

# FRESHMAN COURSE SELECTION WORKSHEET

Student's First and Last Name:

Freshman must be enrolled in at least six courses, including a minimum of five core courses. Honors placement and language level placements for rising ninth graders are made by the Department Chairs after reviewing teacher recommendations, transcripts, writing samples, and placement testing, when appropriate. In addition to the two required freshman courses entered below, students should discuss math, science, and world-language possibilities with their current teachers and advisors. Finally, students have a range of semester-based courses in the fine arts, computer science, health, and engineering to choose from.

FALL TERM			SPRING TERM		
Dept.	Course Name	Code	Dept.	Course Name	Code
English	Freshman English	150	English	Freshman English	150
Math			Math		
History/ Religion	World Cultures	309	History/ Religion	World Cultures	309
Science	Biology: Reg. (410)/ Honors (422)		Science	Biology: Reg. (410)/ Honors (422)	
Language			Language		

# SPORTS / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Fall Activity and Code	Winter Activity and Code	Spring Activity and Code

I have reviewed the course selections above, paying close attention to requests for Honors and AP classes, and I understand the commitment that these courses represent.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Graduation Requirements**

#### English – 4 credits

#### Mathematics - 3 credits

Three years in the Upper School are required, including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or beyond.

### History – 3 credits

World Cultures ( $\frac{1}{2}$  credit in history and  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit in religion), World History, US history, and a government class ( $\frac{1}{2}$  credit) are required.

#### Science – 3 credits

Biology, Chemistry, and Physics are required in the Upper School.

### Classical and Modern Languages - 3 credits

Students must take at least two years of the same language in Upper School and attain at least level III in that language. One year's worth of study in Middle School can contribute to the level requirement.

### Fine Arts – 1 credit

Two semesters of fine arts are required. The two semesters may be independent of each other, and at least one semester must be performance-based.

# Religion and Ethics - 1 credit

One credit (two semesters) is required. One-half credit will be earned in the freshman World Cultures class. The other one-half credit should be taken in the junior or senior year.

# Engineering Design and Programming (Computational Thinking) – $\frac{1}{2}$ credit

One semester of a course that involves computational and algorithmic thinking is required for graduation. Students begin with either Principles of Engineering with Programming, which can be taken for honors credit, or AP Computer Science Principles if they meet the enrollment criteria. Advanced Engineering and computer science courses are available each year. Students who remain committed to the program for all four years may be eligible to waive <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> credit of fine arts. These waivers are intended to help students fulfill their requirements without interrupting these four-year commitments. Availability in a student's schedule or an attempt to take two study halls in a semester nullifies the waiver.

#### Health Science – <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> credit

One semester of a science-based health course is required for graduation. Health & Wellness is open to all students, preferably during 9th and 10th grades. Health & Wellness, will receive a one-half credit recorded on the transcript and a semester letter grade, which is included in the student's cumulative grade point average.

## Scheduling Notes

All juniors and seniors should consult college and university admission websites or their ESD college counselors before deciding to drop core classes after meeting ESD graduation requirements. Many colleges and universities require or highly recommend additional credits for these types of classes. Students should also consider their own expectations for majors. The successful completion of more advanced coursework can often benefit a student when applying to specific majors or departments. Students who are interested in attending a state university in Texas should seriously consider enrolling in an economics course and will need four science credits.

### Commitment Waivers for Journalism and Fine Art

Yearbook and Journalism do not *count* as computer or fine art credit, but a student who remains committed through senior year may be eligible to waive  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit of fine art and  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit of computational thinking.

Similarly, students who remain committed to a fine arts strand for four years may also be eligible to waive the  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit of computational thinking requirement if they took an additional introductory fine art class. These waivers are intended to help students fulfill their requirements without interrupting these four-year commitments. Availability in a student's schedule or an attempt to take two study halls in a semester nullifies the waiver.

**Physical Education** – Physical Education and Athletics are given credit as Pass (P) / Fail (F). Students joining or leaving any physical education class, athletic team, or outdoor education class are to adhere to the same drop/add policy as in all other courses. A student withdrawing from a physical education class, athletic team, or outdoor education class will receive a WP or WF notation on the transcript. Freshmen and sophomores have two PE/Sport curricular requirements each year, which may include playing sports they select or Upper School PE classes. Juniors and seniors have one PE/Sport curricular requirement each year, which may include playing a sport they select or Upper School PE classes. Students should reach a minimum of six PE/Sport credits over their 4 years in Upper School, so credits missed in earlier years will need to be made up. Upper School PE Classes are offered by trimester, aligning with the three sport seasons

# **Community Service**

Students must achieve a minimum of 50 hours of community service prior to graduation: 25 during the freshman and sophomore years and 25 additional hours during the junior and senior years. Students may begin accumulating hours during the summer before their freshman year.

