

# Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit

## Graduation Program – Overview

### Foundation High School Program

A new, more flexible graduation program that allows students to pursue their interests will be in place for all students who enter high school, beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

#### The program contains up to four parts:

- A 22-credit foundation program which is the core of the new Texas high school diploma
- Five endorsement\* options that allow students to focus on a related series of courses
- A higher performance category called Distinguished Level of Achievement
- Performance Acknowledgments that note outstanding achievement

#### The Foundation requirements (22 credits) include:

- English (4 credits)** • English I • English II • English III • An advanced English course
- Mathematics (3 credits)** • Algebra I • Geometry • An advanced math course
- Science (3 credits)** • Biology • Integrated Physics & Chemistry or an advanced science course  
• An advanced science course
- Social Studies (3 credits)** • World History or World Geography • U.S. History  
• U.S. Government (one-half credit) • Economics (one-half credit)
- Languages Other Than English (2 credits)** • 2 credits in the same language or  
• 2 credits from Computer Science I, II, III
- Physical Education (1 credit)**      **Fine Arts (1 credit)**      **Electives (5 credits)**
- Speech: Demonstrated proficiency**

**Endorsements** Total credits with endorsements 26

### Enhancements

Additionally, a student may earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement and/or a Performance Acknowledgment for outstanding performance. The Distinguished Level of Achievement must be earned to be admitted to a Texas public university under the Top 10 percent automatic admission law.

#### Distinguished Level of Achievement

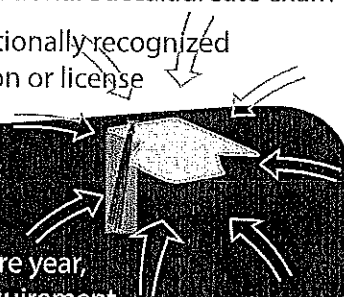
- Foundation Program requirements
- 4 credits in math including Algebra II
- 4 credits in science
- at least 1 endorsement

#### Performance Acknowledgments

- dual credit course
- bilingualism and biliteracy
- PSAT, ACT's Plan, SAT or ACT
- Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam
- earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license

\*A student entering 9th grade must indicate an endorsement he or she plans to follow.  
A student may change or add an endorsement at any time.

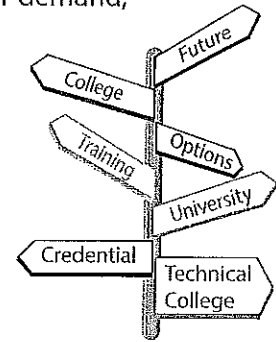
A student may graduate without earning an endorsement if, after his or her sophomore year, the student's parent signs a form permitting the student to omit the endorsement requirement.



### Choices determine options

Most of the very best jobs available now and in the future require education and training beyond a high school diploma. Whether you intend to pursue a high-demand, industry workforce credential from a community or technical college or a traditional four-year degree from a university, the choices made in high school will determine your future options.

To best prepare yourself now for the transition to post-high school education or quality workforce training, choosing and taking the right classes is essential. The Distinguished Level of Achievement will ensure the best preparation for your future.



### Why it matters — *Benefits*

The Distinguished Level of Achievement opens a world of educational and employment opportunities for you beyond high school. The Distinguished Level of Achievement will:

- Allow you to compete for Top 10% automatic admissions eligibility at any Texas public university;
- Position you among those first in line for a TEXAS Grant\* to help pay for university tuition and fees; and
- Ensure you are a more competitive applicant at the most selective colleges and universities.

\*Must be financially qualified

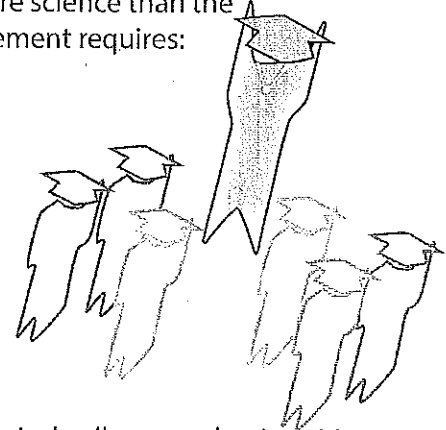
### What it means

The Distinguished Level of Achievement requires more math and more science than the Foundation High School Program. The Distinguished Level of Achievement requires:

- A total of four credits in math, including Algebra II;
- A total of four credits in science; and
- Successful completion of an endorsement in your area of interest.

### Advantages

- Opportunity to earn an endorsement in an area of interest
- More college and university options
- More financial aid options
- Better preparation for college-level coursework at community/technical colleges and universities
- Opportunity for immediate enrollment in classes related to your chosen field of study
- Strong foundation to successfully complete an industry workforce credential or college degree



# Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit Texas High School Diploma – Steps

## Distinguished Level of Achievement

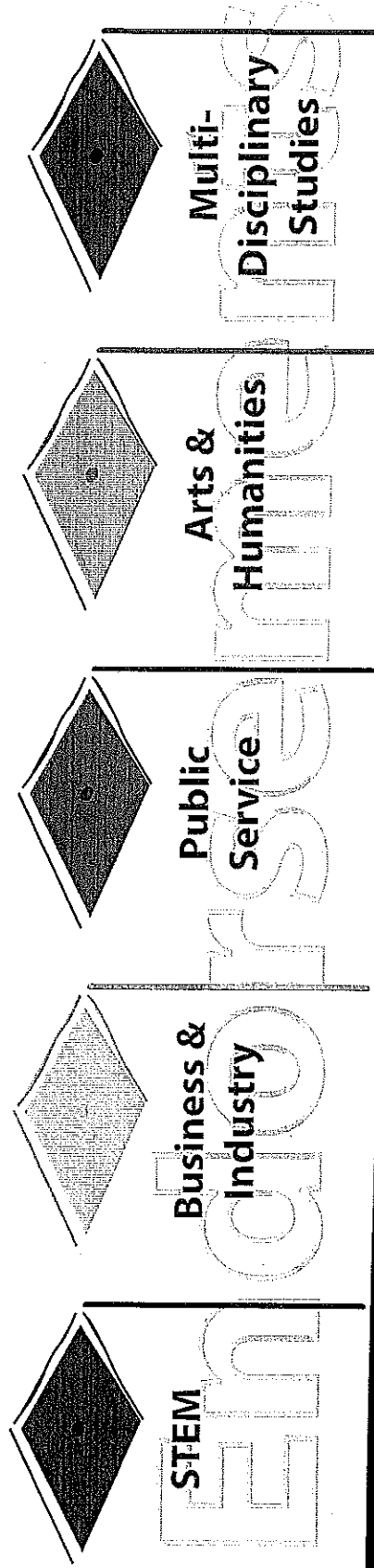
26 Credits • Algebra II Required • Eligible for Top 10% Automatic Admissions to Texas Public Universities

## 22 Credits for the Foundation High School Program



## Requirements of 1 Endorsement

(including 4<sup>th</sup> credit of Math and Science and 2 additional electives)



Be sure to visit your school counselor to learn more about your options.  
Students may earn more than one endorsement.

# Endorsements – Choices

## Endorsements

For the first time, students will be able to earn one or more endorsements as part of their graduation requirements. Endorsements consist of a related series of courses that are grouped together by interest or skill set. They provide students with in-depth knowledge of a subject area.

Students must select an endorsement\* in the ninth grade. Districts and charters are not required to offer all endorsements. If only one endorsement is offered, it must be multi-disciplinary studies.

Students earn an endorsement by completing the curriculum requirements for the endorsement, including 4th credit of math and science and 2 additional elective credits.

## Students can choose from 5 endorsement areas

### Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses related to STEM
- Mathematics
- Science
- Computer Science
- Combination of no more than two of the categories listed above

### Business and Industry (one of the following or a combination of areas)

- Agriculture
- Arts
- Audio/Video
- Finance
- Marketing
- Food and Natural Resources
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Technology Applications
- Architecture and Construction
- Technology and Communications
- Business Management and Administration
- Transportation or Distribution and Logistics
- English electives in public speaking, debate, advanced broadcast journalism, advanced journalism including newspaper and yearbook

### Public Service (one of the following)

- Human Services
- Law
- Corrections and Security
- Health Science
- Public Safety
- Education and Training
- Government and Public Administration
- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

### Arts and Humanities (one of the following)

- 2 levels each in two languages other than English (LOTE)
- 4 levels in the same LOTE
- Courses from one or two areas (music, theater, art, dance) in fine arts
- English electives not included in Business and Industry
- Social Studies
- American Sign Language (ASL)

### Multi-Disciplinary Studies (one of the following)

- 4 advanced courses from other endorsement areas
- 4 credits in each foundation subject area, including English IV and chemistry and/or physics
- 4 credits in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, LOTE or fine arts

\*Visit your school counselor to learn more about your options.  
Students may earn more than one endorsement.

ENDORSEMENTS

## Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Endorsement Sample Personal Graduation Plan

Course Projections are based on current House Bill 5.

*Students have the opportunity to earn high school credits during middle school that meet graduation requirements.*

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 <sup>th</sup>	English I / PreAP English I <b>EOC</b>	Algebra I/ PreAP Algebra I <b>EOC</b>	World Geography / PreAP W. Geography	Biology / PreAP Biology <b>EOC</b>	*Languages Other Than English I	*Fine Arts	*Physical Education
10 <sup>th</sup>	English II / PreAP English II <b>EOC</b>	Geometry / PreAP Geometry	World History / PreAP, AP World History, or Endorsement Course / Elective	Chemistry / PreAP Chemistry or Advance Science	*Languages Other Than English II	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course / Elective
11 <sup>th</sup>	English III / PreAP English III	Algebra II / PreAP Algebra II	US History / AP US History / DC <b>EOC</b>	Physics / AP Physics or Advanced Science	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course / Elective
12 <sup>th</sup>	English IV/ AP English IV/ DC	Advanced Math	Government & Economics / AP / DC	Advanced Science	*Health / Comm. Apps.	*Endorsement Course/ Elective	*Endorsement Course/ Elective

*\*Designated courses may be completed at any grade level*

**EOC** – End-of-Course Exam required for graduation

DC – Dual Credit

AP – Advanced Placement

### Sample Courses Directly Related to STEM Area of Study:

Mathematics
Algebra II or Pre-AP Algebra II
Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus Pre-AP
AP Calculus AB / BC
AP Statistics
Advanced Quantitative Reasoning
Dual Credit Mathematics Courses
Additional courses as recommended

Science
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Physics
Earth and Space Science
Anatomy and Physiology
Aquatic Science
Environmental Systems
Environmental Science
Additional courses as recommended

## Multidisciplinary Studies Endorsement Sample Personal Graduation Plan

Course Projections are based on current House Bill 5.

*Students have the opportunity to earn high school credits during middle school that meet graduation requirements.*

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 <sup>th</sup>	English I / PreAP English I  EOC	Algebra I/ PreAP Algebra I  EOC	World Geography / PreAP W. Geography	Biology / PreAP Biology  EOC	*Languages Other Than English I	*Fine Arts	*Physical Education
10 <sup>th</sup>	English II / PreAP English II  EOC	Geometry / PreAP Geometry	World History / PreAP, AP World History, or Endorsement Course / Elective	Chemistry / PreAP Chemistry or Advance Science	*Languages Other Than English II	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course / Elective
11 <sup>th</sup>	English III / PreAP English III	Algebra II / PreAP Algebra II	US History / AP US History / DC  EOC	Physics / AP Physics or Advanced Science	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course / Elective
12 <sup>th</sup>	English IV/ AP English IV/ DC	Advanced Math	Government & Economics / AP / DC	Advanced Science	*Health / Comm. Apps.	*Endorsement Course/ Elective	*Endorsement Course/ Elective

*\*Designated courses may be completed at any grade level*

**EOC** – End-of-Course Exam required for graduation

DC – Dual Credit

AP – Advanced Placement

Allows a student to complete:

- Four credits in the four core subjects (English, Math, Science, Social Studies);
- Four credits in AP or DC in the four core subjects; or
- Four advanced courses from the same endorsement area in a coherent sequence, or from different endorsement areas when students change their declared endorsement.

## Arts and Humanities Endorsement Sample Personal Graduation Plan

Course Projections are based on current House Bill 5.

*Students have the opportunity to earn high school credits during middle school that meet graduation requirements.*

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 <sup>th</sup>	English I / PreAP English I  EOC	Algebra I/ PreAP Algebra I  EOC	World Geography / PreAP W. Geography	Biology / PreAP Biology  EOC	*Languages Other Than English I	*Fine Arts	*Physical Education
10 <sup>th</sup>	English II / PreAP English II  EOC	Geometry / PreAP Geometry	World History / PreAP, AP World History, or Endorsement Course / Elective	Chemistry / PreAP Chemistry or Advance Science	*Languages Other Than English II	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course / Elective
11 <sup>th</sup>	English III / PreAP English III	Algebra II / PreAP Algebra II	US History / AP US History / DC  EOC	Physics / AP Physics or Advanced Science	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course / Elective
12 <sup>th</sup>	English IV/ AP English IV/ DC	Advanced Math	Government & Economics / AP / DC	Advanced Science	*Health / Comm. Apps.	*Endorsement Course/ Elective	*Endorsement Course/ Elective

*\*Designated courses may be completed at any grade level*

**EOC** – End-of-Course Exam required for graduation

DC – Dual Credit

AP – Advanced Placement

Arts and Humanities Endorsement courses located on following page.

**Sample Courses Directly Related to Arts and Humanities Area of Study:**

<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>Languages Other Than English</b>	<b>Art</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Theater</b>
World Geography / PreAP	Spanish PreAP / AP	Art I	Band I, II, & III	Theater Arts I, II, III
World History / PreAP / AP	German PreAP	Drawing II, III, IV	Instrumental Ensemble	Technical Theater I & II
AP Economics			Choral Music I, II, & III	Theater Production I, II, & III
Psychology / DC			Advanced Choral Music I, II, III, & IV	
Sociology / DC			Choral Ensemble	
Philosophy / DC			Music Theory	
Current Topics and Issues in Social Studies				
Advance Topics in Social Studies				
Additional courses as recommended				



## Public Services Endorsement Sample Personal Graduation Plan

Course Projections are based on current House Bill 5.

*Students have the opportunity to earn high school credits during middle school that meet graduation requirements.*

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 <sup>th</sup>	English I / PreAP English I  <b>EOC</b>	Algebra I/ PreAP Algebra I  <b>EOC</b>	World Geography / PreAP W. Geography	Biology / PreAP Biology  <b>EOC</b>	*Languages Other Than English I	*Fine Arts	*Physical Education
10 <sup>th</sup>	English II / PreAP English II  <b>EOC</b>	Geometry / PreAP Geometry	World History / PreAP, AP World History, or Endorsement Course / Elective	Chemistry / PreAP Chemistry or Advance Science	*Languages Other Than English II	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course / Elective
11 <sup>th</sup>	English III / PreAP English III	Algebra II / PreAP Algebra II / Advanced Math	US History / AP US History / DC  <b>EOC</b>	Physics / AP Physics or Advanced Science	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course / Elective
12 <sup>th</sup>	English IV/ AP English IV/ DC	Advanced Math	Government & Economics / AP / DC	Advanced Science	*Health / Comm. Apps	*Endorsement Course/ Elective	*Endorsement Course/ Elective

*\*Designated courses may be completed at any grade level*

**EOC** – End-of-Course Exam required for graduation

DC – Dual Credit

AP – Advanced Placement

Public Services Endorsement courses located on following page.

**Sample Courses Directly Related to Public Services Area of Study:**

<b>Health Sciences</b>	<b>Human Services</b>	<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<b>Hospitality &amp; Tourism</b>
<b>Health Science:</b> Medical Terminology/Medical Law and Ethics	Principles of Human Services	Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security	Principles of Human Services
Electrocardiography/Health Unit Coordinator	Dollars and Sense	Court Systems and Practices	Dollars and Sense
<b>Practicum of Health Science:</b> Phlebotomy and Clinical	Cosmetology I	Law Enforcement I & II	Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness
Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) for Health Care and Clinical	Cosmetology II	Firefighter I & II	Restaurant Management
Practicum for Emergency Medical Technician	Child Development	JROTC	Culinary Arts
	Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness		Hospitality Services
Additional courses as recommended			

## Business and Industry Endorsement Sample Personal Graduation Plan

Course Projections are based on current House Bill 5.

*Students have the opportunity to earn high school credits during middle school that meet graduation requirements.*

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 <sup>th</sup>	English I / PreAP English I  <b>EOC</b>	Algebra I/ PreAP Algebra I  <b>EOC</b>	World Geography / PreAP W. Geography	Biology / PreAP Biology  <b>EOC</b>	*Languages Other Than English I	*Fine Arts	*Physical Education
10 <sup>th</sup>	English II / PreAP English II  <b>EOC</b>	Geometry / PreAP Geometry	World History / PreAP, AP World History, or Endorsement Course / Elective	Chemistry / PreAP Chemistry or Advance Science	*Languages Other Than English II	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course / Elective
11 <sup>th</sup>	English III / PreAP English III	Algebra II / PreAP Algebra II / Advanced Math	US History / AP US History / DC  <b>EOC</b>	Physics / AP Physics or Advanced Science	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course	*Endorsement Course / Elective
12 <sup>th</sup>	English IV/ AP English IV/ DC	Advanced Math	Government & Economics / AP / DC	Advanced Science	*Health / Comm. Apps.	*Endorsement Course/ Elective	*Endorsement Course/ Elective

*\*Designated courses may be completed at any grade level*

**EOC** – End-of-Course Exam required for graduation

DC – Dual Credit

AP – Advanced Placement

Business and Industry Endorsement courses located on following page.

## Business and Industry Endorsement Endorsement Courses

**Sample Courses Directly Related to Business and Industry Area of Study:**

<b>Arts, A/V Technology Communications</b>	<b>Architecture &amp; Construction</b>	<b>Business Management &amp; Administration</b>	<b>Agriculture, Food, &amp; Natural Resources</b>
Professional Communications (Speech)	Agricultural Mechanics and Metal Technologies	Principles of Business, Marketing and Finance	Principles of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
Principles of Arts, A/V Technology and Communications	Welding I Dual Credit Del Mar	Dollars and Sense	Equine Science
Digital and Interactive Media	Welding II Dual Credit Del Mar	Business Information Management I & II	Small Animal Management
Business Information Management I	Process Technology I	Accounting I & II	Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecology Management
Audio/Video Production	Process Technology II	Principles of Info. Technology	Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems (Science Credit)
Computer Programming (PreAP)	Automotive Technology	Digital & Interactive Media	Advanced Animal Science
Animation	Electrical	Computer Programming (PreAP)	Landscape Design and Turf Grass Management
Digital Video and Audio Design	Interior Design	Practicum in Business Management	Horticulture Science
Independent Study in Video Tech		Journalism Coursework	Advanced Plant and Soil Science
Practicum in Audio Video Production			
Additional courses as recommended			

# For Parents: What is Career Cruising?

---

Career Cruising is an Internet-based career exploration and planning tool used by your son or daughter to explore career and college options and develop a career plan. Career Cruising can be accessed from school, from home, or wherever your son or daughter has access to the Internet. Features of the program include:

## ASSESSMENTS

World-renowned assessment tools to help your child identify his or her career interests, skills, abilities, and learning styles

## CAREER PROFILES

Thorough and up-to-date information about hundreds of different occupations, including direct links between careers and related college programs

## MULTIMEDIA INTERVIEWS

Interviews with real people in each occupation, which add depth and realism to career profiles

## COLLEGE AND FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Comprehensive college and financial aid information, with a number of useful search tools to help your child find the right college and the right scholarships

## EMPLOYMENT GUIDE

Advice for all stages of the job search process, including developing a job search plan, networking, writing resumes and cover letters, preparing for interviews, and adjusting to a new job

## MY PLAN

An online portfolio where your child can develop and reflect on his or her academic, personal, and career exploration activities, and make plans for the future

## RESUME BUILDER

Integrated with the My Plan tool to help your child create, format, and print professional-looking resumes quickly and easily

## PARENT PORTAL

Allows you to view the information your child has stored in his or her Plan, learn more about the careers and schools that your child is interested in, and communicate with your child's career advisor

To register for your Parent Portal account, go to [www.careercruising.com/Parent](http://www.careercruising.com/Parent) and enter your activation code. To receive an activation code, please contact your child's career advisor.

# FOR PARENTS: WHAT IS ccPATHFINDER?

---

ccPathfinder enables students to build a personalized course plan, designed to help them meet graduation requirements, and put them on the right path for post-secondary and career readiness.

With ccPathfinder, students and parents can view critical information online, including student's individual course history, the school's course information, including pre-requisites, as well as graduation tracking and recommended courses.

Career Cruising believes that family engagement is critical to promote student success. With ccPathfinder, families can easily become involved in the student's course planning.

## ccPATHFINDER OFFERS:

### **Online Course Information**

An organized, intuitive way to learn about different courses that are available at your school.

### **Online Course Planning**

Students can plan courses for their future based on post-secondary institutions and careers researched in Career Cruising. ccPathfinder also presents courses completed in the past and grade marks.

### **Graduation Requirements**

ccPathfinder will track student progress towards meeting graduation requirements.

### **Cluster Tracking**

Students can plan courses based on Career Cruising Clusters (e.g. Information Technology, Hospitality and Tourism, Business Management). This helps students ensure they are on the right track to meet their future goals.

### **Course Recommendations**

Students can view course recommendations made by counselors or teachers.

**To find out more about Career Cruising, we encourage you to login.**

**The link to the login page will be posted on your district and/or school website.**

**GPHS PRE-REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR FOR CURRENT 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS**

1. FILL IN YOUR NAME AND ID# ON THE COURSE REQUEST FORM
2. USE YOUR COURSE GUIDE TO CHOOSE YOUR COURSES FOR NEXT YEAR. MAKE SURE THAT YOU FOLLOW THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE LISTED ON PAGE 2-12 OF THE GUIDE.
3. CURRENT 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS SHOULD FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING SEQUENCE:
  - A. **ENGLISH I (PRE AP OR REGULAR)**
  - B. **MATH**

<b>Content Area</b>	<b>Currently Enrolled</b>	<b>Register For</b>
<b>Math</b>  <b>(SEE PAGE 33 FOR PREREQUISITES AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS)</b>	<b>Pre-ALGEBRA</b>	<b>ALGEBRA (PRE-AP OR REGULAR)</b>
	<b>ALGEBRA</b>	<b>GEOMETRY(PRE AP OR REGULAR)</b>

- C. **BIOLOGY (PRE AP OR REGULAR)**
- D. **WORLD GEOGRAPHY (PRE AP OR REGULAR)**

**\*\*YOUR NEXT 3 CLASSES SHOULD COME FROM ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:**

- E. **FOREIGN LANGUAGE (SPANISH I, II, GERMAN I) \*You must have two years**
- F. **HEALTH/SPEECH (OR ELECTIVE)**
- G. **FINE ART CREDIT (OR ELECTIVE FOR ENDORSEMENT)**
- H. **PE/ATHLETICS (OR ELECTIVE) You must write in the sport that you play.**

**\*\*ELECTIVE COURSES BEGIN ON PAGE 64 OF YOUR COURSE GUIDE, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE EVERYTHING FILLED OUT TO TURN IN TO YOUR COUNSELOR ON APRIL 13, WHEN THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S COME TO THE JUNIOR HIGH TO COLLECT.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

### SCHEDULE REQUEST 2016-2017

Classes you would like or need to take

Circle if you want to take Pre-Advanced

1. (English) \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-AP

2. (Math) \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-AP

3. (Science) \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-AP

4. (History) \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-AP

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Endorsement: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_