

WATER SPRING MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCHEDULING AND REGISTRATION GUIDE



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

- School Information and Overview.....	3
- Administration Information.....	4
- Student Services Information	5
- School Calendar.....	6
- Bell Schedule	7
- Middle School Requirements and Expectations	8

COURSE SELECTION AND REGISTRATION

- Course selection forms, program applications, scheduling guidelines, state requirements.....	11
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

PROGRESSION AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

- Course Progressions.....	12
- Course Descriptions.....	14
- Advanced Course Work	16
- PreAICE Cambridge	17
- Electives	18

REMEDICATION AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Placement in Reading.....	19
- Grade Forgiveness and Remediation.....	19

HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

- Information.....	20
- Testing	21

Estimated Number of Students: 800 Students in grades 6-8

Ethnicity: 34% Hispanic, 8% Black/African American, 71% White (Hisp. and non-Hisp.)

Social Media and Website:

- FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/waterspringms/>
- X: https://twitter.com/wsms_ocps
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/waterspringms_ocps/
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHHB4DXnaAkqLvwqXj4H7GA/>

PreAICE Courses

PreAICE Global Studies/Creative Writing

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Brian Sanchez Corona
Principal

Nicole Mutters
Assistant Principal of Instruction

Arnetta Heidelberg
Assistant Principal

STUDENT SERVICES

Ms. Merlinda Bennett -Counselor Last Names A-Lem

Mrs. Camisha King Braden- Counselor Last Names Leo-Z

Mrs. Elizabeth Spangler- Staffing Specialist

Mrs. Anna Melendez- 504 Coordinator/SAFE Coordinator

Ms. Devin Callery- Social Worker

Mrs. Ximena Martin- ESOL Compliance Specialist

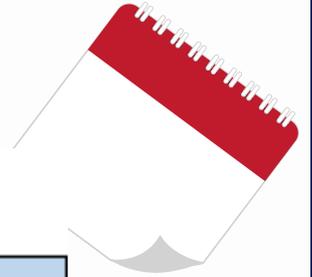
Mrs. Leisa Brown- Dean

Mr. Tony Gaetan- Dean

Mrs. Keshia Williams- Instructional Coach

Mrs. Erin Nesbitt- Testing Coordinator/Athletic Director

SCHOOL CALENDAR



Orange County Public Schools 2024-2025 School Calendar

Day(s) of Week	Date(s)	Event
Friday-Friday	August 2-9	Pre-Planning August 7-Professional Development Day
Monday	August 12	First Day of School
Monday	September 2	Labor Day Holiday
Friday	October 11	End of First Marking Period
Monday	October 14	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Tuesday	October 15	Begin Second Marking Period
Friday	October 25	Teacher Professional Day Student Holiday/Teacher Non-Workday
Monday-Friday	November 25-29	Thanksgiving Break
Friday	December 20	End of Second Marking Period
Monday-Friday Two Weeks	December 23-January 3	Winter Break
Monday	January 6	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Tuesday	January 7	Begin Third Marking Period Begin Second Semester
Monday	January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Schools and District Offices Closed
Monday	February 17	Presidents' Day/Teacher Non-Work Day Schools Closed/District Offices Open
Thursday	March 13	End of Third Marking Period
Friday	March 14	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Monday-Friday	March 17-21	Spring Break Schools Closed/District Offices Open
Monday	March 24	Begin Fourth Marking Period
Monday	May 26	Memorial Day Holiday Schools and District Offices Closed
Wednesday	May 28	End of Fourth Marking Period Last Day of School
Thursday-Friday	May 29-30	Post Planning



Bell Schedule

	MTRF 9:30-10:22	1	WED 9:30-10:12
	10:26-11:14	2	10:16-10:54
6th Grade	11:14-11:44 11:48-12:36 12:40-1:28	A Lunch 3 4	10:54-11:24 11:28-12:06 12:10-12:48
7th Grade	11:18-12:06 12:06-12:36 12:40-1:28	3 B Lunch 4	10:58-11:36 11:36-12:06 12:10-12:48
8th Grade	11:18-12:06 12:10-12:58 12:58-1:28	3 4 C Lunch	10:58-11:36 11:40-12:18 12:18-12:48
	1:32-2:20	5	12:52-1:30
	2:24-3:12	6	1:34-2:12
	3:16-4:04	7	2:16-2:54

High School Ready Students

Parents/guardians and students are to become partners with school personnel in career exploration and educational decision-making. Clear academic course expectations that emphasize rigorous and relevant coursework shall be made available to all students by allowing both student and parent/guardian choice.

Required Curriculum

Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 4 classes to be considered a full time Water Spring Middle School student. The successful completion of four core classes (math, science, social studies, and language arts) are required to promote to the next grade level. There is a contract which must be completed with a counselor to enroll the student in an alternative schedule, less than 7 periods a day. A student must meet the minimum requirements to be promoted to next grade level, and if the minimum passing score is not met, the student will need to complete summer school, or credit recovery to promote to the next level.

The student must successfully complete academic courses as follows:

- (a) English Language Arts. Three middle grades or higher courses in English Language Arts, which shall emphasize literature, composition and technical text. An intensive reading course shall be provided at each grade level for those students for whom the district deems such reading instruction appropriate.
- (b) Mathematics. Three middle grades or higher courses in mathematics. To earn high school credit for an Algebra I or Geometry course, a student must take the associated statewide EOC for 30% of the course grade.
- (c) Social Studies. Three middle grades or higher courses in social studies, one of which must include the study of state and federal government and civics education.
 - (i) Each student's performance on the statewide, standardized Civics EOC Assessment shall constitute 30% of the student's final grade.
- (d) Science. Three middle grades or higher courses in science, to include life science, earth space science, and physical science strands.

(e) Physical Education. The equivalent of one class period per day of physical education for one semester of each year is required for students enrolled in grades 6 through 8. A student may waive out of this physical education requirement if he/she meets one of the following criteria:

- (i) The student is enrolled or required to enroll in a remedial course.
- (ii) The student's parent/guardian or legal guardian indicates in writing to the school that:
 - a. The parent/guardian or legal guardian requests that the student enroll in another course from among those courses offered as options by the district; or
 - b. The student is participating in physical activities outside the school, which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement.Proper documentation must be provided each year that the student's parent/guardian is requesting to waive physical education. A new signed request form from the student's parent/guardian is required for each additional year that a student is eligible and requests to waive physical education.

[PE WAIVER English](#)

[PE WAIVER Spanish](#)

[PE WAIVER Portuguese](#)

(f) Electives. Students are provided opportunities in performing/fine arts, academic electives, and specialized programs. The students will choose from these offerings to complete a 7 course full schedule.

(g) Intensive Reading and Math Remediation Requirements

(i) For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 or Level 2 on FAST ELA, the student may be enrolled in and complete an intensive reading course the following year. Reading courses shall be designed and offered pursuant to the district comprehensive reading plan.

(ii) For each year in which a student scores at Level 1 or Level 2 on FAST Mathematics, the student must receive remediation the following year, which may be integrated into the student's required mathematics course.

Accelerated Placement

Accelerated education experiences may be provided to students within their assigned grade levels and acceleration options will be provided as advanced, high school level, or career technical certification courses.

Grading Scale

A 90-100 Outstanding Progress

B 80-89 Above Average Progress

C 70-79 Average Progress

D 60-69 Lowest Acceptable Progress

F 0-59 Failure

For secondary courses, students cannot receive less than 50% for each quarter grade, semester grade, or final grade.

Final Examination

Statewide EOC Assessments and Final Examination Grades

(i) All students who take statewide EOC dependent courses, the final examination will count for 30% of the overall course grade. The Semester 1 and Semester 2 grades will each be 35% of the overall course grade. The semester and exam grade will be averaged.

(ii) Courses which include a statewide EOC at the middle school level: Algebra I, Geometry, and Civics.

Common Final Exams and Final Examination Grades

(i) All Common Final Exams must count for 20% of the overall course grade for secondary courses. The Semester 1 and Semester 2 grades will each be 40% of the overall course grade for full year courses. For semester courses, the calculation will be conducted as 80% semester grade and 20% CFE grade. The semester and exam grade will be averaged.

Course Selection

As you select courses for next year, you will need to consider state graduation requirements, future goals, grade level, and your *academic performance*. It is essential that you are aware of your progress and academic goals. Use this curriculum guide as a resource to help inform your decision-making with regard to course selection for the following school year.

COURSE REGISTRATION PRESENTATIONS and SELECTION FORM are provided upon presentation from the counselors and during registration.

6th Grade

[6th Grade Course Registration Form](#)

7th Grade

[7th Grade Course Registration Form](#)

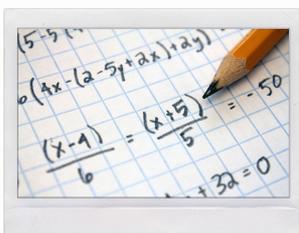
8th Grade

[8th Grade Course Registration Form](#)



HELPFUL RESOURCES

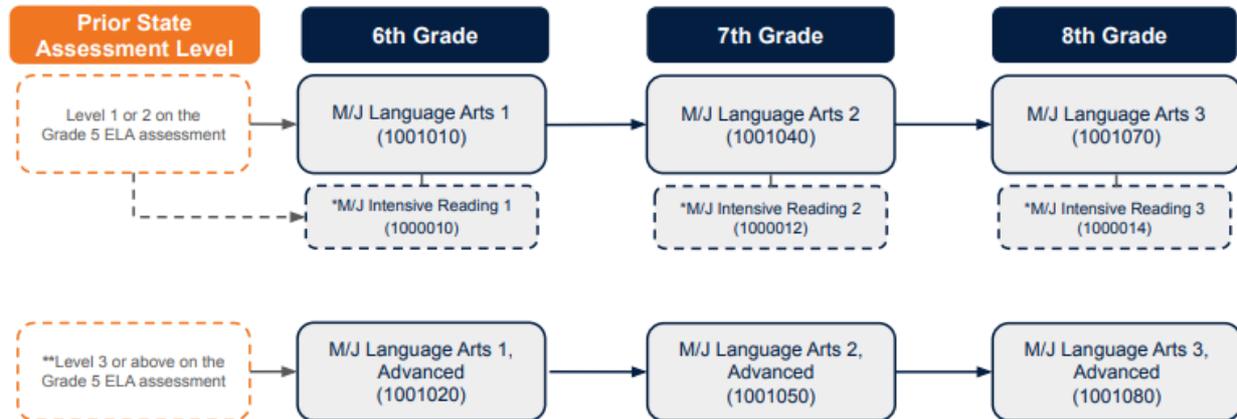
[CPALMS Course and Directory](#) **The CPALMS website is a wonderful resource that provides detailed course descriptions and information about each class offered at Horizon High School



Core Content Course Progressions

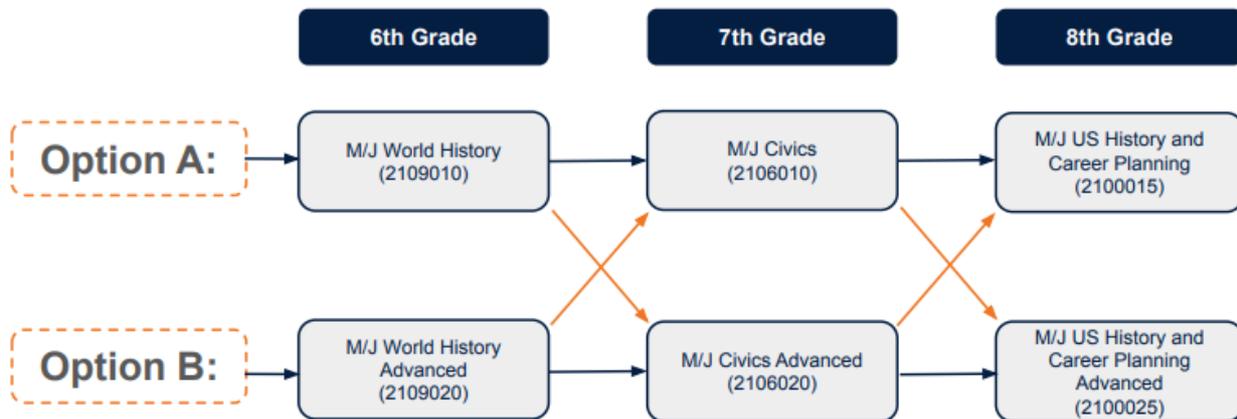
Middle School ELA Course Progression

There are two potential pathways for ELA in the middle grades (6-8). Although students are placed on these pathways as incoming 6th grade students, they may be advised to move from one pathway to another based on yearly academic performance.



Middle School Social Studies Course Progression

Placement should provide equal access to rigorous coursework and opportunity for student success. Please note that student experiences will vary and students should be guided into coursework that supports academic success and preparation for post-secondary goals. Placement should be reassessed each year with consideration given to course performance and State Assessment results.



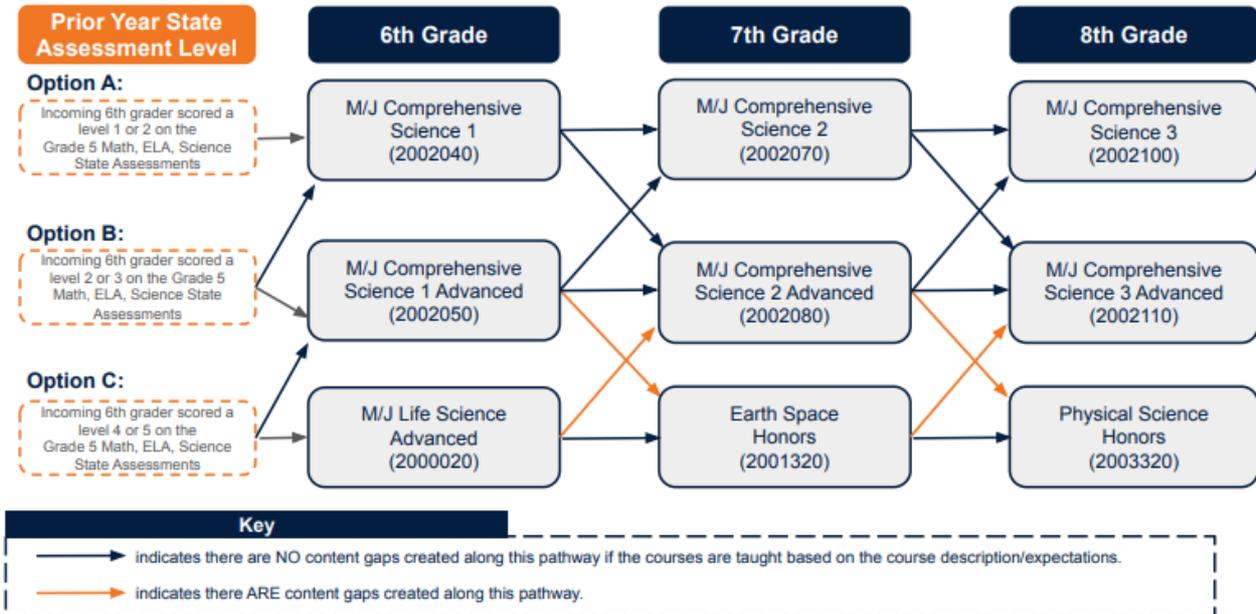
Key

- Indicates that content gaps are not created along this pathway if the courses are taught based on the course description.
- Indicates that students transitioning from Option A to Option B and vice versa will not experience gaps in content.

Core Content Course Progressions

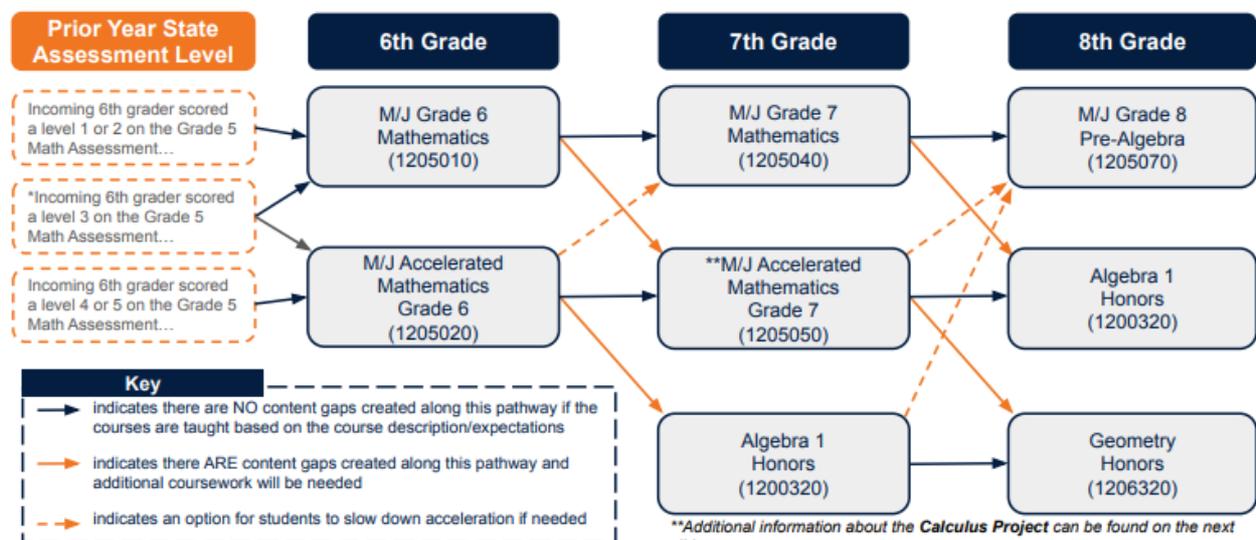
Middle School Science Course Progression

Placement should provide equal access to rigorous coursework and opportunity for student success. Please note that student experiences will vary and students should be guided into coursework that supports academic success and preparation for post-secondary goals. Placement should be reassessed each year with consideration given to course performance and prior year state assessment results.



Middle School Mathematics Course Progression

There are three main pathways students can take in mathematics in the middle grades (6-8). Although students are placed on these pathways as incoming 6th Grade students, they may be advised to move from one pathway to another based on academic performance.



Course Descriptions

ENGLISH

M/J Language Arts 1

M/J Language Arts I Advanced

M/J Language Arts 2

M/J Language Arts 2 Advanced

M/J Language Arts 3

M/J Language Arts 3 Advanced

SOCIAL STUDIES

M/J World History

M/J World History Advanced

M/J Civics

M/J Civics Advanced

M/J US History & Career Planning

M/J US History and Career Planning Advanced

SCIENCE

M/J Comprehensive Science 1

M/J Life Science Advanced

M/J Comprehensive Science 2

Earth/Space Science Honors

M/J Comprehensive Science 3

Physical Science Honors

Course Descriptions

MATH

M/J Grade 6 Mathematics

M/J Accelerated Mathematics Grade 6

M/J Grade 7 Mathematics

M/J Accelerated Mathematics Grade 7

M/J Grade 8 PreAlgebra

M/J Algebra I Honors

M/J Geometry Honors

Advanced Studies

Water Spring Middle School offers many opportunities for advanced studies including middle school advanced courses and high school level courses. Note that all courses are taken that are high school level will contribute to and be counted in the student's high school Grade Point Average (GPA). All high school level courses with the exception of Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 are honors-level coursework weighted on a 5.0 point GPA scale.

The following are high school level courses offered to WSMS students:

Math

Algebra 1 Honors- 1200320

Geometry Honors- 1206320

Science

Earth/Space Science Honors- 2001320

Physical Science Honors- 2003320

World Languages

Spanish 1- 0708340

Spanish 2- 0708350

Portuguese 1- 0713300

Portuguese 2- 0713310

Other Electives

Project Lead the Way- Introduction to Engineering- 8600550

Digital Video Technology- 8201410



Advanced Studies coursework is meant to provide students with academically rigorous learning opportunities that will prepare them to enter advanced courses in high school successfully. Some courses are specific to grade-level.

PreAICE Cambridge

Cambridge is an international diploma program offered through Cambridge University which provides students with a rigorous, internationally recognized curriculum across many subject areas. The Cambridge program is also referred to as AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) and is offered in 150 countries around the world.

As Cambridge classes are academically rigorous college-level courses. Water Spring Middle School will offer PreAICE courses, which are meant to provide students with the academic foundation to be successful in higher-level coursework in high school and beyond. PreAICE courses are considered to be comparable, or the same level coursework as Honors level courses. PreAICE courses typically cover the same standards covered in the comparable honors level of the course. PreAICE coursework tends to have a greater emphasis on writing than the honors counterpart.

Being that our feeder high school, Horizon High School is an AICE Cambridge school, the PreAICE courses lend themselves to continuity with the advanced options available to students at HHS, although participation in PreAICE courses does not obligate a student to participate in AICE courses.

**Note that WSMS does not offer AICE level courses, only PreAICE level coursework.

HOW DO AICE CLASSES IMPACT GPA?

AICE classes are weighted on a 6-point scale (same as Dual Enrollment and AP classes); PreAICE classes are weighted on a 5-point scale (same as honors-level classes).

WHAT WOULD MY COURSE LOAD LOOK LIKE IF I WERE TO SEEK THE CAMBRIDGE DIPLOMA OPTION?

To qualify for the AICE Diploma you will need to successfully take and pass 7 AICE courses and the respective exams.

PreAICE COURSES OFFERED AT WSMS

CAMBRIDGE DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

[AICE Cambridge Official Website](#)



**Cambridge Assessment
International Education**

Cambridge International School

Electives

Water Spring Middle School offers a variety of electives with various pathways and subject areas. The following is an inclusive list of courses. Many of the courses have multiple levels and in such cases, only the general title is given. (Digital Video Tech is offered at levels 1-3).

Performing and Fine Arts

Band
Orchestra
Musical Theater

Chorus
Theatre
Art

World Languages

Portuguese
Spanish

Career and Technical Education

Fund of Visual Arts (TV prod)- 6th/7th
Digital Video Tech (TV-Prod)- 8th

Project Lead the Way (PLTW/STEM)-
6th grade- Expl of Comm Tech-/App Creator
7th grade- Expl of Comm Tech-/Comp Sci for
Innovators and Makers
8th grade- Intro to Engineering

Health and Physical Education

6th Grade PE & Health
7th Grade PE & Health
8th Grade PE & Health
Dance & Health

Other Electives

Journalism
Debate
Critical Thinking Skills
Peer Counseling
Global Studies/Creative Writing
SGA- Leadership (*application req*)

Grade Forgiveness and Remedial Coursework

GRADE FORGIVENESS

Per state policy, students who receive a final grade of a D or F in a class may retake the class to improve their grade with a C or higher earned subsequently in the same or comparable course. Students are not permitted to retake courses in which they earned an A, B, or C. For courses that are retaken, the new, higher grade (C or higher) will replace the D or F in the GPA. However, the D or F will remain on the student's transcript. Students have the option to retake such classes through an online credit recovery program. The only exception to the forgiveness policy applies to grades of a C, D, or F earned in high school classes taken in middle school.

REMEDIAL COURSEWORK

Students behind in graduation requirements due to failure in one or more classes will be scheduled into one or more periods of credit recovery, which is a class period dedicated to retaking or earning credits for previously failed courses required for graduation. **Note that students pursuing NCAA eligibility should not makeup coursework through alternative credit recovery programs but through Orange County Virtual School (OCVS). See the NCAA section below for additional information.

INTENSIVE COURSEWORK

Students who are not on grade level as determined by their most recent Florida Standards Assessment English Language Arts (FSA ELA) will be scheduled into a remedial course aimed at improving the reading and writing skills necessary to pass this assessment or earn a concordant score on either the SAT or ACT.



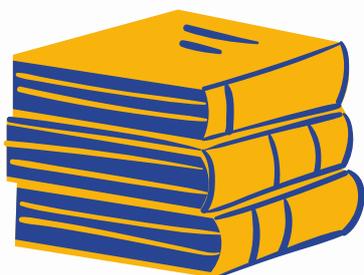
Preparation for High School and Beyond

Admission into Florida's public universities is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous curriculum in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chances for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a first-time-in-college student must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Graduate high school with a standard diploma
- Qualifying admission test scores
- Minimum of 16 credits of college preparatory level academic courses
- 4 English
- 4 Math (Algebra 1 and above)
- 3 Science
- 3 Social Science
- 2 World Language (same language)

In addition to the State University System, the Florida College System includes 28 state colleges. These institutions offer career-related certificates and two-year associate degrees that prepare students to transfer to a bachelor's degree program or to enter jobs requiring specific skills. Many also offer baccalaureate degrees in high-demand fields. Florida College System institutions have an open door policy. This means that students who have earned a high school diploma or have demonstrated success in postsecondary coursework will be admitted into an associate degree program. [Additional information is available here.](#)

High school counselors and college and career specialists are prepared to assist students with the application process for state university admissions. To be considered for the Florida State Assistance Grant (FSAG) program, students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in time to meet the application deadline established by the institution they plan to attend.



Testing Information

ACT- American College Test

The ACT Program measures scholastic aptitude in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Natural Sciences. Optimum test takes are in the winter or spring of the junior year and again in the fall of the senior year if necessary. Results are provided to the high school and colleges and universities designated by the student. Register at [ACT.org](https://www.act.org).

SAT- Scholastic Aptitude Test

The SAT is an objective test designed to measure how well students have developed their verbal, writing, and math skills. It is administered on various dates during the year, and fees are assessed. Optimum test dates are in the winter or spring of the junior year and again in the fall of the senior year if necessary. Results are provided to the student's home, high school, and specified colleges and universities. Register at [CollegeBoard.org](https://collegeboard.org).

PSAT/NMSQT- Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test / National Merit Qualifying Test

The PSAT is a multiple-choice test that measures verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities. National Merit Finalists, National Achievement Scholars, and National Hispanic Scholars are identified by taking the PSAT in their junior year.

Cambridge AICE Exams

This assessment is required at the completion of AICE courses. Passing an AICE assessment may allow college credit to be earned. Issuing of college credit is determined by the attending institution and you should reach out to your prospective school for their policy and criteria for awarding college credit for AICE courses.

AP- Advanced Placement Exams

This assessment is required at the completion of AP courses. Passing an AP assessment may allow college credit to be earned. Issuing of college credit is determined by the attending institution and you should research your prospective school for their policy and criteria for awarding college credit for AP courses.

THANK YOU FOR REVIEWING OUR SCHEDULING AND REGISTRATION GUIDE

We are looking forward to meeting and supporting you through your middle school journey. Please contact your counselor or administration with any questions.

