

AJH Course Selection

**Welcome Future Vikings
2024-2025**



Kind HEART. *Fierce* MIND. *Brave* SPIRIT.
WE ARE VIKINGS!

Our Viking Family

Principal:
Elisabeth Brodt

6th Grade AP:
Scott Thoen

6th Grade Counselor:
Shelly Watson

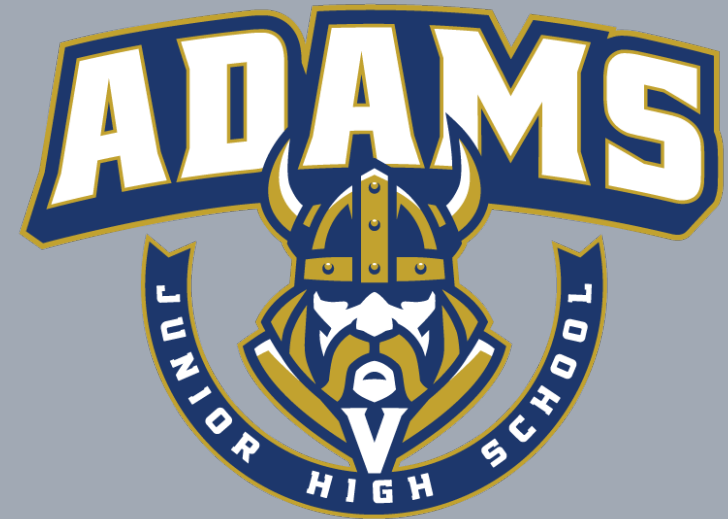
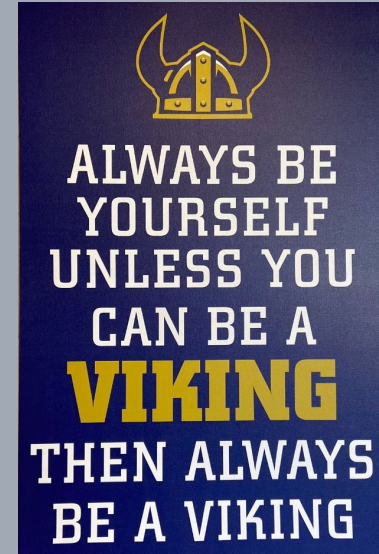


Our Viking Family

Mascot:
Viking

School Colors:
Navy & Gold

Viking Virtues:
Courage,
Perseverance, & Truth





Differences between Elementary & Junior High

● MORE FREEDOM!!

- School starts @ 8:55 AM
- School ends @ 4:05 PM
- 6th grade Classes are all on the 1st floor
- 7 classes plus lunch and advisory
 - All students have advisory to allow time to do homework, study, organize work, Character Strong (community building/character lessons)
- 45 minute class periods & 5 minute passing period
- Lockers available to all 6th grade students
- Core classes
 - Math, Science, English, Reading & Social Studies
- Non-core classes
 - Elective, PE

Differences between Elementary & Junior High

- **MORE FREEDOM!!**

- Cafeteria – Multiple options
 - Different lunch lines that offer snack bar options, hot lunch, etc
 - You can sit wherever you want at lunch
- Many Clubs & Activities
- The opportunity to make a lot of new friends
- Tardies!!: Students need to get to class on time every period
- Expect more homework, responsibilities, & self management
- Attend tutorials
- Canvas is used in all courses
- Student IDs/lanyards **must be worn at all times**



Differences between Elementary & Junior High

- Backpacks are allowed to be carried to each class. Rolling backpacks are not allowed.
- Technology allowed during lunch and it is the responsibility of each student. Technology use in the classroom is at teacher discretion. Misuse of technology can lead to revocation of technology privileges at school.
- Students go between classes, to the restroom, lunch, and PE by themselves, not escorted by teachers.
- Student planner/tracker – highly recommend to organize classwork and homework for your 7 classes.

Choosing Courses



Three Class Format:

Academic – For everyone, on grade level, more time to review concepts, prepares students for college as well as other postsecondary education

KAP – More challenging, fast paced, prepares students for AP classes in high school. ***We recommend students have an “A” average in an Academic class**

GT – Must be currently screened and identified

Choosing Courses



The decision to take academic or KAP should be made between you, your parents, and your teachers. Think about:

- Your interests and strengths
- How hard you are willing to work
- The grades you have earned in school and the kind of grades you like to make
- Motivation and attitude
- Standardized test scores
- Study habits
- Extracurricular activities and time commitments
- How quickly you catch on to new material


KAP PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Although we highly encourage students to stay in a KAP class, they may exit a course during the first 6 -weeks grading period or at the end of the 1st semester.
- The student must have teacher and parent approval to exit.
- If the student's 6 -weeks average falls below 70, the student will be placed into an Academic class at the end of the grading period unless otherwise recommended by the teacher.



The KAP Course Commitment form is included on the back of the course selection sheet.





Math for 6th Graders

6th, 7th, and 8th grade math classes are the foundations for high school math classes and should not be rushed.

Academic Math – on grade level curriculum

- ❖ Students will have math homework weekly to practice the concepts
- ❖ Students will learn 6th grade math skills/concepts only
- ❖ There are approximately 64 objectives covered

KAP Math – accelerated math class covering all of 6th grade and approximately ½ of 7th grade math curriculum

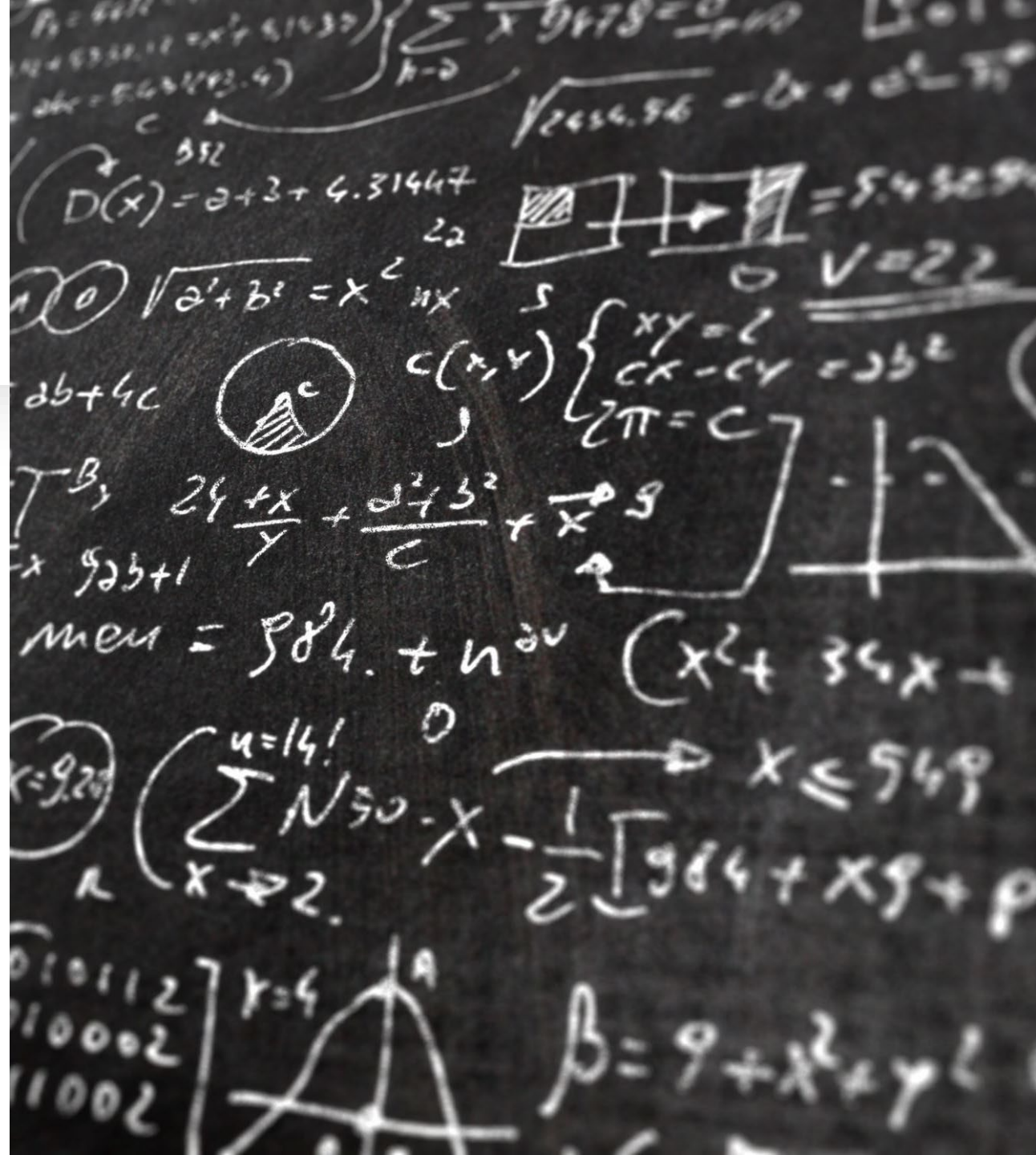
- ❖ A new concept is learned almost every day
- ❖ Students will have math homework every night to practice the concepts
- ❖ KAP math focuses on preparing students for High School Algebra I in 8th grade
- ❖ There are approximately over 80 objectives (1/2 of them are 7th grade)
- ❖ Students who earn “Masters” on 4th grade STAAR are automatically placed in 6th Math KAP

* **6th grade KAP Math Students will take the 6th grade STAAR**

* **Current high achieving students in 5th grade math can take a Credit By Exam (CBE) for 6th grade Math this summer (June/July testing windows). Students who pass the 6th grade Math CBE will be eligible to take 7th grade KAP Math in 6th grade.**

Characteristics of a KAP Math Student

- ❖ Problem solver in everyday situations
- ❖ Has developed strong learning & study habits
- ❖ Shows perseverance when challenged
- ❖ Displays emotional maturity when frustrated
- ❖ Demonstrates reasoning skills pertaining to mathematical concepts in everyday life
- ❖ Shows confidence in their own math abilities
- ❖ Strong/mastered fast facts skills
- ❖ Willingness to ask questions in class and seek out help
- ❖ Strongly values learning – loves to learn!



KAP Math for 6th -8th Grade

KAP is the compacting of the junior high curriculum from 3 years to 2 years so that your child would be able to take Algebra I (a high school credit class) by 8th grade.

By taking your first high school math class in junior high, this frees up your child's senior year, to choose to take AP calculus, AP statistics, or other dual credit college credit math classes.





ELA-R, Science, and Social Studies

- ❖ The difference in academic and KAP for English Language Arts & Reading (ELA-R), Science, and Social Studies comes in the *resources/materials used* and *performance expectations*.
- ❖ KAP is built upon the core academic curriculum and is designed to build student capacity to understand more rigorous content.
- ❖ KAP is designed to help prepare students for advanced courses in high school.
- ❖ ELA-R is blocked meaning it is 2 class periods in a row with the same teacher.

Masters Level on STAAR



- If a student scores “Masters” on their 4th grade STAAR in Math or Reading, they will automatically be put into the correlating KAP course.
- In SchoolLinks the KAP course will be preloaded for these students.
- If you would like to opt-out of the automatic placement, you have the option to change the course to Academic during the course selection window in SchoolLinks.
- There will also be opt-out information coming for those who would be automatically moved into KAP courses.

Possible Required Courses

These courses take the place of your elective class.

- ❖ Math Lab: designed to help refine math concepts and fill in gaps
- ❖ Strategic Reading: designed to help improve reading proficiency and comprehension

Placement may be mandatory as a result of KISD standards and graduation requirements.

STAAR results are used to determine placement in the above courses.

- 6th grade is allowed to choose **1 elective** for the year.
- Please be aware that some electives require after school commitments.
- Electives have assignments & receive numeric grades.
- 6th grade electives:
 - **Art, Band, Choir, Orchestra, Theatre, and Lead Worthy Intermediate**
- **Due to the high demand of certain electives, placement in elective courses will be limited based on availability and is not guaranteed.**

Electives

Do Consider...

- Your interests and what you would like to learn about
- How much time outside of school is needed to participate/practice in the elective class
- What do you like to do for fun
- What outside time constraints do you have?

Don't Consider...

- Your friend's choice
- Cool field trips (a field trip is only one day)

Choosing an Elective Class

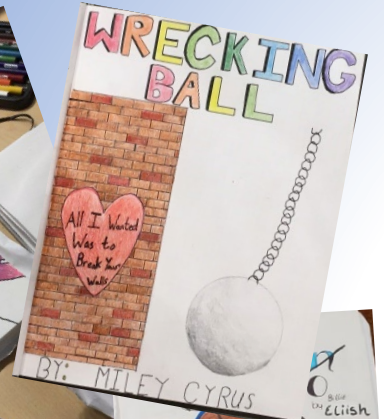
Elective Options





Art 1 = Create, Grow, & have FUN!

Paint, Draw + collaborate



Sketchbook + skill development

Clay + 3d art

- ★ First Year Art Student (no experience)
- ★ Students create with the elements of art and principles of design in mind while building

Just a sampling...we do so much more!

BEGINNING BAND

- No experience necessary! We will teach you everything you need to know.
- Directors will assist you in choosing the right instrument for you, after you choose band as your elective.
- Band students may participate in band AND athletics, pep squad, cheer, clubs, Sci-Oly, etc.
- There are only 2 after school rehearsals in Beginning Band.

BAND INSTRUMENTS

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet

Bassoon

Alto Sax

Trumpet

Horn

Trombone

Euphonium

Percussion

Tuba



6th grade Choir

NO AUDITION REQUIRED

Join the Viking Choir Family

- Solo competitions
- Concerts
- Social Events
- Sing in different languages
- Solo Opportunities
- Leadership Opportunities
- Learn how to read music
- Multiple 6th grade classes (6th boys and 6th girls)
- End of Year Choir Trip
- End of Year Choir Banquet
- Pop Show and LOTS MORE!



Orchestra

- **No experience necessary! We teach you everything you need to know.**
- **The orchestra director will help you choose the right instrument for you**
- **Instrument classes meet separately every day**
- **Your daily homework is to practice your instrument!**
- **Can choose one of 4 instruments:**
 - **Violin**
 - **Viola**
 - **Cello**
 - **Bass**

INSPIRE
GROW
CREATE
ADAMS THEATRE

Adams Theatre

YOU WILL LEARN

Ensemble building

Public speaking

Characterization

Improvisation

Theatre history

Pantomime

Storytelling techniques

Technical theatre

Professions in theatre

ALL Theatre classes touch on these topics at various degrees of complexity depending on the class level.



LEADWORTHY INTERMEDIATE (6TH)

- This is a NEW elective next year
- Offered only to 6th graders
- Focuses on becoming independently responsible through time-management and organization
- Works through nine character traits to grow the leadership skills of students
- Builds a positive school culture that inspires and empowers students to lead with heart

NEW!



P.E. & P.E. Waivers

❑ P.E.

- ❑ All students will be enrolled in a Physical Education class
- ❑ Both boys and girls (separate gyms)
 - Graded class/attend everyday
 - Dress out in uniforms: bring your own athletic shoes & socks
 - Lockers in locker room

Students will pay a \$15 fee at the beginning of the year for their PE uniform, locker, and laundry service.

❑ Off Campus P.E.

- ❑ Off Campus P.E. forms will not be accepted until August 1, 2024 through the first week of school in the front office
- ❑ If you participate in an approved individual sport for less than 15 hours per week, you will receive Study Hall as your replacement class
- ❑ If you participate in an approved individual sport for 15 or more hours a week you may leave campus after 7th period. These students will sign themselves out daily at the attendance window
- ❑ Forms should be printed from the AJH counselor website or the Katy ISD website
- ❑ **Information and applications can be found at:**
[Health & Physical Education Curriculum / Off Campus PE \(katyisd.org\)](https://www.katyisd.org/Health%20&%20Physical%20Education%20Curriculum%20-%20Off%20Campus%20PE)



Athletics

Only for 7th & 8th graders – this is just so you know what's coming in the future!!

- ❖ Based on tryouts at the end of your 6th and 7th grade school year
- ❖ **Coaches determine placement into athletics**
- ❖ **Must have physical on file dated after May 1, 2023 & RankOne online forms completed**
- ❖ Athletic period (Fall) sports:
 - ❖ Football
 - ❖ Volleyball
 - ❖ Basketball
- ❖ After school (Spring) sports not placed in the athletic period:
 - ❖ Track
 - ❖ Soccer
 - ❖ Tennis
- ❖ Pre-Athletics will take place during your 6th grade year through your PE Class
- ❖ Please see the coach if you are interested in playing a sport in 7th or 8th grade
- ❖ Coaches will give the counselors a list of students to be scheduled into the athletic period later this semester

Course Requests Overview

- Course Selection Planning sheets go home with all 5th graders on **Monday, January 29th**
- Students make course selections in SchoolLinks (students login through your myKaty Cloud login) on **February 5th – February 19th**
- Course Selection Planning sheets must be **turned in to your 5th grade teacher by February 7, 2024**
- If you are moving or planning to move, you still must complete a course selection sheet
- Both the student and parent must sign the course sheet
- If you are signing up for KAP classes, both the student and parent must read the KAP commitment letter on the back of the course selection sheet
- Return Signed Course Selection Planning Sheets to your **homeroom teacher by February 7th**
- All students must sign up for the following courses:
 - English
 - Math
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - PE
 - Elective & alternate elective choices

The image shows a 'Incoming 6th Grade Selection Worksheet' from Katy ISD, dated August 2023-2024. The form includes fields for student name, grade, and parent/guardian information. It also contains a section for course selection with checkboxes for English, Math, Science, Social Studies, PE, and Elective. A large 'DRAFT' watermark is overlaid on the form.



* Available on AJH Counselor website

Completing the elective portion of the course selection planning sheet

- ★ Number your electives in order of preference 1-4

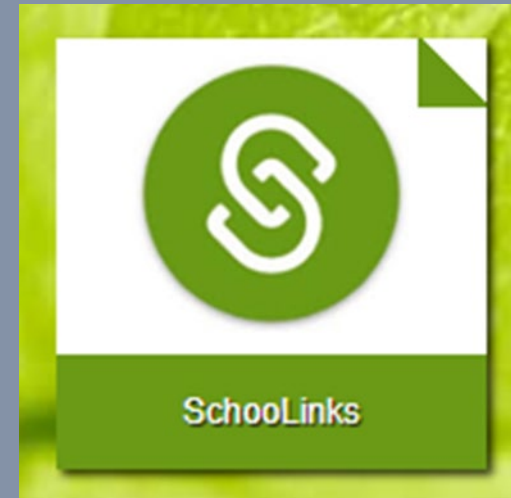
Sample

| Please rank your top 4 elective choices in the spaces below | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | <u>Orchestra</u> | (first choice) |
| 2. | <u>Art</u> | (second choice) |
| 3. | <u>Theatre</u> | (third choice) |
| 4. | <u>Choir</u> | (fourth choice) |

- ★ Return course selection worksheet to your teacher by **January 31st!**

Course Selections

- The district is using a college and career platform called SchoolLinks. Students will use SchoolLinks for the course selection process. Your child can access SchoolLinks through MyKaty Cloud.
- Elementary counselors will meet with each student to help with the course selection process



Verification Process



- Course Verification Window is March 18-26 and will take place in SchoolLinks
- The courses listed in SchoolLinks is not a schedule – it is only the list of courses you selected
- This is your last opportunity to make changes
- More information on the course verification process will come as we get closer to March

6th Grade Schedule Example

Lunch will either be after 2nd period (A Lunch) or after Advisory (B Lunch)



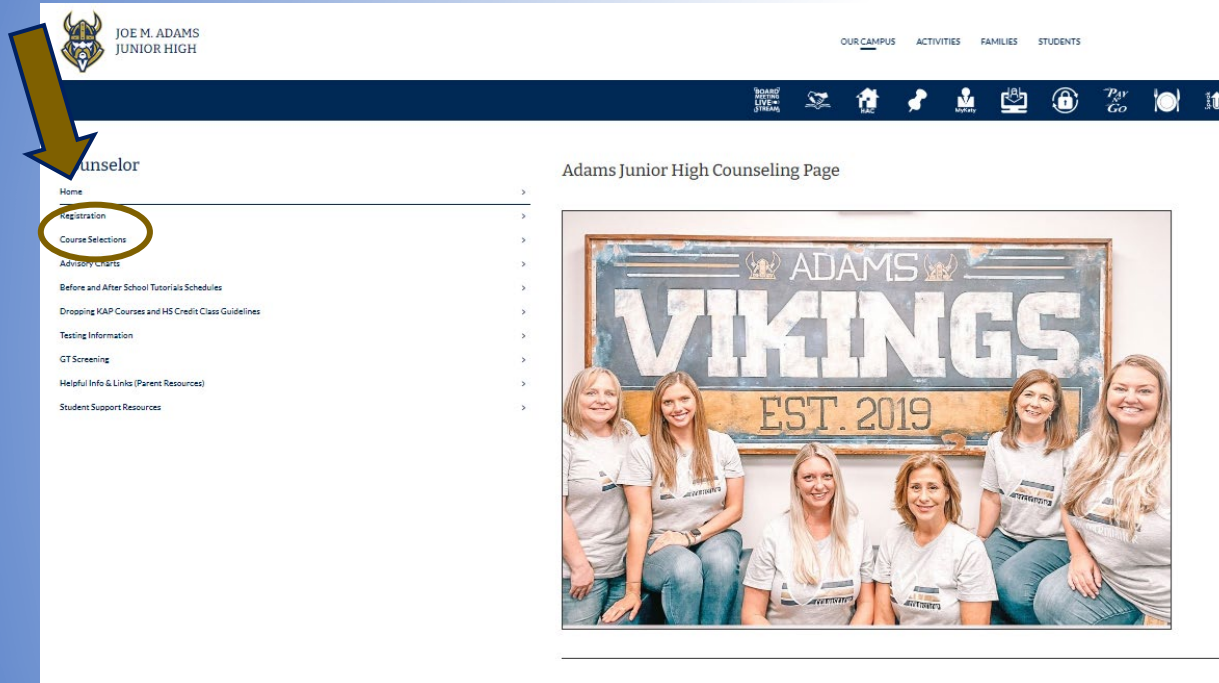
| PERIOD | SEM. | ROOM NO. | SUBJECT | TEACHER | COURSE NO. |
|--------|------|----------|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | BS | 1020 | Eng/Read 6 Block KAP | Casbon, R | J606 |
| 2 | BS | 1020 | Eng/Read 6 Block KAP | Casbon, R | J606 |
| 3 | BS | 1301 | Advisory 6 | Pickard, L | J695 |
| LUNCH | BS | CAFE | Lunch 6 | Thoen, S | LUNCH |
| 4 | BS | Gym | PE 6 (Boys) | Campbell, C | J680 |
| 5 | BS | 1019 | Science 6 KAP | Smith, M | J634 |
| 6 | BS | 1034 | Soc Studies 6 KAP | Anderson, A | J624 |
| 7 | BS | 1301 | Art 1 (JH) | Pickard, L | J650 |
| 8 | BS | 1023 | Math 6 KAP | Pope, M | J614 |

ELA-R
Block

KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT - STUDENT SCHEDULE

AJH Counseling Website

All course selection information can be found here!



Scan the QR code to get to our website for more Course Selection Information



- Course selection sheets are due to homeroom teacher by February 7th.
- Keep your course selection planning sheet neat and clean. Take good care of it!
- Choose your courses wisely – think carefully about your choices.
- Talk to your teachers about KAP placement.
- Choose the elective that's most interesting to you.
- List alternate electives.
- Sign and return the course planning sheet on time!
- Any changes to course selections are made during the course verification window.

Remember !!



Welcome Future
Vikings!

