

## **Whitney High School Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Do I have to take an “advanced” course my freshman year?***

No, it is not required to take an “advanced” course freshman year. If you plan to take Advanced/Honors/AP courses in subsequent years, it provides a good opportunity to see what an “advanced” course entails and it prepares you for the next level. If you opt to take an “advanced” course, it is best to choose the subject area you feel most successful in, and one that you plan to possibly continue on the “advanced” track.

### ***How many “advanced” courses would you recommend freshman year?***

It is strongly recommended that students take no more than three Advanced/Honors/AP courses in any given year. It is very important to realize that you are making a major transition from middle school to high school and you want to be cautious not to overwhelm yourself. Finding the right balance between academics and having time to be involved in extracurricular activities is extremely important.

### ***If I choose not to take an “advanced” course freshman year, will I still be able to take Honors and/or AP courses later on?***

Yes, as long as you meet the prerequisites for the course. The Academic Planning Guide lists the prerequisites for every course. The prerequisite often involves earning a specific grade in either the regular or advanced level of the course taken the previous year. The purpose of the prerequisite grades is to ensure that students are placed appropriately and they are set-up for success.

### ***What happens if I choose an “advanced” course and I am not successful?***

Students are given three weeks at the beginning of the school year to move to “regular” course. Please be aware that this change may affect multiple courses on the schedule. Students can also move to the “regular” level of a course at the semester. There is always a schedule change request form that must be agreed on by student/parent/teacher, and it must be submitted to the counseling department.

### ***What if my 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher won’t sign off on an “advanced” course that I want to take?***

It is best to trust the recommendation of your current teacher as they have been working with you all year and are most familiar with your work ethic and strengths. If your teacher does not recommend you, the best thing you can do is continue to work very hard this semester and discuss your progress toward the end of the year. If your teacher feels you are qualified at the end of the year, he/she can work with your counselor to contact the high school to check availability on the “advanced” course.

### ***Is there a GPA requirement to take foreign language (Spanish or French)? What grades do you use to verify GPA for incoming freshman?***

The GPA requirement to request a foreign language course in freshman year is 3.0. This GPA includes all of seventh grade and first semester of eighth grade.

### ***What should my next course be if I completed Spanish I as an eighth grader?***

The next course should be Spanish II; however, if you earned a “C” or struggled in Spanish I, it is best to repeat the course in high school so you have a solid foundation before taking subsequent levels.

### ***If I earned a “B” or “C” in my Integrated 1 math course in eighth grade but do not feel confident in my math abilities, can I take the class over freshman year for a better grade?***

If you do not feel confident with your math foundation you should absolutely repeat the course. The more solid foundation you have, the more confident you will feel with your math skills which will likely lead you to be successful in the subsequent levels. Your math teacher is the most qualified person to assist you with this decision. The grades you earned in your eighth grade math course will still remain on your transcript.

***When can I accelerate in math?***

If you are in Integrated Math 1 freshman year, you will have the opportunity to take Integrated Math II/III sophomore year. This course will count as two math courses in your schedule so you will be completing Integrated II fall semester followed by Integrated III spring semester. The Integrated II/III course is designed for students who are on the path to take calculus in senior year.

***Do I have to take PE I freshman year if I am playing a high school sport?***

Yes, all students must take PE I freshman year. After you complete PE I, there are many other options to satisfy the second and third year PE requirement. For athletes, you may be required to take a weights class even if you've completed the PE graduation requirement.

***If I need help selecting my courses for next year, what should I do?***

You should definitely attend the Showcase Night on Monday, February 7th. There will be teachers from each department to answer questions, in addition to counselors. If you need assistance after Showcase Night, your middle school counselor works very closely with the high school counselors so your middle school is your best resource.

***I have applied for an intradistrict transfer and have not received confirmation that it has been approved. Which Showcase Night should I attend?***

You should attend the Showcase Night for the high school that you are currently supposed to attend. If your request is approved after Showcase and six year plans are due, your six year plan will be transferred from one high school to the other and the counseling department will contact you if there are any issues/concerns.

***What happens if I change my mind after having an intradistrict transfer approval? Can I go back and attend my home high school?***

You need to be 100% confident before you request an intradistrict transfer. Once an intradistrict transfer is approved, you are required to attend the school you requested for one school year. If you opt to return to your regular high school, you may do so by contacting your home high school.

***When can I start my service learning hours and where can I log my service learning hours?***

You can begin documenting community service hours the day after eighth grade promotion. You must complete 25 hours of community service to meet graduation requirements. Here is a link to the Service Learning log instructions. [Service Learning Instructions](#)