academic expectations associated with being a participating member of the FBISD athletics program. FBISD Pre-Athletic curriculum will also include health standards and character education program. Each week students will have an opportunity to work through and improve themselves through interaction with the character education curriculum and learning about healthy habits.

**15. How do we rank electives?**

You are able to rank your top two electives in order, placing your top priority elective as number 1. You will then rank your 3 alternate electives in order from 1 – 3 (1 being the course you are most interested in taking).

**16. Since Touch Systems Data Entry and Dollars and Sense are tied together, would both need to be added as alternates OR would you automatically get both if 1 is listed?**

You will automatically be scheduled into both courses. You only need to place one of the courses on the Course Selection Worksheet.

**17. My child is a rising 8th grader and would like to take the Credit By Exam (CBE) in order to take Biology in 8th grade. How does he apply for it and when is it administered?**

The [Fort Bend ISD Credit By Exam](#) website lists the registration windows and testing dates. If your child is interested in taking a CBE exam, please reach out to your child's counselor for more information.

**18. If a student is in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra and wants to take Orchestra in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, is there a chance they will not get the course as one of the top electives?**

Orchestra placement is determined by the Orchestra Director. If a student selects Orchestra on their course selection sheet, their name will be sent to the Orchestra Director for appropriate placement. If Orchestra does not fit in your child's schedule, the counselor will contact the student/parent to discuss options.

**19. My child is interested in playing a sport in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. What should they put on their course selection worksheet?**

Current SMS students who are interested in Athletics will need to speak with the coaches to express their interest in Athletics. This can be done during their current Physical Education or Health class. Typically, the coaches request this information from all students towards the end of the school year to gather names and interest level. The counselors are given a list from the coaches of who to place in the Athletics period.

**20. If my child is successful on the Credit by Exam (CBE), will they automatically be placed in the subsequent AAC course or do they have the option to take On-Level?**

Fort Bend ISD has an open enrollment policy. Depending on what is offered, every student has the option to take either On-Level or AAC courses.

**21. If a 6th Grade student did not enroll in any AAC core classes, would it be challenging for them to take AAC as a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade student?**

AAC is fast-paced and requires more independent work outside of school. The course work load would be challenging for any student. If a child is not enrolled in AAC math, they would miss content covered the previous year and need to complete modules in the summer that prepare them for Math 7 AAC (Refer to question #5). If a student does not take Math 7 AAC, they are unable to take Algebra 1 AAC or On Level. Students will be placed in Math 8.

**22. How do coaches decide which students will be selected into the Pre-Athletics course in 6th grade?**

Our coaches meet with the elementary school coaches to determine placement. Students are also required to have a physical exam on file. If a student does not have a physical, they are unable to be placed in the course.

**23. What is the selection criteria for Band or Orchestra?**

Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will audition for Band/Orchestra and be placed on an instrument by the Band Director. When students select Band or Orchestra on their course selection sheet, their name is sent to the directors to schedule an audition time.

**24. Do we have to choose 2 top electives and 3 alternate electives?**

Yes, every student is required to select two (2) top priority electives and three (3) alternate elective choices. If a student does not select 3 alternate courses, the counselor will select the courses for them based on availability.

**25. Is my child able to select Band 2 and Orchestra 1 as their top two electives?**

Yes, a student can select two fine arts courses as their top two elective choices.

**26. How many electives do 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students have?**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade students will have two electives on their schedule: 1 Academic Elective and 1 Fine Arts Elective.

**27. Can a GT identified student who is taking AAC courses also take a CBE?**

Yes, any student has the option to register for a CBE. Students who are interested in taking a CBE will contact their current counselor for the 2025-2026 school year. If you are a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student and want to take a CBE, contact your current counselor.

**28. What criteria is used for selection of students to be placed in an elective?**

The Associate Principal builds a master schedule based on student requests from the spring. Once the master schedule is created, Skyward automatically schedules students based on their requests. All students are given the same opportunity to be scheduled into a course, with the exception of courses that require teacher application, an interview, and/or teacher approval. All students are scheduled at the same time in Skyward. Skyward builds a schedule for each student that will maintain balance across courses. It is imperative your child selects 2 electives and 3 alternate courses that they are willing to take.

**29. When are students able to take the GT Innovation Lab?**

Students typically take the GT Innovation Lab as a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade student. You are only able to take this course once. If you do not take the course as a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade student, you can request to take the course as a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade student.

**30. Does Technovation II satisfy the Computer Science course requirement to graduate High School?**

There is not a Computer Science course requirement to graduate from High School. For more information on graduation requirements, visit the [FBISD High School Course Selection Guide](#). Technovation II counts as one (1) elective high school credit.

**31. Is Touch System/Dollars and Sense a graduation requirement?**

Touch Systems Data/Dollars and Sense is not a requirement to graduate from High School. For more information on graduation requirements, visit the [FBISD High School Course Selection Guide](#). TSD/DS counts as 1 elective high school credit.

**32. In the PALS program do the students get to mentor younger students either at Sartartia or other schools?**

In PALS, students learn and develop leadership skills in goal setting, communication, peer listening, group dynamics, project planning, and implementation. Students also investigate techniques and skills needed to provide programs to their peers that increase motivation, self-esteem, and student Involvement.

**33. Is AVID offered to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students?**

Students are able to request AVID as one of their five (5) elective choices. Course offerings are determined based on the number of requests received for each course.