

## FRESHMAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2023-2024

### **What are the required classes for 9<sup>th</sup> grade?**

9<sup>th</sup> Grade Lit/Comp, World History, Environmental Science, and Algebra I.  
**Exceptions for Math:** Students who took Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will take Geometry. Some students will start with Foundations of Algebra if they need additional math support before Alg. I.

### **What elective classes are available?**

See Course Selection Instructions for Rising Freshman 2023-2024 sheet for a complete list of introductory elective courses.

### **How many electives will my child be able to take in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade?**

Usually, two. If your child is scheduled in any of the support classes for Math, this will reduce the number of elective classes.

### **What is Math/Reading Support?**

Support placement is based on Benchmark scores, Lexile scores, teacher recommendation, etc. If a student does not meet standards or meets standards minimally on certain progress measures (i.e., standardized testing), he or she may be automatically placed in an appropriate support class.

### **What is the total number of classes my child will have in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade?**

Seven classes.

### **May I request specific teachers?**

Yes. According to Murray County Board Policy, teacher requests must be submitted by downloading a form from the Murray County Website and returning those forms by April 1. *Requests may not always be available due to seat space and/or if a teacher is not teaching the appropriate class a student needs that year.*

### **What is a unit of credit?**

A unit of credit is earned when a class is passed. Passing is 70 or above. Passing a full-year class yields 1 credit, and passing a half-year class yields a ½ credit.

### **How many units does my child need to graduate high school?**

Currently, the required number of units is 23. According to the State BOE, of those 23 units, the required academic classes must be passed as well as Health, Personal Fitness, and a certain combination of Career and/or Fine Arts electives. Keep in mind that current policies regarding graduation requirements can change and may affect your child's course of study in high school. As new policies are developed and approved, information will be provided. Please see other requirements in packet and see Student Handbook for requirements.

### **Is there a World Language requirement for all students?**

World Language classes are not a requirement for graduation in GA, but students planning to enter a University System of Georgia degree program must take two units of the same world language in high school.

### **Are there any other criteria used to determine eligibility for graduation?**

Students must complete a "Pathway" from CTAE, Fine Arts, Journalism, or Academics.

### **What is a "PATHWAY"?**

A Pathway completer will have completed a sequence of **3 specific courses** within a related field within the CTAE/Career, Fine Arts, or Journalism areas. For instance, if your son/daughter is interested in Healthcare Science

(the medical field), they would begin in *Intro to Healthcare Science* one year, then take *Essentials of Healthcare* in another year, and finish with *Patient Care Fundamentals* after that. All of the CTAE pathways consist of 3 courses. If your son/daughter chooses to be a Fine Arts Pathway completer, they can complete a pathway by taking 3 courses in Art, 3 courses in Band, 3 courses in Chorus, 3 courses in Theatre Arts, or 3 courses in Journalism. A student can choose to be an Advanced Academic Pathway Completer. To be a completer in this pathway, a student must take an AP or Dual Enrollment version of a core academic course AND complete 2 credits in the same world language. The subject the AP/DE course is in determines which subject the Advanced Academic Pathway is in (e.g., taking College Algebra in place of high school Pre-Calculus = Advanced Academic Pathway in Mathematics).

### **What is Dual Enrollment?**

Dual Enrollment is Georgia's program allowing eligible high school students to take college courses in high school for free and to earn credits at both the high school and college levels. We currently partner with Dalton State and Georgia Northwestern Technical College. These colleges offer college classes on our campus for our students who meet eligibility requirements and complete the application process. The tuition and books are free. Be sure to check with the Counseling Office at NMHS for more details.

### **How many units does my child need to pass from one grade to the next?**

9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Grade - 5 credits (3 in core classes)  
10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Grade - 11 credits (6 in core classes)  
11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade - 17 credits (10 in core classes)

### **When can my child pick up his/her schedule for the 2023-2024 school year?**

Finalized schedules will be available at Open House, which usually takes place in the week before school starts.

### **Can my child change his/her schedule?**

Student schedules are based on electives requested during class selection in December, required classes, and available space. Any opportunities to change and the procedure to request changes will be announced as schedules are refined. There is no guarantee that the change can be made. **Once school starts, additional schedule change requests will not be accepted unless there is a mistake with required classes** (e.g., duplicate core class or missing a core class).

### **What is an Honors Class?**

Honors classes are offered in the four academic areas. These classes are offered to challenge students with a more rigorous curriculum. The assignments are more intense and may require additional projects or summer assignment components. Some classes on a subject's Honors track may be an Advanced Placement (AP) class. AP is a program recognized nationwide, and certain scores on the final AP exam are commonly recognized as transfer credit to many colleges. This increased rigor of Honors/AP will help prepare your son/daughter for college.

### **How is a student enrolled in Honors?**

All students may apply for Honors courses using the Honors Request Form, and a scoring rubric has been developed to help determine placement. If students do not meet the required criteria, and you feel placement in Honors is nonetheless an appropriate challenge/priority, you may send a letter of appeal.

### **Can I change my mind now regarding Honors classes?**

Later in 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, students who requested Honors for any subject will receive a decision letter through Bagley. By the deadline given on that decision letter, students/parents have the opportunity to decline a "Yes" decision, or to appeal a "No" decision (if satisfied, no action is necessary). After the deadline given on that letter, your child will be enrolled in the approved Honors class(es) and a change cannot be made.

### **What is the grading scale?**

A – 90-100 B – 80-89 C – 75-79  
D – 70-74 F – 69 or below  
(per 22-23 handbook; subject to change)

### **When are report cards sent out?**

Progress reports are issued every 8 weeks.

### **What is Parent Portal?**

Parent Portal is a convenient school-to-home info tool that allows parents to keep track of their children's academic progress and attendance from any internet-connected computer and many mobile devices. Just contact the school for an access code and you can check progress and attendance for your children at any time. There is also a "Parent Portal FAQ" under Parent Info on the Murray County Schools Website.

### **How much homework should I expect to see?**

It is different for each academic class, but your child's teacher will distribute a syllabus on the first day of class that will explain expectations. We feel very strongly that even if a teacher does not assign a specific homework assignment for the day, the student should spend at least 30 minutes per class reviewing the current material, reviewing notes taken during the day, reading, or practicing math problems.

### **How do I make appointments with my child's teachers?**

You may contact the teachers directly by phone or through email (contact information is online). If you need assistance with the contact, you can contact your child's counselor for help.

### **How do I know who my child's school counselor is?**

NMHS has 3 counselors who have the entire student body split up as follows:  
Brandy Beal – Students with last names A-L  
Kevin Young – Students with last names M-Z  
Tammy Watkins – Dual Enrollment students  
Office Phone – 706-695-7760 and Emails:  
[brandy.beal@murray.k12.ga.us](mailto:brandy.beal@murray.k12.ga.us)  
[kevin.young@murray.k12.ga.us](mailto:kevin.young@murray.k12.ga.us)  
[tammy.watkins@murray.k12.ga.us](mailto:tammy.watkins@murray.k12.ga.us)

### **When does the school day begin and end?**

We start at 7:30 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m.

### **What is the Attendance Policy?**

Please refer to Student Handbook for specific rules, but keep in mind that attendance at high school is critical for student success. The current handbook can be found on the Parent Info button on the Murray County Schools website. The 2023-2024 edition will be posted there as we approach the new school year, and students will receive a copy on the first day of school.  
*Subject to updates for 2023-2024 school year.*

### **What is the Dress Code Policy?**

Please refer to Student Handbook (see response above).

*Any statement above regarding current school policy and graduation/promotion requirements is subject to change for the upcoming and/or future school years.*