

# Legacy Parent Academy

## January 16, 2025

6-7 pm Moving Up from Elementary to Junior High

7-8 pm Moving Up from Junior High to High School

# Moving Up from Elementary to Junior High School

**January 16, 2025**

**Katy ISD  
Office of Academic Counseling &  
Social Worker Team**



# Questions

Scan the QR code or Use the link  
below to add your questions.

<https://tinyurl.com/mvm3d3u5>



# Differences Between Elementary and Junior High

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# Comparing Elementary and Junior High

## Elementary

- 1-3 teachers
- Class length (1.5 hr-6 hrs depending)
- Travel in groups with teacher
- Recess
- Lunch - few choices
- Electives during specials
- Homeroom



## Junior High

- 7-8 teachers
- Class length - 45 minutes and advisory
- Travel independently
- PE
- Lunch - more choices
- Elective class
  - Fine Arts: choir, theater, art, band, and orchestra
  - Other Elective: Lead Worthy (Intermed)
- No Homeroom - teachers, counselors and AP serve as student's support team

# Sample Student Schedule

Period	Course-Section	Description	Room	Teacher	Building
1	J921-202	Band 1	167	Maher, Richard	41 - Katy Junior High
2	J680-89	PE 6 (Boys)	GYM-1	Middlebrook, Deryle	41 - Katy Junior High
3a	J614-5	Math 6 KAP	145	Turnbow, Brenda	41 - Katy Junior High
3b	J614-5	Math 6 KAP	145	Turnbow, Brenda	41 - Katy Junior High
3d	J634-6	Science 6 KAP	136	Smith, Barbara	41 - Katy Junior High
4b	J634-6	Science 6 KAP	136	Smith, Barbara	41 - Katy Junior High
4c	LUNCH-2	LUNCH	CAFE	Brazo, Rafael	41 - Katy Junior High
5b	J624-6	Soc Studies 6 KAP	146	Royster, Shelly	41 - Katy Junior High
5c	J624-6	Soc Studies 6 KAP	146	Royster, Shelly	41 - Katy Junior High
6	J695-17	Advisory 6	159	Willis, Sarah	41 - Katy Junior High
7	J606-5	Eng/Read 6 Block KAP	155	Wilson, Ryan	41 - Katy Junior High
8	J606-5	Eng/Read 6 Block KAP	155	Wilson, Ryan	41 - Katy Junior High

# Sample Student Schedule

PERIOD	SEM.	ROOM NO.	SUBJECT	TEACHER	COURSE NO.
1	BS	167	Band 1	Maher, R	J921
2	BS	GYM-1	PE 6 (Boys)	Middlebrook, D	J680
3	BS	145	Math 6 KAP	Turnbow, B	J614
4	BS	136	Science 6 KAP	Smith, B	J634
LUNCH	BS	CAFE	LUNCH	Brazo, R	LUNCH
5	BS	146	Soc Studies 6 KAP	Royster, S	J624
6	BS	159	Advisory 6	Willis, S	J695
7	BS	155	Eng/Read 6 Block KAP	Wilson, R	J606
8	BS	155	Eng/Read 6 Block KAP	Wilson, R	J606

## KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT - STUDENT SCHEDULE

# Academics and Course Selection

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# Weight of Grades

Grades 1-5 ( <a href="#">pg 82 Katy ISD Student handbook</a> )		
Major	40%	Tests, In-Class Projects, Formal Assessments
Minor	50%	Quizzes, Classwork, Projects completed at home, Daily Assignments
Other	10%	Homework, Participation, Effort, Process, etc.

# Weight of Grades

Grade 6 - Academic ( <a href="#">pg 89 Katy ISD Student Handbook</a> )		
Major	50%	Tests, Performance Evaluation, Tasks, Writing Assignments, Major Projects, Research Papers, Culmination Work
Minor	35%	Quizzes, Products, Multi-day Assignments, Lab Quizzes/Projects/Classwork, Class Timed Writing
Other	15%	Daily work, Class Work, Homework Graded for Completion, Participation, Single Day Assignment, Worksheet, Practice Records, Daily Skills, Cognitive Assessments, Oral Work

Grade 6 - KAP/GT ( <a href="#">pg 89 Katy ISD Student Handbook</a> )		
Major	55%	Tests, Performance Evaluation, Tasks, Writing Assignments, Major Projects, Research Papers, Culmination Work
Minor	30%	Quizzes, Products, Multi-day Assignments, Lab Quizzes/Projects/Classwork, Class Timed Writing
Other	15%	Daily work, Class Work, Homework Graded for Completion, Participation, Single Day Assignment, Worksheet, Practice Records, Daily Skills, Cognitive Assessments, Oral Work

# Grade Reporting

- Frequency of grade reports
- UIL implications in Junior High
  - University Interscholastic League (the organization that governs extracurricular activities)
  - No pass, no play
  - Future parent meeting
- Parents are encouraged to view student grade reports in HAC

# Course Selection

- Timeline and process
- Different levels of classes
  - Based on eligibility for programs (SE, ESL, 504, GT) students may be placed in specific clusters and/or classes with qualified staff
    - Parents will receive information about this (ARD, LPAC, 504, letter, etc.)
- Choosing electives
- How STAAR test can affect course selection
- Informational Events for Parents
  - [KAP Parent Resources](#)
  - Junior High School Parent Night Meeting
- Opportunity to make changes
- Elementary Counselor will support your fifth grade student throughout the course selection process

# Course Selection - important dates

- **January**
  - **Campus Parent Nights**
  - **JH Counselors will visit 5th gd students to discuss Course Selection**
- **January 22 6:00-8:00pm Katy ISD Course Selection Fair at Leonard Merrell Center**
- **January 29 5:30-6:30pm Course Selection Parent Webinar #3**
- **February 3 - Campus Deadline**
  - Students Complete and Submit Course Planner in SchoolLinks**
  - Students submit Personalized Plan in SchoolLinks**
  - Parents view and Approve student Personalized Plans**
  - Counselors approve courses in SchoolLinks**

***\*NOTE: Please visit your campus' Counselor page for detailed information on campus dates for course selection meetings (Parent Information Meetings and Student/Counselor Meetings.)***

# Academic vs. Katy Advanced Placement (KAP)

An **academic** class is a course designed to meet state/district standards and ensure students develop the knowledge and skills required for each grade level. The curriculum is vertically aligned to progressively build on prior learning, preparing students for success in subsequent courses. These courses allow for more time to review concepts.

A **KAP** class is a course designed to meet state/district standards and ensure students develop the knowledge and skills required for each grade level. These courses are more challenging and fast paced. They require more independent learning and homework and prepare students for AP classes in high school and beyond.

# What students select during course selections

All students select the following:

4 **Core courses** – student can choose Academic or KAP level

English Language Arts & Reading course – 2 periods

Math course – 1 period

Science Course – 1 period

Social Studies Course – 1 period

1 **PE Course** – 1 period

Boys/Girls PE or Pre-Athletics

1 **Fine Arts/Elective Course** – 1 period

Fine Arts Options (Theater, Art, Choir, Orchestra, Band)

Leadworthy Intermediate

# Off Campus PE

Parents and students need to review [Off campus PE information on this webpage](#)

Eligibility is based on the numbers of hours per week a student participates in their activity.

- ❖ 15+ hours – a student does not have a PE class in their schedule and they leave school one period early
- ❖ at least 5 hours a week – a student does not have a PE class in their schedule and they have an extra elective course



# Students who receive support services

- Students can choose academic or KAP core courses during course selection in SchooLinks
- Students can choose an elective course (Fine Arts or Leadworthy Intermediate)
- Students can choose their PE (boys or girls)
- If your student receives support services through programs such as special education, ESL, 504, MTSS or GT, the services may continue into the next grade level, and the counselor will update courses selections pending information from your child's support services meeting.

# Junior High Relationships at School and Home

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# Making Friends: Social Relationships

- Students come from 2-8 different feeder elementary schools
- Each class is filled with a different mix of potential friends
- Talk about social skills (What is the motive behind what we think and speak)
- Joining Groups-Finding a connection with your school



# Parent/Child Relationship in Junior High

- Student and social relationships become most important
- Listen, Encourage and Support
- Communication is vital
- In the Developmental LifeSpan: Junior High is a time for trying on different personas, until they find the one persona that feels safe and comfortable.
- Allow for Autonomy

# Conversation Starters

- Rate your day on a scale of 1-10. What made it that?
- What three words could describe your day?
- Are you looking forward to anything for tomorrow?
- What was the most challenging part of your day?
- Is there anything that I can help you with?
- If you could do any moment from today over again, what would it be? Would you change anything?
- If you could buy anything for your school, what would it be?
- If you could do anything with any classmate, who would it be and what would you do?
- When you think about the other students at school, was there anything that concerned you?
- Do you have someone at school that you feel comfortable talking to? Who would that be? Why?
- What was the most rewarding part of your day?
- What made you laugh today?
- What was the best thing that happened at school today?
- If you could choose, who would you like to sit by in class? Why?
- Were you able to help anyone today? Did you need help with anything?
- What do you think you should do more of at school?
- If you were teacher, what would you do?
- What did you do for others today?
- What is one positive thing you did today?
- What is one positive thing you saw happen today?

# Characteristics of a Successful Junior High Student

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# Characteristics of a Successful Junior High Student

## ● Problem Solver

- Problems in elementary & junior high are usually not big.
- How do we teach problem solving?
  - Let them solve their own problems.
  - Provide empathy.
  - “How do you think you are going to solve this problem?”
  - Ask for permission to give ideas.
  - Don’t save them from the consequences of their solution.
  - Start with small problems.

## ● Decision Maker

- Decisions in elementary and junior high are not usually high stakes.
- How do we teach decision making?
  - Let them make their own decisions.
  - “Wow, that’s a tough decision.”
  - “Do you want to talk through the pros and cons?”
  - Don’t save them from making the wrong decision.
  - Start with small decisions.

# Characteristics of a Successful Junior High Student

## ● Responsible & Organized

- Homework/Sleep/Time Management
- How do we teach? » Natural Consequences
  - Set a Routine
  - Set Expectations
  - Increase Responsibility
  - Calendar/Planner/Electronic
  - Have a place for everything (supplies, where to study, classwork)
  - Canvas
  - Building Healthy Study Habits

## ● Attentive

- Classroom
- Announcement
- Accountability

## ● Independent

- Advocate for Self
- How do we teach independence?

## ● Communicator

- Peers
- Teachers
- I Messages

## ● Resourceful With Technology

- Home Access Center
- MyKaty Cloud
- Canvas, SchoolLinks
- Other Helpful Apps (Remind)



# What kids wish they knew and how to support them

- Teachers aren't as scary as they seem. Asking for help can only help you be more successful.
- Quality friends over quantity of friends. Being popular is overrated.
- Your parents will be annoying, but they really do care
- Passing periods are terrifying but you'll figure it out. They're serious about them tardies
- Go to the introduction days/schedule pick up. I felt so much more ready for the first day when I already knew where I was going.

# Closing and Questions

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# Enrich your Understanding

For Parents: Helping your Kids  
Transition to Middle School with  
Dr. Dehra Harris

\*Find Support

\*Practice Self-Care



# Thank you for attending!

We appreciate your active  
partnership in supporting your child!

Thank  
You!



**SchoolLinks Course Catalog**



# Moving Up-Junior High to High School

Katy ISD  
Office of Academic Counseling  
&  
Social Worker Team

January 16, 2025



# Questions

Scan the QR code or Use the link  
below to add your questions.

<https://tinyurl.com/mvm3d3u5>





# Graduation Requirements

# Graduation Plans

**Foundation High School Program + Endorsements (26 credits)**

**Foundations Only (22 credits)**

**Texas First Diploma and Scholarship Program (22 credits)**

**\*Class of 2029 and Thereafter - Graduation Requirements**

- **Speech and Health are no longer required courses**



# Graduation Requirements

- **Earn 26 credits**
  - **Foundation High School Program with Endorsement**
- **Meet standard on 5 STAAR tests**
  - **English I**
  - **Algebra**
  - **Biology**
  - **English II**
  - **US History**

**\* An ARD committee may determine if the above is appropriate for each student serviced under special education.**

# Endorsements

**An Endorsement is a specialized area of focus, containing a sequence of courses in a specific area of study. To earn an Endorsement, students must complete a coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits which includes one advanced course in the designated program of study in addition to their other graduation requirements.**

- **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)**
- **Business & Industry**
- **Public Services**
- **Arts & Humanities**
- **Multidisciplinary Studies**

# Miller Career and Technology Center

**Campus that provides students with the opportunity to take specialized career and technology programs as well as core classes for part of the school day at MCTC while continuing to attend their home high school campus the rest of the school day.**



MILLER CAREER &  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

- > Architectural Design
- > Automotive Technology
- > Cisco Network Engineering
- > Clinical Rotations
- > Computer Technician
- > Construction Trades
- > Cosmetology
- > Culinary Arts
- > Cyber Security
- > Dental Assisting
- > Digital Audio
- > Education & Training
- > Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- > Film
- > Law Enforcement
- > Legal Studies
- > Manufacturing Engineering
- > Pharmacy Tech
- > Practicum in STEM
- > Veterinary

# Earning Credit and Classification Standards

# Credit

- **What is a credit?**
  - **A credit is a unit measuring a student's completion of a high school course.**
- **How are credits earned?**
  - **A passing grade earns a 0.5 credit each semester for each course.**
- **How does attendance affect credit?**
  - **Students must maintain 90% attendance each semester to earn credit (even with a passing grade).**
- **Are there any classes that do not earn credit?**
  - **Yes, like study hall or student assistant.**

**\*Once credit is earned, a student may not retake that course.**

# Classification Standards

Grade level classification is based on number of credits earned each year.

GRADE LEVEL CLASSIFICATION		
GRADE	CLASSIFICATION	CREDITS
9th	Freshman	0 - 5.0
10th	Sophomore	5.5 - 11.5
11th	Junior	12.0 - 18.5
12th	Senior	19 +

# GPA & Class Rank

# GPA

- Understanding grade points
  - GPA points are based on **semester** grade averages.
  - High School credit courses are included in the GPA
    - Courses taken in the Fall and Spring
    - High School credit courses in Junior High
    - Summer School
    - Virtual courses



# GPA Points

## Academic Level Weighted Factor

Grades 9 – 12

### Graduating Classes of 2023 and Thereafter

	(90-100) A	(80-89) B	(70-79) C	(69-Below) F
KAP/AP Courses* <b>(includes GT)</b>	5	4	3	0
Dual Credit Courses	4.5	3.5	2.5	0
Academic Core and Elective Courses	4	3	2	0
Fundamental/Applied Courses	3	2	1	0

# Calculating GPA example-9th grader

<u>Class</u>	<u>Fall Semester Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
English I	87 (B)	3
Algebra I	94 (A)	4
KAP Biology	90 (A)	5
AP Human Geo	76 (C)	3
Spanish II	85 (B)	3
Football	100 (A)	4
Art 1	96 (A)	4
	TOTAL:	26 pts

**26 pts / 7 classes = 3.71**

# Rank

- How is rank calculated?
- Rank is first calculated in the spring of 9th grade
  - Numeric rank for top 10% ONLY
    - Quartile rank for all other students
    - 4th Quartile is not ranked

## CLASS OF 2023 QUARTILE RANK

Quartile	GPA
1	4.7069-3.8036
2	3.8033-3.2364
3	3.2295-2.7500
4	2.7458-1.2069
<b>Number of Seniors</b>	<b>834</b>

*Katy ISD only ranks the top 10% of the Senior class.  
All other students are awarded a quartile ranking.*

# How to Succeed

## Tips for STUDENTS

Remember, everyone is **ADJUSTING**.

Set **REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS** and goals for yourself.

Be **CONFIDENT** in who you are. It's okay to allow room for growth.

Get **INVOLVED!**

Focus on **POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS**.

**TALK TO YOUR TEACHERS**, they really do want to help and hear from YOU.

Get **GOOD SLEEP and NUTRITION!**  
These basic self-care essentials will help you SO MUCH!

Be **PROACTIVE!**

# How to Succeed

In High School Credit Classes

- Time management
- Organizational skills
- Accountability
- Work ethic
- Ask for help

# How to Succeed

## Tips for PARENTS

High school **DIFFERENT** now vs our experience.

**LISTEN** first. Communicate, try to LISTEN before reacting or jumping straight into problem-solving mode.

**ENCOURAGE** positive relationships, but realize students are individuating. Let them explore different interests and relationship changes.

Allow **ROOM FOR GROWTH** and trust them to have the resilience to figure it out.

**FOSTER INDEPENDENCE.** Allow them to resolve their own problems and issues. Be there to support them, but have them talk to their teachers, their friends, and give them a chance to try on their own.

HS ~~offers~~ a lot of creative strategies so try to have an **OPEN MIND.**

# How to Succeed

Who can help?

Teachers

Principals

Counselors

School Psychologists

Social Workers

***We all want to help!***

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# Course Levels and Formats





# Academic vs KAP Courses

An **academic** class is a course designed to meet state/district standards and ensure students develop the knowledge and skills required for each grade level. The curriculum is vertically aligned to progressively build on prior learning, preparing students for success in subsequent courses. These courses allow for more time to review concepts.

A **KAP** class is a course designed to meet state/district standards and ensure students develop the knowledge and skills required for each grade level. These courses are more challenging and fast paced. They require more independent learning and homework and prepare students for AP classes in high school and beyond.

# KAP & AP Courses

- **KAP courses in high school are more rigorous than junior high**
- **AP courses are more rigorous than KAP courses**
  - More time/effort required to be successful
  - College-level
- **AP courses are controlled by College Board**
  - Nationwide curriculum; AP/College Board-trained teachers
  - AP exam offered in May for each AP course
  - Students/parents pay for AP exams
  - Results of AP exams (scale 1 - 5) determine possible college credit
  - Each university has guidelines as to which AP exams are accepted

# Dual Credit Courses

- Partnership with Houston Community College
- Students must meet eligibility requirements
- Taught on KISD campuses by HCC and Katy ISD instructors

# Virtual Course Offerings

- **Katy ISD offers a variety of virtual courses in order to provide instructional day flexibility to meet students where they are.**
- **Student can plan to take virtual courses during the summer, fall and spring semesters.**
- **Some virtual courses will be offered for free as a part of the 7 period school day**
- **Tuition based virtual courses can be taken by students outside of their 7 period school day**

# Course Selection - what to expect?

# Course Selection

- **Timeline and process**
  - **Course Selection is Online in SchooLinks**
- **Select level and format of courses**
- **Choosing electives**
- **How STAAR test can affect course selection**
- **Informational Events for Parents**
- **Opportunity to make changes**

# Course Selection - Timeline

- **January**
  - **Campus Parent Nights**
  - **Counselors will visit 8th grade students to discuss Course Selection**
- **January 22 6:00-8:00pm**
  - **Katy ISD Course Selection Fair at Leonard Merrell Center**
- **January 29 5:30-6:30pm**
  - **Course Selection Parent Webinar #3**
- **February 3 - Campus Deadline**
  - **Students complete and submit Course Planner in SchooLinks**
  - **Students submit Personalized Plan in SchooLinks**
  - **Parents view and Approve student Personalized Plans**
  - **Counselors approve courses in SchooLinks**



# Online Course Selection - 4 year plan

All **students** select the following:

- Students use SchoolLinks Course Planner to plan courses, endorsements & review graduation requirements
- Students use SchoolLinks Personalized Plan to plan for College, Career & Military Readiness (CCMR), Performance Acknowledgements, and Approve Course Plan

All **parents** view and approve:

- Parents view personalized plan and approve course selections
- Parents must have valid email address (this can be updated in the Home Access Center)





# SchoolLinks Course Planner - what students can do

View or select a program of study

Click any requirement to add or remove courses

See supplemental plans & reset plan

See overall plan status

The screenshot shows the SchoolLinks Course Planner interface for the 2022-2023 Plan, which is marked as "NOT SUBMITTED". The interface includes a header with "Endorsements 1 Selected" and a "Course Catalog" link. Below this is a grid of course options for 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. The courses are organized by subject: Aerospace Academy (A), English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and Languages other than English. Each course card displays the course name, ID, and credits. At the bottom, there is a summary section showing "Credits: 29/30 planned", "Requirements: 8/9 met", and a "Submit plan" button. A yellow star icon is located in the top right corner of the interface.

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
<b>Aerospace Academy (A)</b> Aerospace Academy (A) (720) 3.0 / 3.0 credits	<b>English</b> ENGLISH I (Pre AP) (101H) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>Aerospace Academy (AA)</b> Aerospace Academy (AA) (720) 3.0 / 3.0 credits	<b>Aerospace Academy (AA)</b> Aerospace Academy (AA) (720) 3.0 / 3.0 credits
<b>Mathematics</b> Algebra I (301) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>English</b> ENGLISH II (Pre AP) (102H) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>English III (AP)</b> ENGLISH III (AP) (103A-4) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>English IV (AP)</b> ENGLISH IV (AP) (104A-4) 1.0 / 1.0 credits
<b>Social Studies</b> World Geography Studies (201) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>Mathematics</b> Geometry (302) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>Algebra II</b> Algebra II (303) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>Pre-Calculus</b> Pre-Calculus (309) 1.0 / 1.0 credits
<b>Science</b> Biology I (401) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>Social Studies</b> WORLD HISTORY (202) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>United States History Since 1877</b> United States History Since 1877 (203) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>United States Government</b> United States Government (206) 0.5 / 0.5 credits
<b>Languages other than English</b> Spanish Level I (601) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>Chemistry I</b> Chemistry I (411) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>Physics I</b> Physics I (431) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise</b> Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise (207) 0.5 / 0.5 credits
	<b>Spanish Level II</b> Spanish Level II (602) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>AP Biology</b> AP Biology (402A-4) 1.0 / 1.0 credits	<b>Astronomy</b> Astronomy (425) 1.0 / 1.0 credits

**Summary:** Credits: 29/30 planned, Requirements: 8/9 met, Other Options, Submit plan

Use comments to chat with their counselor.

View goals, change history, download as a PDF

Submit their plan for approval.

# Off campus PE

Parents and students need to review the [Off campus PE information on this webpage](#)

Eligibility is based on the numbers of hours per week a student participates in their activity.

- ❖ **First year of off campus PE *will* count into GPA.**
- ❖ **Levels 2,3 & 4 are for Elite level only and can be GPA exempted**
  - **15+ hours (Elite level) - PE credit is earned through an approved facility & student leaves school early**
  - **5 hours a week - PE credit is earned through an approved facility**

# Students who receive support services

- ❖ If your student receives support services through programs such as special education, ESL, 504, MTSS or GT, the services may continue into the next grade level, and the counselor will update courses selections pending information from your child's support services meeting.

# Resources

[Course Selection Resources Webpage](#)

[SchoolLinks Course Catalog](#)

[Katy ISD Student Handbook](#)

## **Advanced Academics**

[AP Credit Policy](#)

[Katy ISD KAP/Advanced Placement](#)

[Katy ISD Dual Credit Website](#)

[Dual Credit Courses Offered](#)

## **Career and Technical Education**

[Katy ISD CTE Programs of Study and Endorsements](#)

[Endorsements Overview in SchoolLinks Course Catalog](#)

[Miller Career and Technology Center](#)



## **Morton Ranch High School Mariachi Band**

[Fine Arts Department](#)

[Student Resources in SchoolLinks](#)

## **Social Emotional**

[Navigating New Stressors - Resource](#)

[Stress Management - Resource](#)

[2025-2026 Course Selection Fair Flyer: \(Spanish\)](#)



Questions?

THANK you for attending!

*We appreciate your active partnership in supporting*

