



Cushing ISD

8th Grade Parent Meeting

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Our Goals:

- ▶ To offer guidance to you and your 8th grade student as he/she transitions into High School.
- ▶ To provide information on graduation plans and requirements.
- ▶ To make available information regarding endorsement selection.
- ▶ To set up a time to meet with the counselor if needed.

Quick Terminology Overview:

- ▶ **Credit** – A unit showing successful completion of a course (70% or better average with 90% attendance). Generally, each passing semester earns 0.5 credit and passing for the year earns 1.0 credit. On occasion, there may be a class offered that is worth 1.0 credit in one semester.
- ▶ **Foundation** – The “basics” – 22 credits of coursework that are required for everyone to complete.
- ▶ **Endorsements** – The “major” – coursework specific to the student's area of interest – requires 4 additional credits (one math, one science, and two electives).

House Bill 5:

- ▶ A **Graduation Plan** for 9th grade students entering into high school (this began in the 14/15 school year) must be on file.
- ▶ High School students are required to meet standards on 5 End of Course Exams before graduation. The five tests are as follows:
 - ▶ Algebra I (8th or 9th grade); English I (9th grade); English II (10th grade); US History (11th grade); and Biology (9th or 10 grade).

HS credit in middle school classes

- ▶ Algebra I – one credit
- ▶ 8th Grade Marching Band

Accountability:

- ▶ Cushing High School strives to nurture collaboration between students, families, and administrators.
- ▶ A student and parent shall specify in writing an endorsement plan (Endorsement Form will be provided) and will work with the counselor to create a Personal Graduation plan.
- ▶ Endorsements can be changed at anytime (within reason).
- ▶ You must have parent permission to change plans and endorsements.

Foundation Program Requirements:

- ▶ English: English I, II, III, and IV 4 credits
- ▶ Math: Algebra I, Geometry, 3rd Math Credits 3 credits
- ▶ Science: Biology, 2nd & 3rd Science Credits 3 credits
- ▶ Social Studies: W. Geo*, W. His*, Government, Eco. 3 credits
- ▶ P.E. 1 credit
- ▶ Language Other Than English (Spanish) 2 credits
- ▶ Fine Arts 1 credit
- ▶ Electives 5 credits

Total State Credits

22 credits

Foundation Program and Endorsement Requirements:

- ▶ English: English I, II, III, and IV 4 credits
- ▶ Math: Algebra I, Geometry, 3rd & 4th Math Credits 4 credits
- ▶ Science: Biology, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Science Credits 4 credits
- ▶ Social Studies: W. Geo, W. His, US Hist., Gov., Eco. 4 credits
- ▶ P.E. 1 credit
- ▶ Language Other Than English (Spanish) 2 credits
- ▶ Fine Arts 1 credit
- ▶ Electives 7 credits

Total State Credits

27 credits

Distinguished Level of Achievement :

- ▶ The distinguished level of achievement requires:
 - ▶ 4 credits in Math, including Algebra II
 - ▶ 4 credits in Science
 - ▶ All curriculum requirements for the Foundation High School Program with at least one endorsement.
- ▶ ***Please note! A student must earn the “Distinguished Level of Achievement” to be eligible for the top 10 % automatic admission program.***

Outstanding Performance Acknowledgements:

- ▶ The state of Texas will recognize outstanding performance acknowledgements on your diploma for the following:
 - ▶ Earning at least 12 hours of college academic courses with a 3.0 or higher
 - ▶ Scoring qualifying scores on the ACT, SAT, and or PSAT. (28, 1250, or National Merit semi / finalist)
 - ▶ Earning nationally or industry certification or license(s).
 - ▶ There are also acknowledgements in bilingualism / bi-literacy / and or AP test achievement.

Selecting an Endorsement:

- ▶ Upon entering 9th grade, each student must indicate in writing the endorsement that they intend to pursue.
- ▶ Parents must sign off on this plan and any subsequent changes made of it.
- ▶ A student may change their Endorsements at any time.

The Five Endorsements:

- ▶ STEM (Science, Tech, Engineering, Math)
- ▶ Business and Industry
- ▶ Public Services
- ▶ Arts and Humanities
- ▶ Multidisciplinary Studies

STEM Endorsement

Option 1 – Math 5 credits

- ▶ Students take:
 - ▶ Algebra I
 - ▶ Geometry
 - ▶ Algebra II
 - ▶ AND 2 additional advanced math courses:
 - ▶ Pre-Calculus
 - ▶ AP Calculus
 - ▶ College Algebra
 - ▶ College Trig
 - ▶ Other Advanced Math

Option 2 – SCI 5 Credits

- ▶ Students take:
 - ▶ Biology
 - ▶ Chemistry
 - ▶ Physics
 - ▶ Advanced Animal Science
 - ▶ Other Advanced Science

Option 2 MATH/SCI COMBO 5 Credits

- ▶ Students take:
 - ▶ Algebra II
 - ▶ Chemistry
 - ▶ Physics
 - ▶ Sequence of 3 Additional Math or Science courses.

Business and Industry Endorsement

- ▶ Coherent Sequence of 4 credits in the following programs of study.
 - ▶ Agriculture, food, and natural resources.
 - ▶ Architecture and construction
 - ▶ Information technology
 - ▶ Hospitality and tourism
- ▶ Four English Elective Credits including THREE levels in one of these areas.
 - ▶ Journalism
 - ▶ Broadcast Journalism
 - ▶ Newspaper
 - ▶ Debate

Public Service Endorsement:

- ▶ Coherent sequence of 4 credits in the following Program of Study.
 - ▶ Education and Training
 - ▶ Health science
 - ▶ Human Services
 - ▶ Law and Public Service

Arts and Humanities Endorsement:

Option 1 – Social Studies

- ▶ Students take five social studies courses for five credits:
- ▶ World Geography
- ▶ World History
- ▶ US History
- ▶ Government / Eco
- ▶ Psychology / Sociology

Option 2 – LOTE

- ▶ Two levels of two different Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

Option 3 – Fine Arts

- ▶ Students take two course in one fine arts area AND two courses in a different Coherent Sequence of 4 credits
 - ▶ Agriculture, food, and natural resources.
 - ▶ Architecture and construction
 - ▶ Information technology
- ▶ fine arts area for a total of four credits

OR

- ▶ Students take four courses in one fine arts area for a total of four credits.

Multidisciplinary Studies Endorsement:

Option 1 – 4x4

- ▶ Students take four core content areas:
 - ▶ Four English credits including English IV
 - ▶ Four Math credits
 - ▶ Four Science credits including Biology and Chemistry and/or Physics
 - ▶ Four Social Studies credits

Option 2 – AP/Dual Credit

- ▶ Students take four Dual Credit and/or AP courses from the Foundation subject areas, Languages other than English, or Fine Arts.

Option 3

- ▶ Students take four Advanced Courses from within one endorsement OR among areas that are not in a coherent sequence.

Typical 9th Grade Schedule:

- ▶ English I (Pre AP or Regular)
- ▶ Algebra I or Geometry
- ▶ Biology
- ▶ World Geography
- ▶ PE / Athletics
- ▶ Electives – Suggested Principles Courses (to start sequence for endorsement) or CTE Elective.

Conclusion:

- ▶ Review the previously discussed Endorsements and choose a career pathway for your student.
- ▶ Complete the Endorsement Form.
- ▶ Sign up for an individual meeting with the counselor to discuss your student's Personal Graduation Plan and Endorsement if needed.
- ▶ Feel free to email with questions:
 - ▶ Gina Gresham – ggresham@cushingisd.org