

The Freshman Bulletin

Volume 1, Issue 1
South Houston High School

September 2008
Class of 2012



Welcome 2008—2009 Freshmen

What is a Credit?

- High school classes have been assigned a value called a credit.
- Each class you are taking is worth .5 or 1/2 credit.
- Each semester you will earn **3.5 credits** — for a total of **7 credits** for the year.
- You will need at least 5 credits to be a **sophomore next year, but if you do not earn all 7 this year, you will need to consider summer school to get back on track overall.**
- You will need **26 credits** to graduate from high school.



26 Credit Graduation Plan:

English Language Arts	4 credits (4 years)
Mathematics	4 credits (4 years) Algebra I, Geometry Algebra II (plus math choice)
Science	4 credits (4 years) Biology, Chemistry Physics (plus science choice)
Social Studies	4 credits (4 years) World Geography, World History, U.S. History Government and Economics
Health	1/2 credit (1 semester)
Communication Applications	1/2 credit (1 semester)
Languages (other than English)	2 credits (2 years of Spanish or French)
Fine Arts	1 credit (1 year) Art, Theatre, Band, Choir, Orchestra, or Dance.
Physical Education	1 1/2 credits (1 year + 1 semester) ROTC, Athletics, Marching Band, or Dance Training.
Technology Applications	1 credit (1 year) BCIS, Computer Science, or Web Mastering.
Electives	3 1/2 credits

- **Every class** you are taking **counts** toward graduation.
- There are **TWO** ways to lose credits in a class—**Unacceptable attendance** and **Failing grades.**

Counselors:

HR 9-01—9-25 Ms. Brannan
kbrannan@pasadenaisd.org
 HR 9-26—9-29 Mrs. Coon
bcoon@pasadenaisd.org
 Special Populations—
 Mrs. Hogan
bhogan@pasadenaisd.org

Students who need to see their counselor need to ask the counselors' secretaries for a blue "*Request to See the Counselor*" form. Complete this and return this to the secretaries, and your counselor will call for you. When you come to the Counseling Center, be sure to "sign in" and "sign out" for attendance records.

DATES to Remember:

Oct. 10—End of 1st 6 weeks
Oct. 17—Report Cards go home
Nov. 4—Student Holiday
Nov. 8—Spanish Credit by Exam.
Nov. 14 —End of 2nd 6 Weeks
Nov. 18—Academic Excellence Program—8:30 a.m.
Nov. 21—Report Cards go home
Nov. 24-28—Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 19—Early Dismissal
Dec. 21—End of 1st Semester
Dec. 22-Jan 2—Christmas Holidays
Jan. 16—Student Holiday
Jan. 19—Holiday
Jan. 20 —2nd semester begins
Jan. 23—Semester 1 Report Cards go home

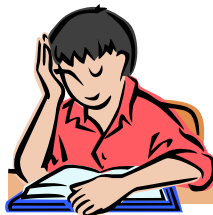
ATTENDANCE:

- You may be absent 3 days in a class without penalty per semester.
- After 3 absences, you must have a doctor's note for each absence.
- Eight (8) doctor's notes will be accepted. After that, you must make up time.
- If you do not make up your time, you will **NOT receive credit—even if you passed the course.**
- Students who need to make up time must attend **tutorials** with their teachers.



GRADES:

- You must make at least a **70** to pass a class, **even a Pre-AP class.**
- There are 3 six week grading periods in every semester.
 - 1st 6 weeks ends—October 10th
 - 2nd 6 weeks ends—November 14th
 - 3rd 6 weeks and semester 1 ends—January 15th
- Teachers will add the **three 6 weeks averages** together and multiply by **2**. They will add the **semester exam** to this total and **divide by 7** to calculate your semester grade.
- The **semester grade** is the grade that will be added to your high school transcript, which is the official record of your high school grades. A **grade point** is given for each **semester** grade. These grade points are added together and divided by **7** to determine the semester Grade Point Average.
- If you did **NOT** make up your time, you will receive **0** grade points for that class, **even if you passed it.**



SPANISH CREDIT BY EXAM:

- If you have never had a Spanish class, you can take the **Spanish I Exam.**
- If you have Spanish I this year, you can take the **Spanish II Exam.**
 - You can earn a **whole credit** in **Spanish** if you take the **Spanish Credit by Exam** and score a **90** or above. If you do not pass it, you can take it again.
 - The next Spanish CBE will be at **South Houston High** on **Saturday, November 8th.**
 - It is **FREE** and the testing will take about 2 hours.
 - Counselors will announce the days when you can come to the Counseling Center to register.
 - The Spanish CBE will also be given **next semester** on **Saturday, March 28th.**



COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- Community Service is **NOT** a requirement for graduation, but if you complete **100 hours** of Community Service, you will be recognized at graduation.
- Community Service verification forms are available in the Counseling Center.
- When you are doing Community Service, complete your form, have a supervisor sign it, and put it in the Community Service **collection box in the Counseling Center.**
- Mrs. Beaudry, a SHHS CATE teacher, collects these and keeps your hours current.
- Mrs. Beaudry will set deadlines each year for turning in the forms. These deadlines must be met!
- **Many college applications and scholarships (that you will be completing your junior and senior year) ask for community service hours.**
- Give others a helping hand and feel good about yourself!!!!



WHAT CAN I DO NOW THAT I WILL APPRECIATE LATER?

- Make the **BEST GRADES** that you can to improve your **GPA** and class **RANK.**
- **Come to school.** Many programs for juniors and seniors (such as cosmetology, auto technology, auto collision and repair, electronics, welding, etc.) require good grades **and attendance.**
- Join a **club or organization** and be an active member for four years.
- Run for an **office** in your club or organization or run for a **class office.**
- Begin your **Community Service** volunteer work.
- Consider registering for some **Pre-AP classes next year.** They will help prepare you for the road to college. During your Junior and Senior years take **AP** classes and take the **AP EXAMS.** By achieving certain scores on these tests, could receive college credit before you even get to college!