



2021 FRESHMEN Student/Parent Meeting

**Michael Davis,
Superintendent**

**Shane Smelley,
JH-HS Principal**

**Gina Gresham,
District Counselor**



Our Goals:

- ▶ Offer guidance to 8th grade students as they transition into High School.
- ▶ Provide information on graduation plans and requirements to students and parents.
- ▶ Make available information regarding endorsement selection and requirements.
- ▶ Meet individually with students/parents when 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 (such as dual credit courses).
- ▶ **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) and the curriculum requirements for chosen endorsement(s).



House Bill 5:

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



HS Credit in Junior High

- ▶ 8th Grade Marching Band
 - ▶ Algebra 1
- 



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, Algebra II	3 credits
▶ Science: Biology, 2 nd & 3 rd Science Credits	3 credits
▶ Social Studies: World Geography or World History, US History, Government (1/2 credit), Economics (1/2 credit)	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

All graduates must also meet the following requirements:

*** End of Course Exams**

*** Proper Interaction with Peace Officers**

*** Speech Proficiency**

*** CPR Training**



Foundation Program and Endorsement Requirements:

- ▶ English: English I, II, III, and IV 4 credits
- ▶ Math: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, & 4th Math 4 credits
- ▶ Science: Biology, Chemistry, 3rd & 4th Science 4 credits
- ▶ Social Studies: World Geography or World History, US History, Government (1/2 credit), Economics (1/2 credit) 3 credits
- ▶ P.E. 1 credit
- ▶ Language Other Than English (Spanish) 2 credits
- ▶ Fine Arts 1 credit
- ▶ Electives 7 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 **PSAT, ACT, and/or SAT**.
 - ▶ Earning **State, Nationally or Industry Certification** or license(s).
 - ▶ There are also acknowledgements in **AP test** achievement, bilingualism / bi-literacy.



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 (Dual Credit)

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.
- ▶ Complete the Endorsement Form and return to Mrs. Gresham.
- ▶ 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 Gina Gresham with questions at ggresham@cushingisd.org