

GRAYSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Registration for next year's classes at GCHS coming up in early March

There's still more than nine weeks left in this school year, but it's already time to start thinking about the courses that will be taken next year and beyond for local undergraduates. Registration for next year's classes at Grayson County High School is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th. Grayson County eighth-graders will register with high school counselors on Friday, February 29th at the Middle School. Thoughtful planning now is necessary to ensure that students get the courses they want and need.

Parents can help their children plan their futures by being a part of the course selection process. Determine the student's long-term goals and then help them choose the courses needed to achieve those goals. If college is a goal, students should take the courses that will prepare them for college-level work including the pre-college curriculum with rigorous electives. Find out when graduation requirements must be taken then map out a student's entire high school career to determine when electives will fit.

While college is not in everyone's future, it is becoming a requirement for more and more careers. And, to ensure a smooth transition into college-level coursework, there are several things high school students can do now.

First, each undergraduate needs to make sure they're taking at least the pre-college curriculum at GCHS. (See Pre-College Curriculum and Commonwealth Diploma requirements below). Students can graduate from GCHS without taking the pre-college curriculum or earning the Commonwealth Diploma; however, colleges require one of the two for admittance. This is the first year the prestigious Commonwealth Diploma curriculum has been offered at GCHS, and it is excellent preparation for college-level work as well as increasing a student's chances for scholarships and admittance into highly selective colleges.

Administrators, counselors and teachers at GCHS are also urging students to enroll in Advanced Placement (AP) courses for the upcoming year for several reasons. Statistics show that 53 percent of college freshmen are now required to take remedial courses during their first year of college because they are under prepared for college level work. That means the student must pay for the course, but gets no college credit for passing it. Because of the difficulty level of AP courses, students who are successful taking them in high school rarely require remediation.

AP courses are more rigorous than other high school courses, yet, because they are weighted heavier than other high school courses, they offer the student a chance to increase their grade point average (GPA) by completing them successfully. By passing an AP test at the end of a course, a student can also earn college credit for the course, which can save them money once they enter college. Advanced courses also better prepare students for the ACT test. Successful completion of AP courses and a high score on the ACT means extra KEES scholarship money.

Finally, students also need to consider the full range of offerings when selecting electives in high school. In addition to the many electives offered in business, art, humanities, and vocational studies, there are also a number of electives offered in the four core subject areas, including Acting, Creative Writing, Forensic Chemistry, Military History, and many more. If you or your student have questions about any classes offered at the high school, contact one of the counselors.

Local Juniors to take ACT on March 11

All juniors throughout Kentucky will be taking the ACT exam this year, as mandated by the state. Grayson County juniors will take the test at the high school on Tuesday, March 11th. Because of the state mandate, there is no cost to the student for taking the exam. Additionally, the ACT organization will make a students' score on this exam available to up to four colleges free of charge.

Pre College Curriculum	Commonwealth Diploma
English/Language Arts – 4 credits required <ul style="list-style-type: none">English ICP English IICP English III (or AP English III)CP English IV (or AP English IV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Successful completion of all minimum requirements of the pre-college curriculumSuccessful completion (i.e., receiving a grade of "C" or its equivalent) in 4 AP courses in the list of subjects below to qualify for the Commonwealth Diploma.
Mathematics – 3 credits required <ul style="list-style-type: none">Algebra IAlgebra IIGeometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* English (pre-college & 1 course selected from AP) English Language & Composition (our AP Eng. III) English Literature and Composition (our AP Eng IV) International English Language (APIEL)* Science/Mathematics (pre-college & 1 course selected from) Biology Calculus AB Calculus BC AP Statistics* Foreign Language (pre-college & 1 course selected from) AP Chinese Language & Culture AP Japanese Language & Culture AP Russian language & Culture AP German Literature AP Latin Literature AP Latin Vergil AP Spanish Language AP French Literature AP French Language* Electives (pre-college & 1 selected from any of the above or the following) AP Art History AP Physics C: Mechanics AP Microeconomics AP Computer Science A AP Music Theory AP US Gov't. & Politics AP European History AP Human Geography AP Physics C* Electricity & Magnetism
Science – 3 credits required Credits to include life science, physical science, and earth/space science (at least one lab course)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AP ChemistryAP Physics BAP Physics CAP Environmental Science
Social Studies – 3 credits required From US History, Economics, Government, World Geography, World Civilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AP Environmental Science
Health – 1/2 credit required	
Physical Education – 1/2 credit required	
History and Appreciation of Visual, Performing Arts – 1 credit required History and appreciation of visual and performing arts or another arts course that incorporates such content	
Foreign Language – 2 credits required Course required in the same foreign language or demonstrated competency	
Electives – 5 credits required (3 rigorous) Recommended strongly: One or more courses that develop computer literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AP MacroeconomicsAP Comp Govt. & PoliticsAP Studio ArtAP Computer Science BAP PsychologyAP US HistoryAP World History
Total Credits: 22 15 Required: 7 Elective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AP World History* Completion of (or will complete) AP examinations in at least 3 of the 4 required AP course areas.