

# Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## How Do I Select My Classes for Next Year?

Choosing courses for 9<sup>th</sup> grade is easy! If it seems like a lot, it's because you're getting information for the next 4 years. Once you learn it, you're set.

What do these papers mean?

- **Diplomas 101 (Green)**
  - A quick overview of what you must complete over 4 years to graduate. (See *SHS Student Handbook* for official details)
  - Going above: Honors & MS Scholars diplomas
    - Some students pursue Honors, some MS Scholars, and some both. It is your responsibility to be on track.
    - Pay attention to earlier courses needed for Honors!
- **Freshman Admission for University – College Prep Curriculum (Blue)**
  - Required & Recommended credits for students who want to attend 4-year universities
  - Much (*not all*) of this overlaps with what is required for SHS graduation
- **Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Core “Cheat Sheet” (Blue)**
  - A tentative guide to choosing appropriate English, Math, Science, and Social Studies courses. Score recommendations may change based on new data. ♦
- **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Selection Sheet (Green)**
  - A list of all course offerings available to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students

Where do I start?

1. Look over Diplomas 101 so you know what you need. At SHS, we want you to have a well-rounded education, so you will need to take a little of everything.
  - 1) Ask yourself: Are you interested in an Honors or MS Scholars diploma? That will decide some of your choices.
2. Look over Freshman Admission-University if you are even *considering* going to a 4-year college/university.
  - 1) SHS requirements and University requirements are similar, but not identical.
3. Look at your Cheat Sheet. Counselors will review requests based on later test scores and make necessary adjustments. **You may not have this information now, therefore: choose to the best of your knowledge.**
  - 1) English: Choose 1 English course
    - i. Ask yourself: What classes am I currently in? How am I doing in them now?
    - ii. If you are not taking an honors: choose English I Year-Long or English I.
  - 2) Math: Choose 1-2 Math courses
    - i. Ask yourself: What/how am I doing now? Most students will take Comp. Math or Algebra I Year-Long. If you are not sure, select to the best of knowledge.
    - ii. If you are in Alg. I, usual course sequence= Algebra I →Geometry →Algebra II

- 3) Choose 0-2 Science courses
  - i. Most students must wait to take Intro to Biology + Biology I until 10<sup>th</sup> grade. If you fit in this category, you may not have a selection here, unless you choose to take Earth Science as an elective.
- 4) Choose 1-2 Social Studies *credits*:
  - i. What are you taking now?
  - ii. MS Studies/Intro to W Geo → World History
  - iii. You may choose to take Advanced Placement Human Geography as an elective credit
- 5) Choose 1-2 Career & Technical Education courses:
  - i. You may take Computer Science if you are in or will take Algebra I in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Otherwise, select Intro to Engineering.
  - ii. You may choose Princ of Eng as an elective
4. Transfer your choices over onto your Course Selection Sheet.
5. Count how many *credits* you have added up.
  - 1) \*\* means 2 credits
  - 2) \* means ½ credit
  - 3) No star = 1 credit.
6. Fill in the remainder choices so that you choose **8 credits, and choose 2 additional credits** to mark as Alternate choices. SHS works to fulfil students' first choices in every case possible, but staffing/resources sometimes require flexibility.

**If you have additional questions:**

- 1) Attend Rising Freshman Open House
- 2) Attend 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Selection Night
- 3) Email [smay@starkville.k12.ms.us](mailto:smay@starkville.k12.ms.us)

*\*Parents, I am currently working with SHS seniors who will be graduating shortly. My availability will be limited as I prioritize graduating the class of 2017. I will return emails as quickly as I am able. Thank you for your understanding if I have some delays! I am excited to get to know your students.*

◆ Parent/guardians have discretion to discuss amending these recommended course pathways by coming to Open House or Course Selection Night, or by emailing me.