Manatee High School

9th Grade Information Night

February 19, 2026

Welcome Future Hurricanes

Parents - Please take a moment to fill out the form

WE ARE... MANATEE

Go Canes!



MANATEE HURRICANES MISSION

The mission of Manatee High School is to increase student engagement by providing opportunities to think in every classroom, every period, every day.

Graduation Requirements

- ✓ **Earn 24 credits as follows:**
  - 4 English
  - 4 Math (must include Algebra 1 and Geometry)
  - 3 Science (must include Biology)
  - 3.5 Social Studies (World History, Personal Finance and Money Management, US History, US Government, and Economics)
  - 1 HOPE (Health and PE)
  - 1 Fine Art/Practical Art with Artistic Content
  - 7.5 Elective Credits
- ✓ **Earn an unweighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher**
- ✓ **Pass the required state assessments (Grade 10 FAST ELA & Algebra 1 EOC)**

Fine Art/Practical Art Requirement

- All students must earn a Fine Art/Practical Art credit for graduation
- Courses that satisfy the requirement at MHS include:

ADV MFG TECH	DANCE	MARKETING
ADVANCE TECH APPLICATIONS	DIGITAL DESIGN	MEDICAL
AP STUDIO	DIGITAL INFO TECH	MUSIC ENSEMBLE
APPLIED ENGINEERING TECH	GAMING	ORCHESTRA
ART 2D	INTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE	PORTFOLIO
BAND	INTRUMENTAL TECHNIQUES	TELEVISION PRODUCTION
CERAMICS/POTTERY	JAZZ ENSEMBLE	THEATRE
CHORUS	JOURNALISM	VOCAL ENSEMBLE
CINEMA, FILM PRODUCTION	JROTC (WAIVER REQUIRED)	VOCAL TECHNIQUES
CULINARY ARTS 2 OR 3	• *SOME FLVS, MTC AND SCF COURSES MAY ALSO QUALIFY*	• *ALWAYS VERIFY WITH SCHOOL COUNSELOR*

HOPE Waiver

A student can waive the HOPE requirement in one of three ways:

1. Participate in **two seasons** of an interscholastic sport at the **Junior Varsity** or **Varsity** level-

- And / Or -

2. Complete **two years** of **JROTC** and/or **Marching Band**. These will also waive the full credit in HOPE and the full credit in Fine Arts-

Standardized Assessments

Graduation Requirements

Level 3 or higher on the following assessments

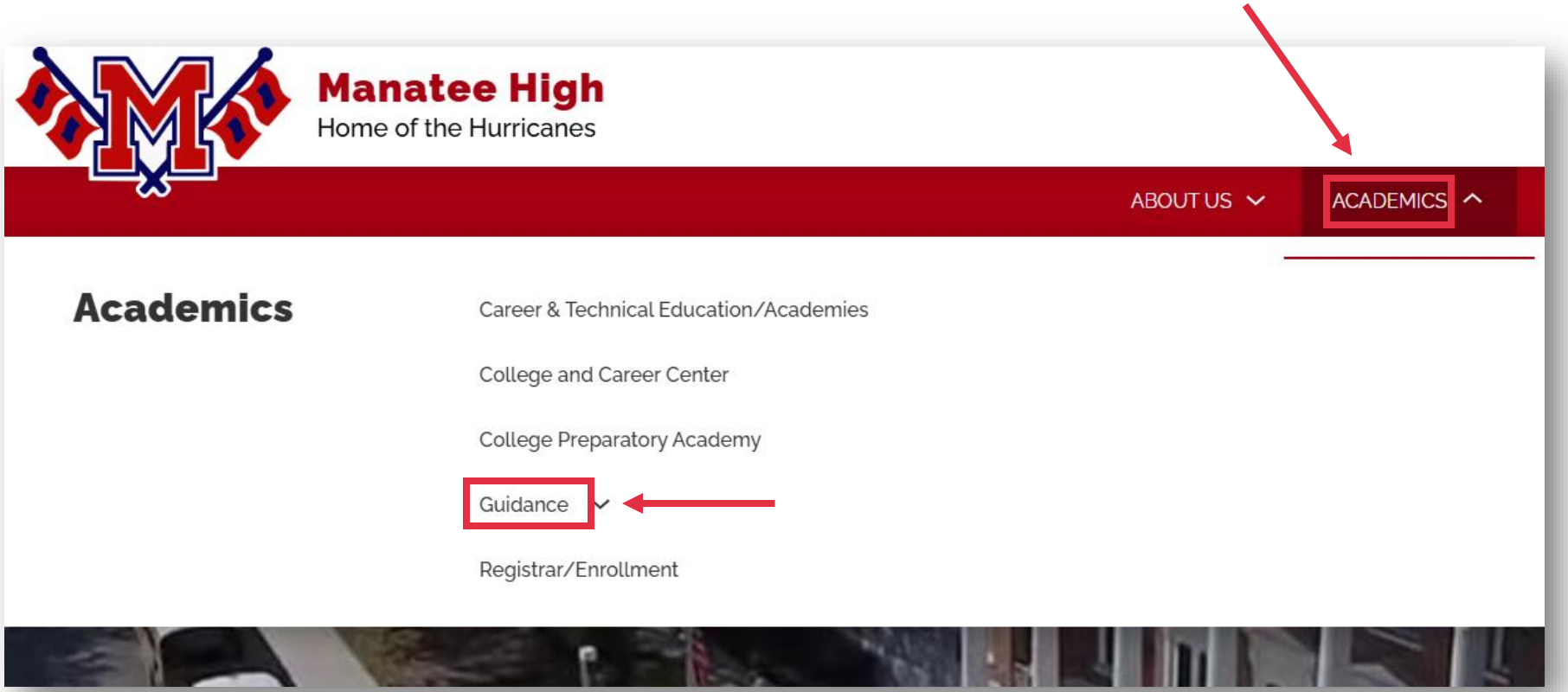
- Grade 10 ELA FAST
- Algebra 1 End of Course (EOC)

End of Course Exams

30% of the final grade for the following courses

- Algebra 1 (Graduation Requirement)
- Biology
- Geometry
- US History

MHS Website Registration Resources

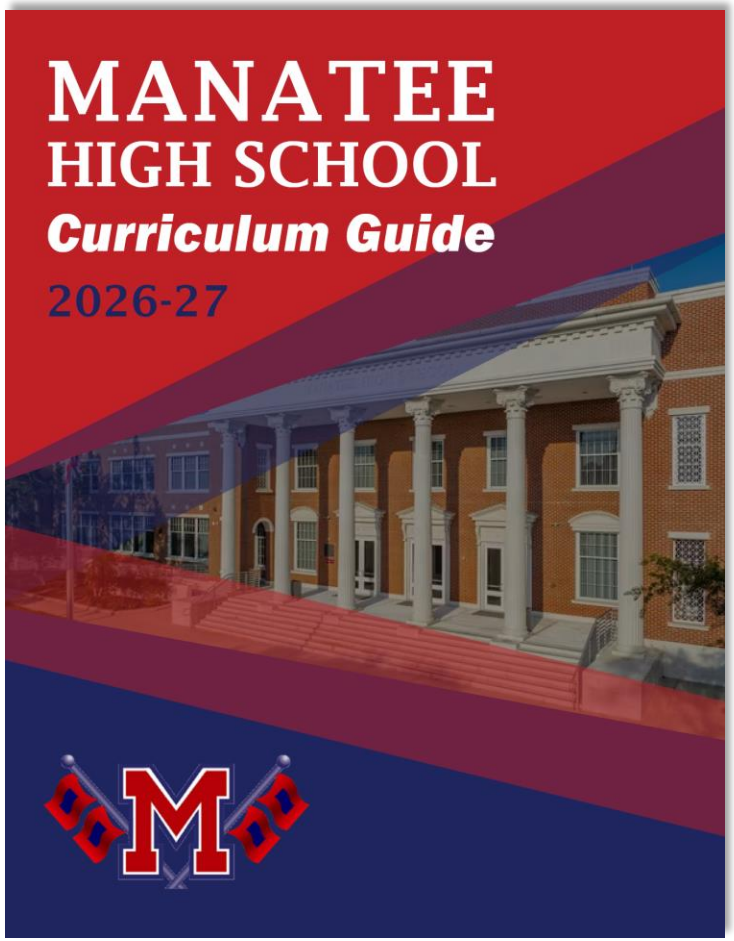


Course Selection for 2026-2027 School Year

- 2026-2027 Course Registration Process and Dates
- **2026-2027 Curriculum Guide**
- Grade 12 Course Selection Form
- Grade 11 Course Selection Form
- Grade 10 Course Selection Form
- Grade 9 Course Selection Form
- OJT Application
- Office Aide Application - *coming soon*
- Applications for the MHS Medical Academy
- **DUAL ENROLLMENT 2026-2027 INFORMATION**

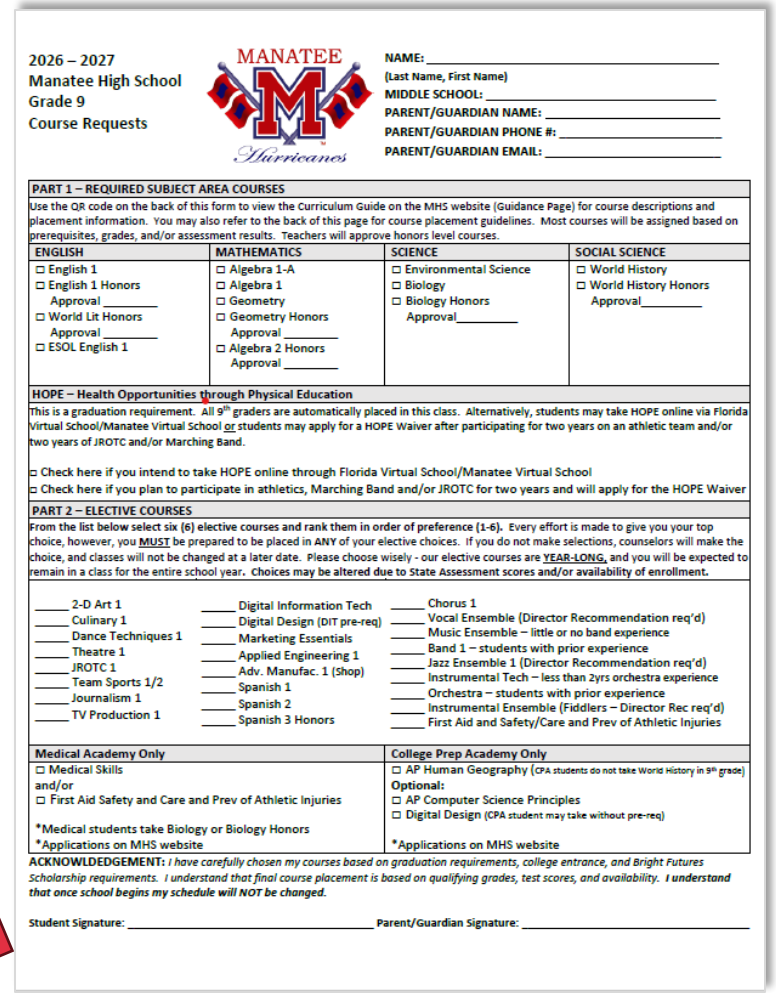
Course Request Guidelines

- Review the courses in the Curriculum Guide and discuss options with parents/guardians
- Core subject area teachers (English, Math, Science, Social Studies) will recommend the next level course you should take
- Choose and rank five (5) electives
- Parents/Guardians and students must sign the Course Request Form



Course Request Forms

- Course Request forms are available on the MHS website and will be provided to middle schools
- Complete the top portion, **please print**
- Parents/Guardians and students must sign the Course Request Form



2026 – 2027
Manatee High School
Grade 9
Course Requests

MANATEE
Hurricanes

NAME: _____
(Last Name, First Name)
MIDDLE SCHOOL: _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN PHONE #: _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN EMAIL: _____

PART 1 – REQUIRED SUBJECT AREA COURSES

Use the QR code on the back of this form to view the Curriculum Guide on the MHS website (Guidance Page) for course descriptions and placement information. You may also refer to the back of this page for course placement guidelines. Most courses will be assigned based on prerequisites, grades, and/or assessment results. Teachers will approve honors level courses.

ENGLISH	MATHEMATICS	SCIENCE	SOCIAL SCIENCE
☐ English 1	☐ Algebra 1-A	☐ Environmental Science	☐ World History
☐ English 1 Honors Approval _____	☐ Algebra 1	☐ Biology	☐ World History Honors Approval_____
☐ World Lit Honors Approval _____	☐ Geometry	☐ Biology Honors Approval_____	
☐ ESOL English 1	☐ Geometry Honors Approval _____		
	☐ Algebra 2 Honors Approval _____		

HOPE – Health Opportunities through Physical Education

This is a graduation requirement. All 9th graders are automatically placed in this class. Alternatively, students may take HOPE online via Florida Virtual School/Manatee Virtual School or students may apply for a HOPE Waiver after participating for two years on an athletic team and/or two years of JROTC and/or Marching Band.

☐ Check here if you intend to take HOPE online through Florida Virtual School/Manatee Virtual School
☐ Check here if you plan to participate in athletics, Marching Band and/or JROTC for two years and will apply for the HOPE Waiver

PART 2 – ELECTIVE COURSES

From the list below select six (6) elective courses and rank them in order of preference (1-6). Every effort is made to give you your top choice, however, you MUST be prepared to be placed in ANY of your elective choices. If you do not make selections, counselors will make the choice, and classes will not be changed at a later date. Please choose wisely - our elective courses are YEAR-LONG, and you will be expected to remain in a class for the entire school year. Choices may be altered due to State Assessment scores and/or availability of enrollment.

_____ 2-D Art 1	_____ Digital Information Tech	_____ Chorus 1
_____ Culinary 1	_____ Digital Design (DIT pre-req)	_____ Vocal Ensemble (Director Recommendation req'd)
_____ Dance Techniques 1	_____ Marketing Essentials	_____ Music Ensemble – little or no band experience
_____ Theatre 1	_____ Applied Engineering 1	_____ Band 1 – students with prior experience
_____ JROTC 1	_____ Adv. Manufac. 1 (Shop)	_____ Jazz Ensemble 1 (Director Recommendation req'd)
_____ Team Sports 1/2	_____ Spanish 1	_____ Instrumental Tech – less than 2yrs orchestra experience
_____ Journalism 1	_____ Spanish 2	_____ Orchestra – students with prior experience
_____ TV Production 1	_____ Spanish 3 Honors	_____ Instrumental Ensemble (Fiddlers – Director Rec req'd)
		_____ First Aid and Safety/Care and Prev of Athletic Injuries

Medical Academy Only	College Prep Academy Only
☐ Medical Skills and/or ☐ First Aid Safety and Care and Prev of Athletic Injuries	☐ AP Human Geography (CPA students do not take World History in 9th grade)
*Medical students take Biology or Biology Honors	**Optional:**
*Applications on MHS website	☐ AP Computer Science Principles
	☐ Digital Design (CPA student may take without pre-req)
	*Applications on MHS website

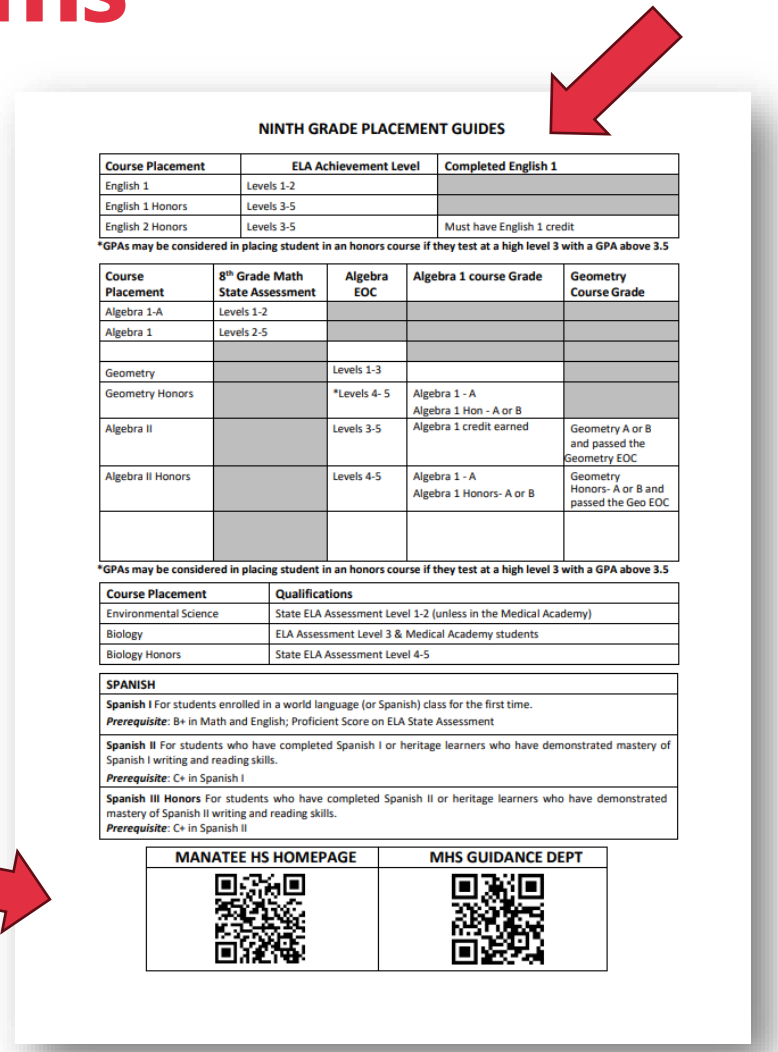
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: *I have carefully chosen my courses based on graduation requirements, college entrance, and Bright Futures Scholarship requirements. I understand that final course placement is based on qualifying grades, test scores, and availability.* ***I understand that once school begins my schedule will NOT be changed.***

Student Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Course Request Forms

- **Placement guidelines for:**
  - **ELA**
  - **Math**
  - **Science**
  - **World Language**

- **Scan for Quick Reference**



NINTH GRADE PLACEMENT GUIDES

Course Placement	ELA Achievement Level	Completed English 1
English 1	Levels 1-2	
English 1 Honors	Levels 3-5	
English 2 Honors	Levels 3-5	Must have English 1 credit

*GPAs may be considered in placing student in an honors course if they test at a high level 3 with a GPA above 3.5

Course Placement	8th Grade Math State Assessment	Algebra EOC	Algebra 1 course Grade	Geometry Course Grade
Algebra 1-A	Levels 1-2			
Algebra 1	Levels 2-5			
Geometry		Levels 1-3		
Geometry Honors		*Levels 4- 5	Algebra 1 - A Algebra 1 Hon - A or B	
Algebra II		Levels 3-5	Algebra 1 credit earned	Geometry A or B and passed the Geometry EOC
Algebra II Honors		Levels 4-5	Algebra 1 - A Algebra 1 Honors- A or B	Geometry Honors- A or B and passed the Geo EOC

*GPAs may be considered in placing student in an honors course if they test at a high level 3 with a GPA above 3.5

Course Placement	Qualifications
Environmental Science	State ELA Assessment Level 1-2 (unless in the Medical Academy)
Biology	ELA Assessment Level 3 & Medical Academy students
Biology Honors	State ELA Assessment Level 4-5

SPANISH
Spanish I For students enrolled in a world language (or Spanish) class for the first time. ***Prerequisite***: B+ in Math and English; Proficient Score on ELA State Assessment
Spanish II For students who have completed Spanish I or heritage learners who have demonstrated mastery of Spanish I writing and reading skills. ***Prerequisite***: C+ in Spanish I
Spanish III Honors For students who have completed Spanish II or heritage learners who have demonstrated mastery of Spanish II writing and reading skills. ***Prerequisite***: C+ in Spanish II

MANATEE HS HOMEPAGE	MHS GUIDANCE DEPT

MHS Academies and Programs

- **College Preparatory Academy (CPA)***
- **Medical Academy***
- **STEM Program for Design & Engineering**

***Applications are on the MHS website.**

For more information visit the tables in the lobby:

College Preparatory Academy 🎓
Medical Academy ⚕️
Guy Harvey Aquaculture 🐟

Choosing Electives

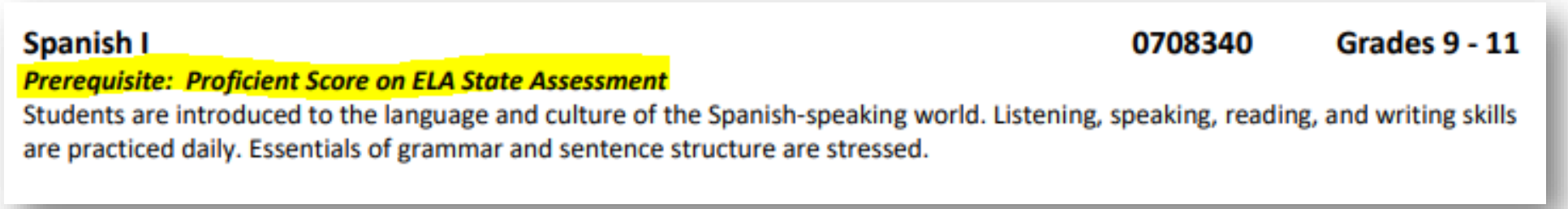
- Rank your elective choices from 1-5.
  - If you choosing a program/academy, your #1 elective choice must fall within those elective choices.
  - Your #2-5 choices should be clearly ranked and can be any elective course.

- Carefully select elective courses. It is possible to get your 5th choice elective. Please make sure you will be happy with any course you choose on your request form.

- Certain elective courses require acceptance or recommendation.

What is a Prerequisite?

- If a course has a prerequisite, that means you must complete a specific course or have earned a minimum grade in previous coursework prior to being permitted to enroll in the class.
- Prerequisites for MHS courses are listed with the course description in the curriculum guide (on the MHS website).
- Example:



Spanish I **0708340** **Grades 9 - 11**

Prerequisite: Proficient Score on ELA State Assessment

Students are introduced to the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills are practiced daily. Essentials of grammar and sentence structure are stressed.

Schedule Changes

- Requests for schedule changes will **ONLY** be considered for the following reasons:
  - The student has already earned credit for the course
  - The student has failed to meet the prerequisite for the course
  - The student is scheduled for too many or not enough courses
  - If there was a clerical error

Course Failure Policy

- If a student has been unsuccessful in a course, they will not be scheduled back into that course at MHS.

- Grade forgiveness is available only for earning a C, D, or F in middle school or a D or F in high school

State Universities of Florida

Admission into Florida's public universities is **competitive**.

Minimum Admissions Requirements:

- ✓ Standard High School Diploma and ACT/SAT Scores
- ✓ 18 credits in college preparatory courses:
  - ✓ 4 English Credits
  - ✓ 4 Math Credits (Algebra 1 or higher level)
  - ✓ 3 Credits Science (2 with substantial labs)
  - ✓ 3 Credits Social Studies
  - ✓ 2 Credits Foreign Language (sequential in same language)
  - ✓ 2 Credits Academic Electives

Acceleration Options

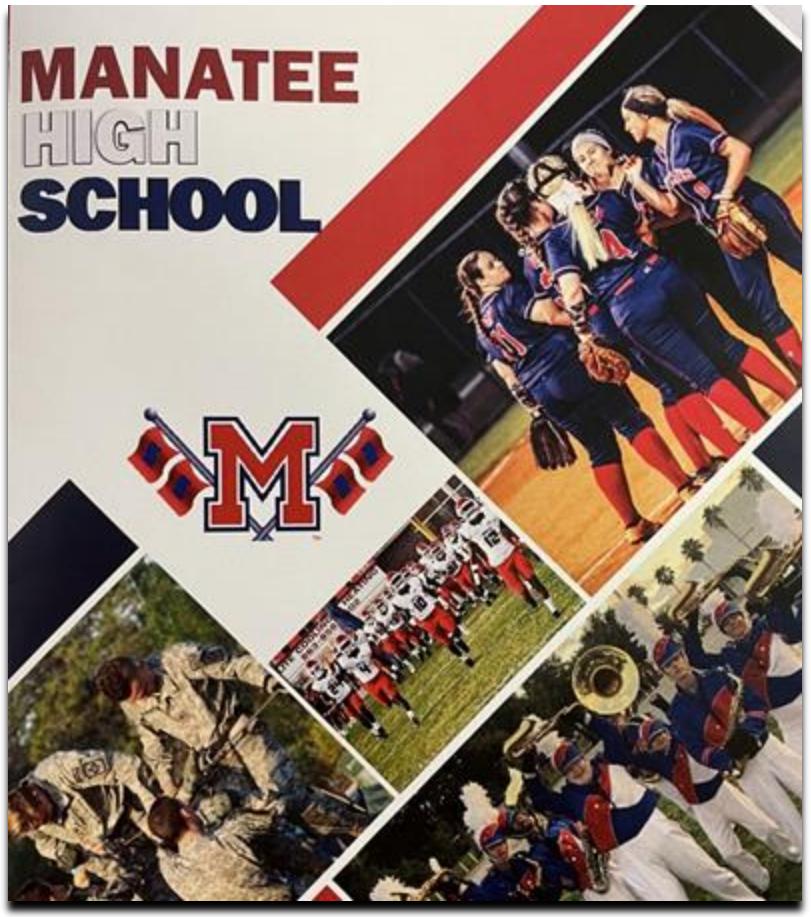
Advanced Placement

- AP courses are college-level courses taught at the high school culminating in a national AP exam taking in May.
- Students interested in AP courses must have teacher approval
- AP summer assignments must be completed and submitted on the first day of school. Check school website for summer assignments (Schoology)
- Required to take the end of the year AP Exam
- Freshmen are permitted to take AP Human Geography if accepted into CPA

Dual Enrollment

- Dual enrollment is a program that allows eligible students to enroll in State College of Florida (SCF) courses or University of South Florida (USF) courses
- Credits earned are included in both the high school and college GPA
- Grades earned in dual enrollment courses become a permanent record on the college transcript
- DE courses are typically completed in grades 10-12

MHS Website



Manatee High School Clubs

Club	Sponsor	Description	Who Can Join	When Club Meets
Academic Team	Stephen Murray	We compete with the other county schools four times each year. Our competitions are formatted in a lockout buzzer, question and answer public quiz. Often compared to Jeopardy or Quiz Bowl, we need students who excel across all academic disciplines.	Anyone who attends practices	Tuesday – after school in room 8-213 Friday – after school in room 8-213
Art Club	Melissa Link	The purpose of this club is to enrich the lives of students through cultural awareness of art and serving the community through art related projects.	Anyone interested with at least a 2.0 GPA	Tuesdays after school in Room 922
Book Club	Eric Silenzi	Do you want to learn something new? Do you want to catch up with friends, meet new people, or even a mix of these. During our book club meetings, students meet in small groups to discuss books they have read or listened to.	Any student	Thursdays 2:30 – 3:15 in the Media Center
Cane TV	Chris Peters	Broadcast group that films all home football games, other on campus sports, concerts, and performances for use on the video board and/or YouTube.	Any student with an interest in broadcast production.	Varies, depends on the time and date of scheduled events.
Ceramics Club	Elizabeth Azcarraga	Students will learn clay hand building techniques such as animal pinch pots as well as how to make pottery on the wheel.	Anyone	Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30
Chess Club	Eric Silenzi Jeffrey Wandel	Our chess club brings students together who share a common interest in playing and learning about the game of chess. The club meets regularly offering its members an opportunity to learn and play the game of chess in a fun and relaxed setting.	Any student: beginners to advanced	Wednesday 2:25-3:30 in the Media Center
Drama Club	Heather Catell	Actor? Techie? Dancer? Drama club is a home for all interested in the performing arts on and off the stage. We meet every week to help plan, support, and run theatre productions in our very own Davis theatre. Stop by also for improvisation games, acting exercises, friends, and fun!	Anyone with a passion or curiosity for the performing arts!	Tuesdays from 2:30-3:15 in the drama room.
Dungeons and Dragons Club	Mark Rice	The Dungeons and Dragons Club is a club that meets to play Dungeons and Dragons weekly. We have a few different games going on where each Dungeon Master runs the game. All levels of players are welcome.	Anyone can join. We welcome everybody.	Mondays after school from 2:45 – 4:15
Environmental & Ocean Awareness Club	Melanie Watts	The mission of the MHS Environmental & Ocean Awareness Club is to raise awareness about environmental issues, ocean conservation, and to reducing environmental impact as individuals, a school community, and as citizens of the world.	Open to all MHS students who care about protecting, conserving and restoring our beautiful community	Wednesdays 2:30- 3:30
FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)	Terrace Dunbar	FBLA inspires and prepares students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. Through leadership driven initiatives and contributing to the betterment of our school, local	Any Student interested in Business With the following qualifications:	Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month in Room 210 at 2:30 pm.

Check out the clubs and athletics on our MHS website for ways to get involved!

MHS Athletics Open House

Fall Sports

- Cross County (Girls and Boys)
- Football
- Golf (Girls and Boys)
- Sideline Cheerleading
- Swimming and Diving (Girls and Boys)
- Volleyball

Winter Sports

- Basketball (Girls and Boys)
- Competitive Cheerleading
- Girls Weightlifting
- Soccer (Girls and Boys)
- Wrestling

Spring Sports

- Baseball
- Beach Volleyball
- Boys Weightlifting
- Flag Football
- Lacrosse (Girls and Boys)
- Softball
- Tennis (Girls and Boys)
- Track and Field (Girls and Boys)

MHS Athletic Open House will be held in June – details TBA

Athletics Requirements

- Must have a cumulative unweighted GPA of 2.0 to participate
- Compliance with FHSAA paperwork
  - EL-2 and EL-3 paperwork is located on our school website and at www.fhsaa.com
- Participating in athletics and activities is a privilege. In order to represent MHS, student conduct must be outstanding.
- Any student that owes money, textbooks, or school property may NOT participate in extracurricular activities until the debt is paid or the property is returned to the school. This includes clubs, sports, graduation, etc.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When will the counselors come to my middle school?

A: Counselors have either presented, will be presenting, or dropping of registration materials during the following dates.

- 2/23 King MS
- 2/25 Braden River MS
- 2/26 Johnson
- 2/27 Sugg and Rowlett MS

Return Forms to Middle Schools

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I don't attend one of your feeder middle schools, how do I register and select courses?

A: Visit the MHS website to obtain appropriate forms. Once you have completed the forms, send them to the appropriate counselor (by last name) or drop them off at the front desk.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I pick up my schedule before school starts?

A: Official schedules are given out on the first day of school and will post in FOCUS the night before school starts.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I change a class at the end of the first semester?

A: No, your schedule will remain the same for the entire year.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What if there is an error on my schedule?

A: Students can speak with their counselor after the first day of school. We will communicate the process in the fall.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I take a foreign language as a 9th grader?

A: The course may be requested but, due to limited space the course may not be available until 10th grade.

Please note: If you successfully completed foreign language credit(s) in middle school and you select the next level, you will be guaranteed this elective.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How many community service hours do I need for graduation?

A: Although hours may be required for scholarships or college admission, there is no community service requirement for graduation.

Please note: Hours completed in the summer after 8th grade can count. Community Service forms are available on our website.

Questions & Answers

Opportunity to ask our MHS Student Government Association (SGA) students questions about MHS

Contacts

Administration

- Principal – Shannon Fleming
- Assistant Principal – Shane Hall
- Assistant Principal – Jason Spahn
- Assistant Principal – Denise Brigg
- Athletic Director – Matt Bowling

Guidance

- A-D: Mrs. Johnson
- E-Li: Mrs. Chmielewski (Mrs. C)
- LJ-RE: Ms. Mitchell
- RF-Z: Mrs. Rivera
- College and Career: Mrs. Norris

Thank you, Go Canes!

