

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must earn a minimum of 25 credits in order to graduate for classes 2009 and 2010. **In addition the student must score at the Proficient Level or higher on the PSSA Reading, Math, Writing and Science tests, administered in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, or demonstrate proficiency on a Southeast Delco School District adopted assessment. The number of credits needed to graduate from Academy Park High School will increase to 27 for the class 2011 and beyond.**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Courses Required</b>
English (English I, English II English III, English IV)	4 courses
Social Studies (World Cultures I, World Cultures II, American Cultures, Problems of Democracy)	4 courses
Wellness/Fitness	4 courses
Mathematics	4 courses
Science (Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry)	3 courses
Foreign Language (Classes 2011 and beyond)	2 courses
Arts and Humanities	1 course
Integrated Computer Technology	1 course
School to Career	1 course
Health	1 course

**ACADEMY PARK HIGH SCHOOL  
COURSE SELECTION  
REQUIRED COURSES FOR CLASSES OF 2009 AND 2010**

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

English - (Full year)  
IMP I – (Full year)  
Physical Science-  
World Cultures I  
Physical Education  
Elective  
    Chorus  
    Broadcast Basics  
    Band  
    Art Elective  
    Spanish I  
    French I

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

English  
IMP II  
Biology  
World Cultures II  
Physical Education  
Health  
Integrated Computer Technology  
Elective  
    Chorus  
    Band  
    Art I  
    Spanish I, II  
    French I, II  
    Exploratory Business

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

English  
American Cultures  
IMP III  
Chemistry  
Physical Education  
School to Career  
Electives (3.0 credits)

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

English  
Problems of Democracy  
IMP IV  
Physical Education  
Electives (4.5 credits)

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

1. All Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors must schedule 8 credits for the year.  
All seniors must schedule 7 credits for the year.
2. Students must pass pre-requisite courses prior to taking the next course in a sequence of courses.

**ACADEMY PARK HIGH SCHOOL  
COURSE SELECTION  
REQUIRED COURSES FOR CLASSES OF 2011 AND 2012**

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade - (2011)**

English - (Full year)  
IMP I – (Full year)  
Physical Science- (Full year)  
World Cultures I  
Physical Education  
Elective  
    Chorus  
    Broadcast Basics  
    Band  
    Art Elective

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

English  
IMP II  
Biology  
World Cultures II  
Physical Education  
Health  
Spanish I or French I  
Integrated Computer Technology  
Elective  
    Chorus  
    Band  
    Art I  
    Spanish II  
    French II  
    Exploratory Business

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

English  
American Cultures  
IMP III  
Chemistry  
Physical Education  
School to Career  
Spanish II or French II  
Electives (2.0 credits)

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

English  
Problems of Democracy  
IMP IV  
Physical Education  
Electives (4.5 credits)

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

3. All Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors must schedule 8 credits for the year.  
All seniors must schedule 7 credits for the year.
4. Students must pass pre-requisite courses prior to taking the next course in a sequence of courses.

## **CLASSES 2009 AND 2010 PROMOTION**

1. A student must have earned a minimum of 6 credits to be in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. A student must have earned a minimum of 11 credits to be in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.
3. A student must have earned a minimum of 17 credits and three (3) years in high school to be in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **CLASSES 2011 AND BEYOND PROMOTION**

1. A student must have earned a minimum of 6 credits to be in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. A student must have earned a minimum of 12 credits to be in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.
3. A student must have earned a minimum of 19 credits to be in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Note: If a student fails English or Math after the first semester they will not be eligible to take the course during the second semester.**

## **CREDITS**

Each course is given a credit value based on the number of meetings per semester.

- Courses that meet every other day during a semester are worth .5 credits.
- Courses that meet every day during a semester are worth 1.0 credit.
- Vocational-Technical School Courses meet for 2 blocks per day during the semester and are worth 2.0 credits for each semester.
- **NOTE:** There may be some exceptions to these rules such as resource room, some music classes and various other offerings.

## **GRADES**

1. A passing grade of 60% or higher is required to earn credit for a course.
2. Courses failed with final grade of E may be made up in either Summer School or during the following school year in order to earn credit toward graduation. A student must have a cumulative grade of 50% in order to be eligible for summer school.

## **Grade Distribution**

<b>A+ 98-100</b>	<b>B+ 87-89</b>	<b>C+ 77-79</b>	<b>D+ 67-69</b>
<b>A 94-97</b>	<b>B 84-86</b>	<b>C 74-76</b>	<b>D 64-66</b>
<b>A- 90-93</b>	<b>B- 80-83</b>	<b>C- 70-73</b>	<b>D- 60-63</b>
			<b>E 59-50</b>
			<b>F 49-below</b>

## **Summer School**

1. Courses failed with final grade of E may be made up in either Summer School or during the following school year in order to earn credit toward graduation. A student must have a cumulative grade of 50% in order to be eligible for summer school. (Courses failed with final grade of F must be retaken the next year).
2. Credit will be recorded for Summer School courses only if completed by August 2008.
3. No more than 2 courses may be taken in a program outside of Academy Park. Students may not take Math, English, Social Studies or Science as a correspondence course.

## **SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS**

1. Students are expected to continue and complete all courses selected.
2. Any schedule adjustments needed because of failures during the previous school year must be made as soon as possible.
3. All course change requests must be submitted prior to the end of school year. No scheduled courses will be changed after the last day of school.

## **ABILITY GROUPING/LEVELING**

1. In the major subject areas of English, Math, Science and Social Studies, students should choose courses that are in line with their ability in that specific subject. Students must meet all prerequisite requirements in order to take any course. Most of the courses will be taught at two levels. These levels are as follows:

- **Honors-** This level is an accelerated college prep level of work for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Students will be selected for these courses based on teacher recommendations , and a final grade of B or better in the previous course.
- **College Prep** – This level will prepare students for a four-year college program. Students should be prepared for a rigorous amount of homework and reading.

Since ability may differ from one subject area to another, it is possible that a student be in an Honors English class and a College Prep Math Class

2. Leveling information is given with the course descriptions found in this book.

### **Course Weighting**

Each course in our curriculum will be assigned a “weight” which represents the academic challenge of the course, and which corresponds to the courses level. Course weight is an important factor in the calculation of a student’s class rank. The higher the course weight, the more quality points a student receives for their final grade in that course. The leveled courses are weighted as follows:

<u><b>Weight</b></u>	<u><b>Level</b></u>
2.0	Advanced Placement Courses
1.5	Honors level course
1.3	Foreign Language Level III & IV
1.0	College Prep and all other courses

### **Electives**

Electives are all courses that are taken by a student and are not specifically required for graduation. Electives can be found in each curricular area. Parents and students should realize that electives are an important part of a student’s schedule. They should be selected based on a student’s ability, need and future career goals. Like other courses, electives can be restricted to specific grades, ability grouping and prerequisites. Some electives are worth half a credit; others are worth one credit.

During the scheduling process, each student is requested to pick two (2) alternative electives in case the scheduling of a student's first choice can not take place.

### **Post Secondary Students**

Course selection is an extremely important process for students planning on going to college after graduating. It should be noted that a student's **high school transcript is the single most important factor in the college admissions process.** The transcript will show all of the courses a student took since entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade and what grade was received for each course. It is a necessity, therefore, that students take the most appropriately challenging course available. It will be detrimental to take courses that are too easy or too difficult.

### **Time Line**

Listed below are a sequence of activities that are recommended for students that intend to go on to further education after high school. The Academy Park High School provides literature about preparation for post secondary education which is available in the guidance office. The following websites are recommended:

[www.educationplanner.org](http://www.educationplanner.org)

[www.pheaamentor.org](http://www.pheaamentor.org)

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

#### **Freshman Year**

1. Develop a four-year plan for course selection and school activities.
2. Develop good study habits and earn good grades in school. Programs begin to look at your grades starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### **Sophomore Year**

1. Update your four-year plan and continue to earn good grades in school.
2. The PSAT \*exam is in October at Academy Park. It is recommended for students in college prep and honors level courses.
3. Begin to research the career education and program resources available in the guidance office and the library.

## **Junior Year**

### **FALL**

1. Take the PSAT \*exam in October at Academy Park.
2. Attend any college and career fairs available at Academy Park High School or in the Philadelphia area.
3. Review your senior year course selections and continue to improve your grades. The Grade Point Average and class rank at the end of 11<sup>th</sup> grade are what will be used by schools to evaluate you. The final grades of your junior year are the last ones that a school will see, before they make a decision about you.
4. Talk to your guidance counselor and research career, college and scholarship possibilities in the guidance office and library. You should limit your college choices to no more than five by the beginning of your senior year.
5. Write to schools to request an application, a catalog, brochures, and financial aid information.

### **SPRING**

6. Take the SAT I \*exam or ACT\* on one of the spring test dates.
7. Consider taking the SAT II \*test if it is required by one of your college choices.
8. Try to plan a visit to the colleges or programs that you may want to attend.  
**\*Fee waivers are available for qualified students on free or reduced lunch plans.**

## **Senior Year**

### **FALL**

1. Take the SAT I\* or ACT\* exam in October or November.
2. Take the SAT II\*\* exam if it is required by any of your colleges.
3. Ask 1-3 faculty members to write you a letter of recommendation.
4. Write a generic essay about yourself that can be included in your college application.
5. Update your college and career plans by meeting with your guidance counselor, doing research in the guidance office and library, attending college representative meetings, and attending college or career fairs.
6. Apply to 3-5 colleges or programs. Remember that every application has a \$10-\$50 fee.
7. Ask the guidance office to prepare your transcript for your application, preferably by Thanksgiving.
8. Apply for any scholarships for which you meet the qualification requirements. Information will be available in the guidance office, the library, the announcements, and the Internet

## **SPRING**

9. Obtain and fill out any necessary financial aid forms. PHEAA application can be sent after January 1.
10. Prioritize your college choices.
11. Inform your guidance counselor of all college and program acceptances and scholarship offers.
12. Inform the guidance office which college needs your final transcript. Colleges will not let you begin classes in September without receiving a final transcript of your senior grades and proof of your graduation.

**\*Fee waivers are available for qualified students on free or reduced lunch plans.**

## **Transfer Credits**

**Whenever a student transfers to Academy Park High School, please note the following three scenarios to properly understand quality points and class rank:**

- A. **Because every student at this high school can acquire eight credits per year, transfer students can only transfer a maximum of eight credits per year.**
- B. **Guidance counselors will convert any numerical score to a letter grade using our grading policy.**
- C. **Quality points derived from each class will be input based upon documentation received on the student's transcript indicating the level of difficulty for each course, e.g., college preparatory, or honor level class. If no documentation appears, Academy Park will consider the level to be college prep.**