

Guidance, Scheduling, and Curriculum

- When does my student meet with their school counselor?
 - School counselors meet with every student in the school individually each year. This is called programming. Students have the opportunity to create a tentative, unofficial schedule for the upcoming school year based on graduation requirements, elective interests, and postsecondary goals. Schedules are finalized before school begins based on course requests and graduation requirements. If students wish to see their counselor for a reason outside of scheduling, they may visit the guidance office between classes to request an appointment.
- Are freshmen required to take AP Human Geography?
 - Freshmen are not required to take AP Human Geography, but many students do choose to take this course. School counselors meet with all upcoming ninth graders while they are in eighth grade. Counselors visit middle school sites to work with students individually on creating an appropriate course request list.
- My child has/needs a 504 plan. What is the process?
 - 504 and IEP plans are unique for each individual student. Contact your school counselor to discuss your student's plan.
- Are there summer assignments and where do I find them?
 - Summer assignments are posted on the Steinbrenner website under "summer reading". The Steinbrenner website can be found here: <https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/steinbrenner>
- Can a current teacher stop my student from taking a class in the next school year by not signing their course request form?
 - Teachers recommend courses for the next school year for each individual student. Their recommendation is based on progress in the current class and where the teacher believes the student will succeed next year. Questions regarding course placement should be addressed directly with the teacher.

Sports

- How do I find out when sports tryouts take place?
 - Sports tryouts are advertised on the team's social media accounts, which are public. They are also announced on the morning announcements which students hear daily during second period and are posted on Canvas as well. Parents and students are encouraged to follow the social media accounts before the school year starts.
- What paperwork is required to play a sport?
 - To complete the required paperwork to play a sport, go to <https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/athletics>. On the HCPS Athletics page, there is a blue box with gold text which states "STUDENT FORMS AND ELIGIBILITY". The required paperwork and eligibility information can be found here. Please note that this can be a tedious process and you should plan to start your paperwork well in advance of the tryouts. Students with incomplete paperwork will NOT be allowed to participate in tryouts.

- What sports does Steinbrenner offer?
 - A complete list of Steinbrenner sports can be found under the Athletics tab on the Steinbrenner webpage: <https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/domain/3869>

Clubs

- How do I find out about clubs before school starts so my student knows about them prior to starting?
 - Announcements for parents, including club rush information, is posted on Canvas. The clubs offered varies each year, and the official list of clubs is posted each October on the Steinbrenner website under “Resources”.
- Is there a list with their club social media accounts?
 - Use this QR code for a list of current clubs and their Instagram accounts.



- What does RUSH week mean to our students?
 - Club rush takes place during one school day during both lunches. The clubs set up displays in the gym and students can browse the different clubs and ask questions to club officers. Application information is included at each display. Information about club rush is posted on Canvas each year.
- How do I find out what extracurricular activities that Steinbrenner has to offer to my student? as in, clubs, sports, interests, band, chorus, etc.
 - Activities offered at the school can be found on Canvas, the Steinbrenner website, and the weekly parent link phone call/email.

HOPE

- What is HOPE?
 - The HOPE acronym stands for “Health Opportunities Through Physical Education”. HOPE is the state required physical education course. Hope is a course that integrates health concepts and skills with physical education concepts and skills.
- Are all students required to take HOPE?
 - HOPE is a requirement for graduation. There are only a few situations where a student might be exempt from this requirement and would be notified by their school counselor.

- Is HOPE a full year or one semester?
 - HOPE is a full year class.
- What classes require PE/HOPE uniforms?
 - All HOPE classes and all PE classes (such as weightlifting, volleyball, etc.) require uniforms for class.
- Where can I purchase HOPE uniforms?
 - Uniforms can be purchased at open house in the cafeteria. In addition, the PTSA will hold a one-day live sale during the first month of school and the first month of the second semester. They will be present during every PE class for one full day. Students will be informed by their teacher when this will occur. Uniforms can also be purchased through the PTSA Givebacks store and they will be fulfilled on a weekly basis.
<https://gshsptsa.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true>
 - Cash, check, and credit card payments will be accepted. Checks should be made out to “GSHS PTSA”.

Driver's Education

- Is driver's education mandatory in Florida?
 - Information about the State of Florida driver license requirements can be found here:
<https://www.flhsmv.gov/>.
- Is driver's ed offered at Steinbrenner?
 - Steinbrenner offers an in-person driver's education course.

GPA

- How is a weighted GPA calculated?
 - During the 2023-2024 school year, students in **grades 10-12** will have GPAs calculated using the following criteria:
 - GPA is cumulative, including all subjects, and is based on a weighted 4.0 scale. An additional .04 per semester is added for each honors class, and .08 per 1/2 credit for dual enrollment, AICE, AP, and IB courses. A grade of C or higher must be earned in the honors, dual enrollment, AICE, IB, or advanced placement course for the bonus to be awarded. For more information on the accelerated courses and programs offered through Hillsborough County Schools, please visit [Accelerated Programs / Overview \(hillsboroughschools.org\)](https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/accelerated-programs/overview)
 - Students in **9th grade for the 2023-2024** school year are on the revised GPA calculation criteria. See link below for more information on this criterion.
[GPA Transition / Overview \(hillsboroughschools.org\)](https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/gpa-transition/overview)
 - GPA for class rank is calculated at the end of the seventh semester (second semester of senior year). Ranks reported for students before the seventh semester are to be considered approximate. Students can also find their weighted and unweighted GPA included in each semester report card as well as their student summary which is available by student request from the student affairs office.

- How is GPA calculated for Florida colleges and universities? (For example, the ones posted on websites with ranges of accepted students)?
 - Every college and university has their own system of calculating GPA. Reach out to the individual school to further inquire about their calculations and admissions requirements. Most have detailed information about admissions on their websites.

PTSA and Parent Groups

- How can I donate to GSHS PTSA?
 - You can promote your business by purchasing a Sponsorship Package. Email our VP of Fundraising for details on sponsorship packages: gshswaysandmeans@gmail.com
 - Join our award winning PTSA and become a Warrior Level Sponsor. There is no volunteer requirement and we appreciate any and all support.
<https://gshsptsa.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true>
 - Volunteer to be on our PTSA Board or Volunteer to help at one of our many events during the year. Email our President for additional information. gshsptsapresident@gmail.com
 - Donate to Steinbrenner Cares or Teacher Appreciation
<https://gshsptsa.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true>
- How does the GSHS PTSA support the school?
 - The GSHS PTSA plans, organizes, and funds many programs at the school. These include but are not limited to: Teacher and Staff Appreciation events, Senior Student Scholarships, Teacher Grants, School Improvements, Senior Events and Awards, Reflections Art Program, Volunteer Support, and Steinbrenner Cares.
- What social media accounts are there for me to follow to stay up with the information?
 - There are many Facebook and Instagram groups and Twitter accounts for the various clubs, groups, sports, and parents. These are public accounts and can be easily found in an Instagram search. Refer to the QR code earlier in the document for a list of club Instagram accounts. ○
 - Additional resources for parents can be found through Steinbrenner PTSA on Facebook and Instagram.

Open House

- What do I need to prepare for on Open House day?
 - Plan to arrive early to open house in order to report to each class on time. Students will report to their homeroom which was sent via mail. This is where schedules are located for students to progress throughout their classes in order. The open house will follow a bell schedule. It is helpful to have something to take notes on as many teachers will discuss supply lists. Parents are welcome to attend open house with students or students can attend on their own. Teachers are NOT available for individual conversations. There is a bell schedule in place for open house and students visit each classroom on their schedule for a short period of time. Any specific concerns should be addressed through email to the teacher after the first day of school.
- What do I need to purchase or can I purchase on open house day?
 - Mascot Universe will be at open house selling Steinbrenner apparel and the PTSA will be selling HOPE and PE uniforms, PTSA Memberships, and senior banners.
- If I cannot attend the open house, how do I get the important information from Steinbrenner?
 - Canvas is the best resource for students and families. All departments and teachers post important information for students and families. It is important for families to be familiar with Canvas and check it frequently for emails, posts, and grades.

Absences, and Tardiness, and Sign Out

- How do I excuse my child's absence or tardiness?
 - Student absences require a parent or guardian phone call to the attendance line within 24 hours of the absence or they will be unexcused.
 - If a student will be late to school, they will need to be escorted by a parent or guardian for sign in or the tardy will be unexcused. There are 2 sign ins and 4 sign outs allowed per quarter, after which documentation for the reason for the tardy is required.
 - If a student in school is tardy to their next class it is considered unexcused unless a teacher is involved and excuses the tardiness.
- What is the difference between excused and unexcused absences?
 - Information regarding student absences can be found in the Hillsborough County Schools Student Code of Conduct here:
<https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/conduct>
- How many absences can a student have per quarter/semester/year?
 - The number of absences is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Extended absences should be discussed with the student affairs office. Information regarding student absences can be found in the Hillsborough County Schools Student Code of Conduct here:
<https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/conduct>

- Will parents be notified if a student is late to class?
 - Class tardiness is not reported to parents. However, a parent is always welcome to reach out to their student's teacher at any time to inquire about student progress.
- How many "tardies" are allowed? What if my student exceeds the acceptable number?
 - Information regarding student tardiness can be found in the Hillsborough County Schools Student Code of Conduct here: <https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/conduct>
- How do I sign my child out if they are sick?
 - Call or go to the Student Affairs office to sign out your student. Note that only those authorized on the student information form will be allowed to sign out a student.
- Does my student have to go to the nurse first?
 - No, but there is a clinic if needed.
- How/where do I check my student in and out for appointments?
 - Call or go to the Student Affairs office to sign out your student. Note that only those authorized on the student information form will be allowed to sign out a student.

Graduation Requirements and Bright Futures

- Where can I find the Florida graduation requirements?
 - Standard Diploma Requirements: <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7764/urlt/StandardDiplomaRequirements.pdf>
- What are the testing requirements for graduation including standardized testing and EOC exams?
 - Testing and Graduation requirements can be found on the Florida Department of Education website: <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20102/urlt/2223FASTGrd310FS.pdf>
<https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7764/urlt/GradRequireFSA.pdf>
- What is Bright Futures?
 - The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program establishes lottery-funded scholarships to reward Florida high school graduates for high academic achievement. Information about this program can be found here: <https://www.floridabrightfutures.gov>

Curriculum Questions

- Will there be an opportunity to change my student's schedule after the school year starts?
 - Students can request a schedule change if there is an error on their schedule. Students cannot request schedule changes due to teacher preference or a change to their elective preference.
- Where can my student get help if they are struggling with a class?
 - Hillsborough students grade 6-12 have unlimited, on-demand access to free academic support through Paper.
<https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/paper>
 - Teachers at Steinbrenner hold ELP (Extended Learning Program) sessions. ELP schedules are created approximately three weeks into the first quarter. The ELP schedule is then posted on Canvas for all subjects/times in one document.
- Can my student retake a class for "grade forgiveness"?
 - There is no true "grade forgiveness", however, there is grade enhancement. If a student wishes to retake a class for a higher grade, they can do so online. Students who fail a course which is a graduation requirement must retake the course online and receive a passing grade to graduate. Additional information regarding classes can be found on the Hillsborough County Schools website:
<https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/progressionplan>
 - Students in high school can only enhance grades for classes in which they have earned a D or F in. If a student received a C in a high school credit class while they were in middle school, they can attempt to grade enhance that grade.
- Are AP classes required for college admission?
 - While AP classes are not a requirement for admission, 4-year universities like to see students challenge themselves with difficult courses. However, whether a student should take AP courses is a decision made for each individual student.
 - Each college/university is looking at the courses offered at a school and determining if the student took advantage of the most rigorous courses offered and how the student performed in them.
- Which AP classes should my student take?
 - AP courses should be selected based on interest and postsecondary goals. Keep in mind that these are challenging, college level courses.
- Should my student take courses through Dual Enrollment?
 - Dual enrollment courses can benefit a student as they show universities that the student can handle a college level course. However, dual enrollment courses begin a student's college GPA and can negatively impact a student if they do not perform well in the course.
 - Depending on postsecondary goals, student may benefit from dual enrollment and/or AP courses. AP courses use a standardized curriculum which appeals to colleges because they know exactly what the student has been exposed to.

- Dual Enrollment is beneficial to students as it strengthens their transcript and allows them to earn college credit.
- A few points to consider include the fact that students are enrolled in college courses and are expected to deal directly with professors and must resolve problems on their own. Often there are no exceptions to a mistake or missed deadline.
- All technical issues, issues with the submission of required paperwork, dropping classes, textbook orders, etc. will have to be handled with the college directly. Steinbrenner does not have access to HCC or USF systems, nor do we have a direct contact to reach out to.
- Receiving C or D in a dual enrollment course can reflect poorly on a transcript and could cause a student to be denied admission. Students must be confident in their ability to stay organized, communicate with professors, submit assignments on time, and keep up with specific course procedures or they could find themselves in academic trouble.
- Dual Enrollment documents and information can be found on Canvas under Guidance Services, Dual Enrollment Instructions and Documents.

PSAT

- Does the PSAT stay the same each year or does it get progressively more difficult each year?
 - The difficulty of the PSAT stays the same each year, however, it is a different version of the test each year. This year the PSAT will be computer-based for the first time. Students should expect to improve each year, especially in math, as students are exposed to higher math courses throughout high school.
- Is my student required to take the PSAT?
 - While it is not required, it is highly encouraged. It is great practice for the 11th grade PSAT and the SAT.
 - Students are not required but will be counted absent. It is **STRONGLY** recommended and there are many benefits to taking this test. The PSAT is great practice for the 11th grade PSAT and the SAT. In addition, the PSAT math score can be used to count as the Concordant score for the ALG 1 EOC if a student has not passed the EOC. In addition to providing practice for the SAT, the PSAT also has the potential to qualify students for scholarships and National Merit Distinction.
 - PSAT scores work with Khan Academy to give students free, individualized practice for the SAT.
 - Taking the PSAT is an opportunity the district offers and pays for. Not all districts offer this for the students.
- If my student is not in the top 1%, can they opt out of the PSAT?
 - All students should take advantage of the opportunity to take the PSAT. Students cannot "opt out" of the test but they can choose not to come to school that day and be marked absent.
 - Information about the PSAT can be found on the College Board Website: www.collegeboard.org

- What is the purpose of the PSAT if my student has no chance of becoming a commended scholar or finalist?
 - The purpose of the PSAT is to gain testing experience, obtain a detailed score report showing all their right and wrong answers, and determine their weaknesses. This information can then be utilized for SAT preparation in those areas. In addition, students can use an acceptable PSAT math score to satisfy the Algebra 1 EOC requirement if still needed for graduation.

Understanding the college process:

- Do students need to take both the ACT AND the SAT?
 - While students are not required to take both tests, it is in their best interest to take both. Some students perform better on the ACT and some the SAT. By taking each test one time, the student can then focus and retake the exam they perform better on. In addition, if students don't take both, then they may miss out on the opportunity to get more competitive college entrance exam scores and/or qualifications for Bright Futures. The ACT score for the Bright Futures Scholarship decreased a few years ago while the SAT continues to go up.
- For the SAT and ACT, is one better than the other to take?
 - One test is not better than the other as far as college admissions. Students should send all scores for college admissions. The college will determine which test is more competitive and only use the best score.
- When do students start taking college entrance exams (ACT/SAT)?
 - Students can begin taking college entrance exams as early as the end of 10th grade year but no later than spring of Junior year.
- Should my student take a test preparation class?
 - Students should take advantage of free test preparation options offered through College Board, ACT, and Kahn Academy. Whether a student should take a fee-based class is a personal decision.
 - Test prep is beneficial during the summer before 11th or 12th grade when students have more free time. Test preparation should begin approximately 6 weeks prior to their test date.
- When should my student start college preparation?
 - College preparation should begin Freshman year of high school. Review the resources available on canvas to be aware of graduation requirements, college admission requirements, and bright futures requirements, just to name a few. Utilizing the vast amount of information provided by guidance will allow students and parents to map out a four-year plan. In addition, College Board has an excellent resource for students to explore post-secondary institutions.
[Home – BigFuture | College Board](#)

- When do students start applying to colleges?
 - Applications can be filled out as soon as the university opens the application window. For Florida colleges and universities, this is usually in July or August before senior year. ○ There are additional requirements to complete such as the SSAR (Self-Reported Academic Record). Students should start completing this form at the same time as the application. SSAR information can be found in Canvas under Guidance Services, “College and University Information”.

- What does my student need to do to get into the various Florida colleges and Universities?
 - The Florida SUS (State University System) Matrix can be found on canvas under “guidance services”, “college and university information”. Each of the 12 public Florida Universities is listed with application deadlines and admissions statistics.
 - Information for private institutions and out of state colleges and universities can be found online on the respective schools’ website. You can also reach out to the individual schools to request information.

- How does my student sign up for SAT/ACT study programs and tests?
 - Almost all tutoring centers offer SAT/ACT prep. There are also books on Amazon (i.e.: The Official SAT Study Guide). Students can also link their PSAT scores to Khan Academy to review their PSAT test and complete practice tests in areas of weaknesses. The Steinbrenner media center has study materials available for check-out as well.

All other questions

- Where can I purchase GSHS apparel?
 - Mascot Universe carries a large supply of Steinbrenner merchandise both in store and available online. They will also have merchandise to purchase at Open House in the cafeteria.
<https://mascot-19247.myshopify.com>

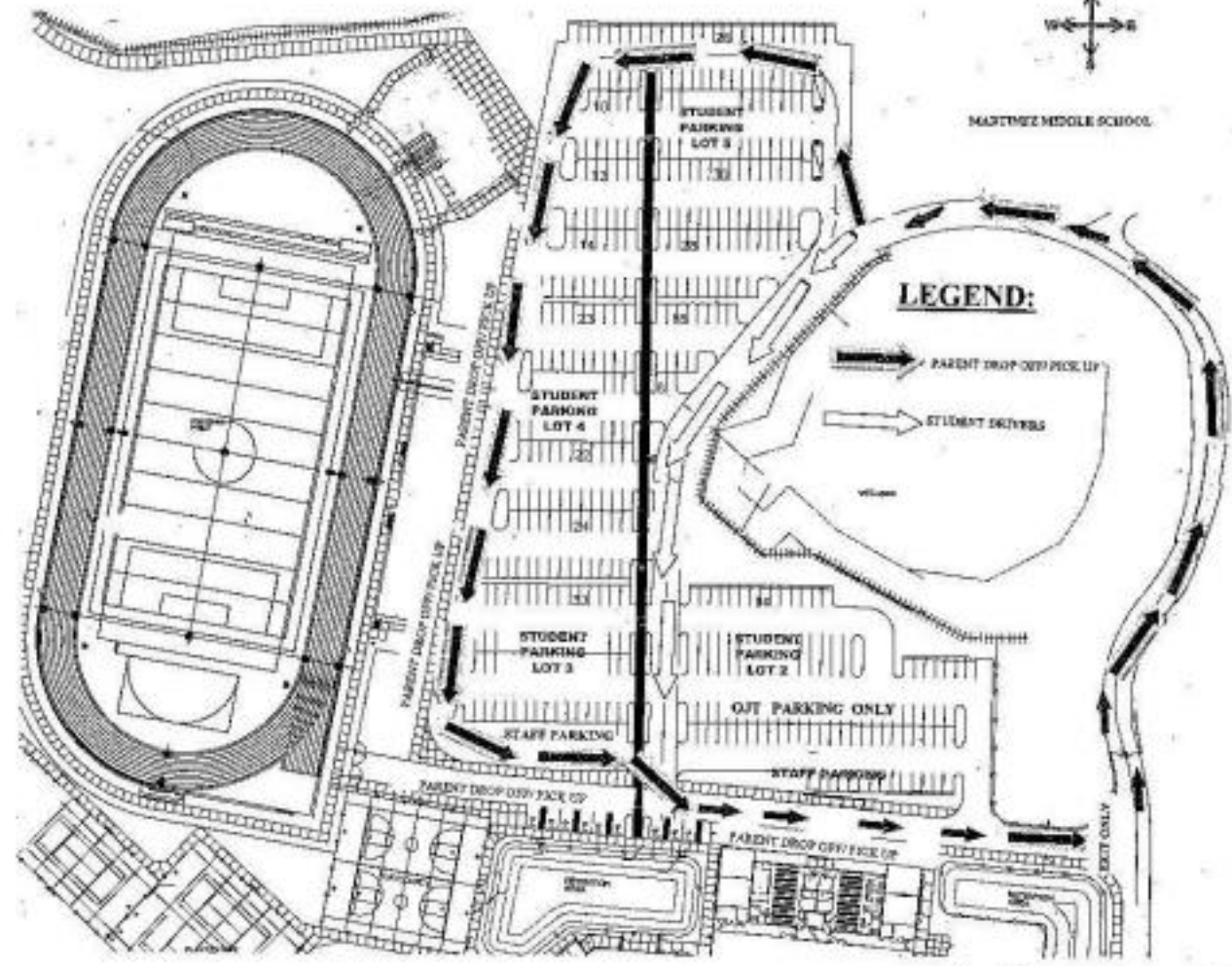
- What does my child need to do to ride home with another student on a bus?
 - This is not allowed. You would need to make alternate arrangements for transportation.

- How does a middle school NJHS student transition to NHS at Steinbrenner?
 - NJHS and NHS are two separate organizations. Membership in NJHS does not transfer to high school NHS. A separate application process will need to be completed for NHS. Information about NHS will be posted on Canvas.

- Where do I go for the carline?
 - A map of the carline process is included below. ALL drop offs and pickups are only allowed as shown. During the 2023-2024 school year, there will be student consequences for drop off or pickup violations taking place in unassigned areas.



MARTINEZ MIDDLE SCHOOL



STEINBRENNER HIGH SCHOOL TRAFFIC PATTERNS