

# Course Selection for the 2025 – 2026 School Year



# OTHS Counselors

A – COR – Ms. Naseman

COS – HEM – Ms. Khan

HEN – MAC – Ms. Valdez

MAD – PES – Mr. O’Callaghan

PET – SID – Ms. Luna

Sie – Z – Ms. Paez

College Career Readiness Counselor – Ms. Atilano



# The Basics



- All students choose at least one endorsement at the time they enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade. This can be adjusted as student interests change.
- There are multiple pathways to complete each endorsement.
- The endorsement should be selected based on the student's individual interests and goals.
- Students may change and/or confirm the endorsement(s) along with their course selections each year. The counselor can change endorsements in their meeting if needed.
- At the beginning of senior year, counselors review transcripts and apply every endorsement earned.

The following information  
can be found in the course  
catalog accessed through  
SchoolLinks.



Schoolinks





# Graduation Requirements



## EOC Requirements

FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (FHSP) <i>The 22-Credit Foundation Is Required for All Endorsements</i>	
<b>ENGLISH</b> .....	4
Must consist of English I, II, III (ESOL I may be substituted for English I for students with limited English proficiency), and an additional English course	
<b>MATHEMATICS</b> .....	3
Must include Algebra I, Geometry, and an additional math course	
<b>SCIENCE</b> .....	3
Must include one Biology credit, one credit selected from IPC, or Chemistry, or Physics; and an additional, lab-based science course	
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> .....	3
Must include U.S. History, one-half credit Government, one-half credit Economics, and either World History <u>or</u> World Geography	
<b>OTHER LANGUAGES</b> .....	2
Must consist of 2 levels in the same language; designated Computer Science courses may substitute	
<b>FINE ARTS</b> .....	1
Choir, Band, Orchestra, Dance, Art, Theatre Arts, Art History, or Music Theory I and II; Floral Design or Digital Art & Animation may substitute	
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b> .....	1
May include Athletics or PE (up to 4 credits), Foundations of Personal Fitness (.5 credit); Dance, Dance Team I, fall semesters of Marching Band or the first year of Cheerleading may substitute.	
<b>HEALTH</b> .....	0.5
Katy ISD Board-adopted requirement	
<b>ELECTIVES</b> .....	4.5
Must include a communication skills component, earned through Professional Communications, Debate, Oral Interpretation, AP Seminar, Professional Standards in Agribusiness, LeadWorthy, Theatre, Theatre Production or Dual Credit Speech.	
<b>TOTAL FHSP CREDITS</b>	22

English Language Arts
English I English II
Math
Algebra I
Science
Biology
Social Studies
US History

# Endorsement

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ENDORSEMENT	
<b>MATHEMATICS</b> .....	1
<b>SCIENCE</b> .....	1
<b>ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES</b> .....	2
Electives must be chosen from the five endorsement categories of STEM, Business & Industry, Arts & Humanities, Public Services, and/or Multidisciplinary Studies	
<b>TOTAL CREDITS: FHSP + ENDORSEMENT</b>	26
College Board Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses may be substituted in appropriate areas for both Foundation and Endorsement credits.	

ENDORSEMENTS
All students are required to declare an endorsement in writing. Students will be permitted to change their endorsement with written notification.
There are five endorsement options, which allow students flexibility based on individual interests and career goals. Each endorsement category is designed to prepare students to successfully enter postsecondary education or the workforce upon graduation from high school.
The endorsement and the career areas to which they correspond are as listed below:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>STEM</b> – Science, Technology; Engineering and Mathematics (Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics are required for the STEM endorsement);</li> <li>◦ <b>PUBLIC SERVICES</b> – Education and Training; JROTC; Health Science; Human Services; and Law and Public Service;</li> <li>◦ <b>BUSINESS &amp; INDUSTRY</b> – Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources; Architecture and Construction; Arts, A/V Technology and Communications; Business, Marketing and Finance; Hospitality and Tourism; Information Technology; Manufacturing; Transportation; and Journalism, and Public speaking;</li> <li>◦ <b>ARTS &amp; HUMANITIES</b> –Social Studies; Languages other than English; Fine Arts; and English Language Arts;</li> <li>◦ <b>MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES</b> – Allows students to take courses in several endorsement areas as listed above.</li> </ul>

# Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA)

The Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA) is earned through successful completion of:

- All requirements for the Foundation High School Program, plus
- The requirements of at least one endorsement, including
  - Algebra II among the four required math credits, and
  - A fourth science credit

A student must graduate with a Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA) to be considered for the Top 10% and eligibility for automatic admission to a Texas public college or university.





**Algebra II** is not specified as a graduation requirement; however, students who do not earn Algebra II credit are not eligible for the following:

- Earning the Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA), which requires completion of an endorsement with Algebra II among the four math credits
- Recognition as an honors or high honors graduate
- Automatic admission to a state public college or university
- Certain financial aid opportunities, including the TEXAS grant or the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant



# Choosing Next Year's Courses

1. Choose or review your endorsement. If you want to change your endorsement, please bring that information to your meeting with your counselor.
2. Choose the core/required classes:
  - English
  - Math
  - Science
  - Social Studies
3. Choose three additional courses/electives to fill all SEVEN class periods.
4. Courses marked (*sem*) are one-semester courses. If one course marked (*sem*) is selected, a second is also required.

***Every student will meet with their school counselor to review credits and finalize course requests.***

## Warning!

- You cannot repeat a course for which you have already earned credit.
- Pay close attention to courses that have prerequisites.





# Course Selection Timeline

- 11/15/24      SchooLinks open for Parents/Students to start planning  
Gather questions for your course selection meeting with your counselor
- 1/16/25      Legacy Parent Academy: Course Selection Informational Session
- 1/22/25      District Course Selection Fair 5:30 – 8:00 @ the Merrell Center
- 1/27/25      OTHS Future Falcon Night for 8th Grade Families 5:30 – 7:00 Main Commons
- 1/31/25      Course Selections due through SchooLinks
- 2/3 – 3/7      Student Course Selection Meetings with their Counselor
- 3/18/25      Course Verification Closes on SchooLinks  
LAST DAY to request changes to courses for the 2025-2026 school year
- 3/19/25      SchooLinks exports data to eSchool to be used in building the master  
schedule and new hires



# Things to Know!

March 18 is the deadline for changes to course requests. When schedules are published in the Fall of 2026, the **ONLY** changes allowed will be in the following cases:

1. Error in scheduling by the school (data entry error)
2. Student has not met course prerequisites
3. Student has already earned credit for the course
4. Approved change in program (athletics, fine arts, etc.) notification from coach/director required
5. Level changes as recommended by the teacher and counselor, with parent and principal approval
6. Student did not meet standard on STAAR/EOC exam.

Counselors will use student alternates to fix issues/errors in scheduling. New course selections will not be requested or accepted. If you do not have alternates, counselors will add classes needed as graduation requirements or classes in (or similar to) your pathway.



# Top 10% Rule

A student whose class rank\* is in the top 10 percent of the graduating class may be eligible for automatic admission consideration at a Texas public college or university.

*\*Class rank must be based on the student's rank at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, middle of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, or at high school graduation, whichever is most recent at the college or university's application deadline.*



# Top 10% Rule: UT-Austin Exception

A student in the Top 10% of the graduating class is eligible for automatic admission consideration at Texas public colleges and universities, **with the exception of the University of Texas at Austin.**

\*Seniors of the class of 2026 who rank in the Top 5% of their class are eligible for automatic admissions consideration at the University of Texas at Austin.

## Requirements to Qualify for Automatic Admission Consideration:

Complete the FHSP + Endorsement, including the Distinguished Level of Achievement

Earn a satisfactory ACT or SAT score

Submit the application before the college or university's deadline

Provide a final high school transcript verifying completion of the

FHSP + Endorsement, including the Distinguished Level of Achievement.

# New Options for 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Graders

- Miller Career & Technology Center
- Bigger variety of AP Courses
- Dual Credit Courses
- Early release/Late arrival





## What Happens at Miller?

Miller Career & Technology Center serves as a central site for students to take specialized CTE courses not available at their home campus. At Miller we develop college-and-career ready students through engaging real-world experiences.



# What are the Benefits of going to Miller?

- ❑ Opportunity to experience a particular industry
- ❑ Certification, license and internship opportunities
- ❑ Use industry level software/equipment



# What Types of Courses Does Miller Offer?

## Business & Industry CTE Courses

Architectural Design  
Auto Tech  
Computer Maintenance  
Cisco Network Engineering  
Cyber Security  
Construction Trades  
Culinary Arts  
Digital Audio  
Film  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Vet Med

## Public Services CTE Courses

Cosmetology  
Education  
Law Enforcement  
Legal Studies

## Health Science CTE Courses

Clinical Rotations  
Emergency Medical Tech. (EMT)  
Dental Assisting  
Pharmacy Tech

## STEM CTE COURSES

Practicum in STEM



Scan QR code  
to visit our programs page,  
or visit [katyisd.org/mctc](http://katyisd.org/mctc)





# To request a course at MCTC:

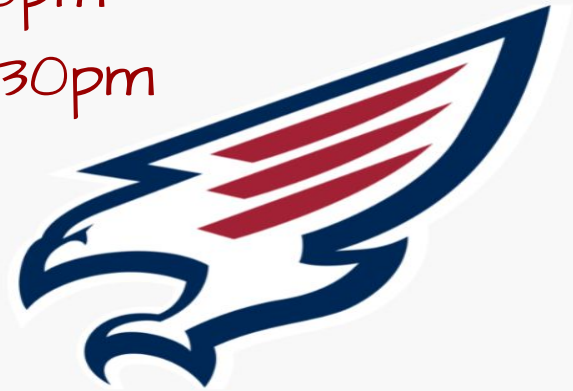
## MILLER CAREER CENTER:

Students will choose the courses in their plan in SchoolLinks AND request the courses through the Miller tile in their MyKaty Cloud. This tile opens January 27 at 7am and closes February 28 at 11:59pm.

## MILLER CAREER CENTER Preview Nights:

Current 9th - 11th grade is Jan 27 from 6:00 to 7:30pm

Current 6th - 8th grade is Feb 24 from 6:00 to 7:30pm



# AP (Advanced Placement) Courses

## AP Courses are:

- College level courses
- Includes a strong focus in reading & writing
- The curriculum is designed by the College Board
- Students who make a 3 or better (out of 5) on an AP exam **may** receive college credit for the course\*
- Katy ISD offers AP courses in Math, Science, Social Studies, English, World Languages, Fine Arts, and Computer Sciences

\*Varies based on University policy

You can verify credits awarded by colleges through the AP Credit Policy Search on College Board's website:

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies>



# What is Dual Credit?

Dual Credit is a process by which a high school student enrolls in a college course taught on campus and/or virtually. Students receive academic credit for the course from both Houston Community College and the high school at the same time.

## Dual Credit Core Courses:

- Are taught by college faculty or college-approved high school instructors meeting the same standards and requirements of regularly employed college faculty.
- Meet Texas Common Core requirements and are transferable to any public college or university in the state of Texas

Dual Credit informational meeting  
December 16, OTHS Main Commons,  
6:00 - 7:00 PM





# College Level Coursework

## College Readiness

Dual Credit courses allow students to experience the demands that college will bring and help them to better understand what is expected of them as college students.



# Reminders!

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1/22/25	District course selection fair
1/27/25	OTHS Future Falcon Night
1/31/25	Course Selections Due Through SchooLinks
2/3 – 3/7/25	Student/Counselor Course Selection Meetings
3/18/25	Course Verification Closes on SchooLinks LAST DAY to request changes
3/19/25	SchooLinks exports data to eSchool





Congrats! You are now a course selection expert. Please pay close attention to all updates that are published by the district. We will include them in the Falcon Newsletter as well.