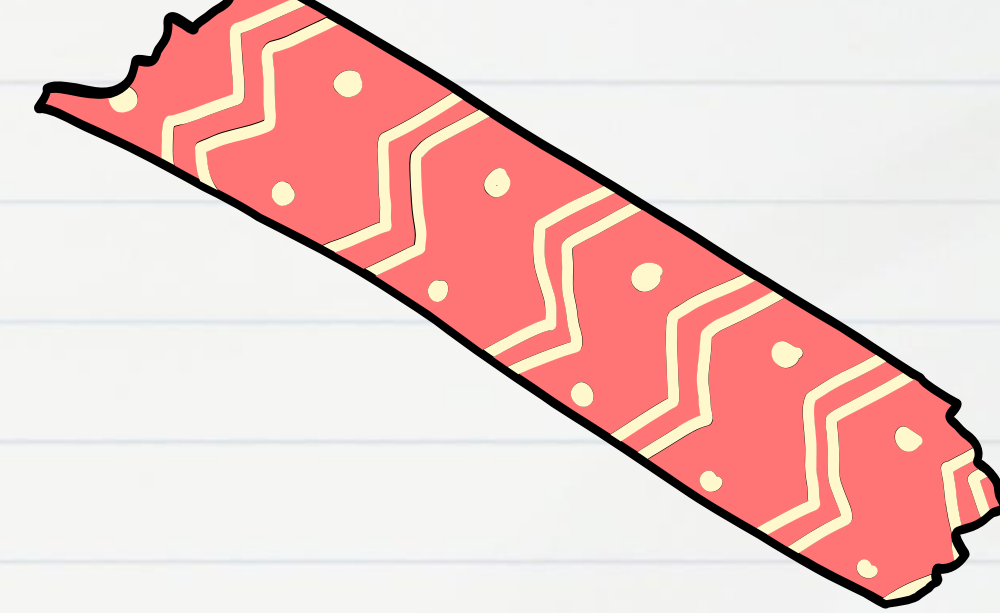




RISING 9TH GRADE PARENT NIGHT

Hightower Trail Middle School



AGENDA

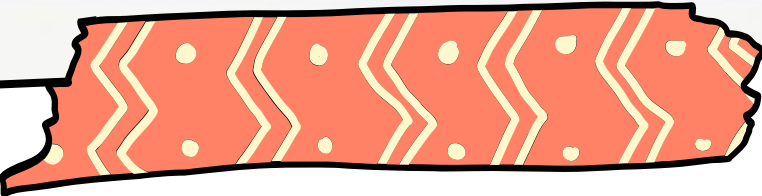
- Important Dates
- PSAT
- Registration
- Graduation Requirements
- Schedules
- Pope Academies
- Magnet Schools
- Course Levels (Honors/AP)
- Rigor/GPA/Miscellaneous
- Q&A



IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW

- **10/7** – Pope Academy Interest Meeting (parents & students) @ Pope (6:00 PM)
- **10/14** – Parent Prep Virtual Event @ 7:00 PM (registration required)
- **11/20** – Pope Academy Applications Due
- **12/1** – Magnet Applications Due
- **12/9** – Pope Academy In-Person Interviews @ HTMS (4:30 PM)
- **January (Date TBD)** – Rising 9th Grade Registration Presentation (students only – during school)
- **2/1 - 2/4** – Course Recommendation Process (comes from teachers)
- **February (TBD)** – Rising 9th Grade Academic Night (parents & students) @ Pope (6:30 PM)
- **2/22 - 2/24** – Online Elective Registration (during school with counselors)
- **End of March** – Course Preview (students & parents)





PSAT 8/9

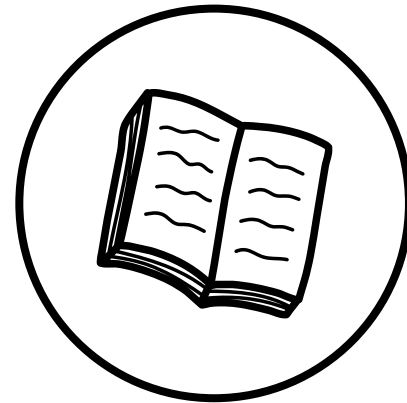
What is the PSAT?

- The PSAT is the Preliminary SAT exam, which is a practice version of the SAT. It is designed to prepare students for the SAT and gauge college readiness. 8th graders will take the PSAT at Hightower on **Thursday, October 15th**. Students do not need to register or do anything ahead of time!

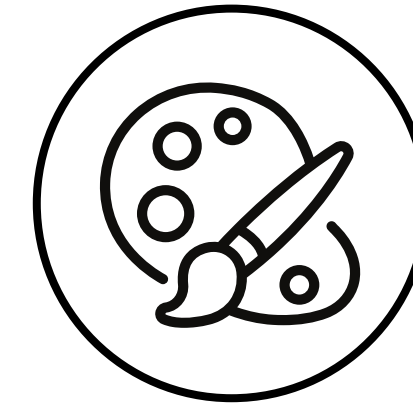
Resources

- Resources for PSAT prep can be found on the 8th Grade Counseling CTLS page and on the HTMS Counseling Website.

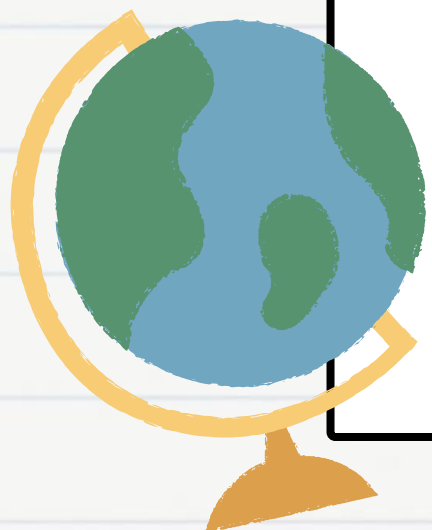
HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION



Teachers will begin making their core class recommendations in February. Based on student's work ethic, grades, and test scores, teachers will recommend students for classes for 9th grade. These may be on-level, honors, or AP.



Elective Registration will be completed in the Spring semester with the 8th grade counselor. Students will be given a list of elective choices to review at home with their families. They will submit their top 5 choices to Pope through an online form. A list of 9th grade electives will also be available on the Pope Website.



LEVEL OF COURSES OFFERED IN 9TH GRADE

MATH

Algebra
H. Algebra
Geometry
H. Geometry

SCIENCE

Env. Science
Biology
H. Biology

ELA

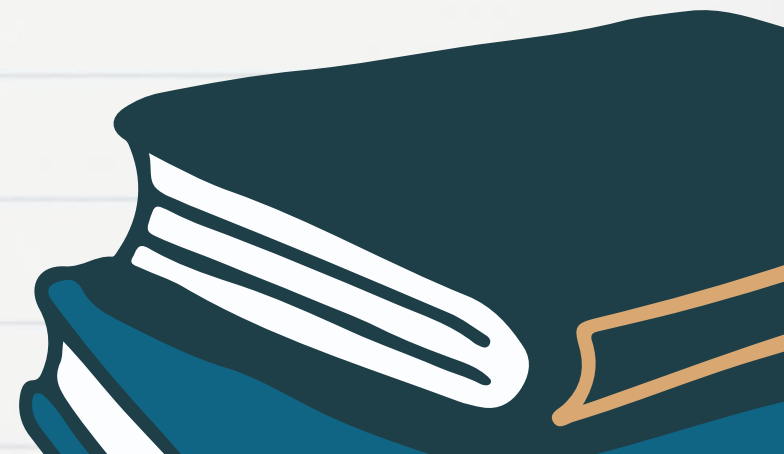
9th Lit.
H. 9th Lit.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Humanities
H. Humanities
AP Human Geo.

9th grade course placement is based on:

- **8th grade course placement**
- **Grades/test scores in 8th grade**
- **Teacher recommendation**
- **Motivation/work ethic**



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English

4 units including:

- 9th Grade Literature
- American Literature
- 2 additional units of Literature/English



Math

4 units required:

- 1 unit of Algebra
- 1 unit of Geometry
- 1 unit of Advanced Algebra
- 1 unit of additional math

Science

4 units required, including:

- 1 unit of Biology
- 1 unit of Physical Science OR Physics
- 1 unit of Chemistry, Earth Systems, or Environmental Science
- 1 unit of additional science

Social Studies

3 units required, including:

- 1 unit of World History
- 1 unit of US History
- 1/2 unit of American Government
- 1/2 unit of Economics

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - ELECTIVES



CTAE

- Software Technology
- Business & Technology
- Audio/Video Tech.
- Culinary Arts
- Graphic Design
- PLTW Engineering
- JROTC
- Computer Science
- Cybersecurity
- Financial Literacy



Foreign Language

- Spanish
- German

*Most 2- and 4-year colleges require **a minimum** of 2 years of the same world language (or more) for admission



Fine Arts

- VA Comp.
- Drawing 1
- Chorus
- Band
- Orchestra
- Theatre Arts
- Technical Theater
- Music Appreciation
- Art History

***7 total electives are required; at least 3 must be from CTAE, Foreign Language OR Fine Arts including a Health & Personal Fitness credit**

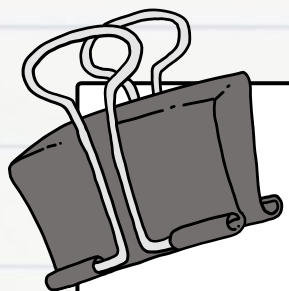


HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- Traditional, 7 period schedule
 - 4 core academic classes
 - 2 electives
 - Lunch (3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th period)
- Academic Opportunity
 - 2x/week in the morning
- Advisement
 - As needed

*This is for a school on a traditional schedule (schools on a block schedule will look different).





POPE HIGH SCHOOL

Bell Schedule



PERIOD	MON/FRI	TUES/THURS	WED
1	8:20-9:25	8:20-9:20	8:20-9:10
A.O.	—	9:25-10:00	—
2	9:30 - 10:25	10:05-10:55	9:15-10:00
3	10:30 - 11:25	11:00-11:50	10:05 - 10:50
4	11:30 - 12:25	11:55-12:45	10:55-11:40
5	12:30 - 1:25	12:50-1:40	11:45-12:30
6	1:30 - 2:25	1:45-2:35	12:35-1:20
7	2:30 - 3:30	2:40-3:30	1:25-2:10
X-BLOCK	—	—	S1: 2:15-2:50 S2: 2:55-3:30

Advisement will meet on an as-needed basis



POPE ACADEMIES

STEM Academy

Focus on Math and Science.

Three pathways:

- 1. Engineering**
- 2. Computer Science**
- 3. Life Science**

Plus AMS (Advanced Math & Science)



Globalization Academy

Focus on Literature, Social Studies, and World Language.

MAGNET SCHOOLS

Campbell HS International Baccalaureate Program

Cobb Innovation & Technology Academy (Osborne & Allatoona HS)

Kennesaw Mountain HS Academy of Mathematics, Science & Technology

North Cobb School for International Studies

Pebblebrook HS Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts

South Cobb HS Academy of Research & Medical Sciences

Wheeler HS Center for Advanced Studies in Science, Mathematics & Technology

The Cobb County School District recognizes that students who demonstrate exceptional potential in a specific area may benefit from a specialized program. Cobb's magnet programs allow students to pursue their interests, develop their talents, and extend their competencies beyond the usual scope of high school.

HONORS VS. AP COURSES

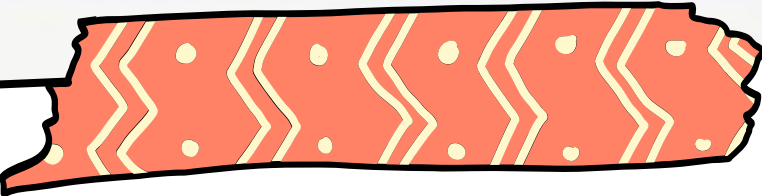
AP

- **Cover the breadth of information, skills and assignments found in corresponding college courses**
- **Provide motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to study and learn at the college level**
- **1 “point” will be added onto your GPA for taking an AP Class**
- **Earn college credit while in high school; AP courses are rigorous; success in AP classes can increase chances of admission into competitive colleges.**

HONORS

- **Often offer the same curriculum as regular classes but are tailored for high-achieving students – covering additional topics or some topics in greater depth.**
- **.5 “points” will be added onto your GPA for taking an Honors Class**





RIGOR & BALANCE

Why should my child take an Honors/AP class?

- College admissions
- Prep for SAT/ACT

How do I know if they're ready?

- Listen to your child's teacher recommendation
- Know your child's academic strengths and weaknesses
- Ask questions about work ethic, motivation, maturity, and critical thinking skills

Balance

- Consider your child's outside commitments (sports, clubs, etc.)
- Find the "sweet spot" – challenged, but not overwhelmed

9TH GRADE SCHEDULE

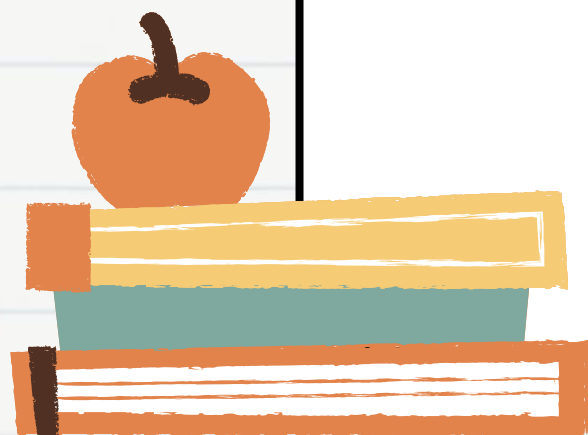
H. 9th Lit	89 (3.5) -----> 90 (4.5)
Biology	87 (3.0) -----> 90 (4.0)
Geometry	85 (3.0) -----> 85 (3.0)
AP Human Geo.	88 (4.0) -----> 90 (5.0)
Spanish II	90(4.0) -----> 90 (4.0)
Band	95 (4.0) -----> 90 (4.0)

21.5/6

24.5/6

GPA = 3.583

4.08



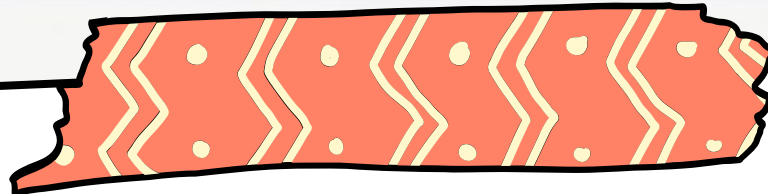


COLLEGES & GPA

- **University of Georgia**
 - 4.13 – 4.40
- **Georgia Tech**
 - 4.14 – 4.17
- **Kennesaw State University**
 - 3.0 – 3.8
- **Georgia State University**
 - 3.54 – 3.6
- **Georgia College & State University**
 - 3.50 – 3.93



*These are the average high school GPA's based on the middle 50% of students accepted.



MISCELLANEOUS

- Dual Enrollment
- Summer or online classes; Health/PE
- 504's/IEP's – do they continue in high school?
- Pope Academies vs. Magnet Schools – which is better?
- Electives and pathways
- Clubs – 68 clubs at Pope!
- Gifted/AC transferring to high school
- Meeting with your high school counselor (advisement)
- Extracurricular activities that help with college admission

QUESTIONS?

8th Grade Counselor - Sydney Brooks

Sydney.brooks@cobbk12.org

8th Grade Administrator - Dr. Angela Greenage

Angela.greenage@cobbk12.org

