Columbia High School

Jeff Kinney, *Principal*
Lori Halliday, *Assistant Principal*
Robbin Wilson, *Assistant Principal*
Lorissa Bailey, *Assistant Principal*
Candyce Miller, *Counselor*
Jennifer Kincannon, *Counselor*

FAQ

GRADUATION

How do I graduate from High School?

[TEA GRADUATION TOOLKIT]

GPA WAIVERS-

Who qualifies to submit a GPA waiver?

1. Students who are classified as a junior (11th grade) or senior (12th grade) when the application is filed with the guidance office.
2. Students who have completed the prerequisite course requirements for graduation.
3. Students who have completed the application with all required signatures from parent, student, counselor, and grade level assistant principal. This must be submitted to the guidance office by the Friday of the first full week of school.
4. Students cannot waive a 5th science or math until all 4 credits have been earned. The 5th class has to be an elective.

Can a course be waived that was taken prior to my junior year or senior year?
No. Students must be currently enrolled in the course they intend to waive and be classified as a junior or senior student based on the year you entered high school.

What does it mean to waive an elective course?
This means the course will NOT be included in the student's overall Grade Point Average. The student will receive state credit for the course.

Can I waive all of my elective courses taken in my junior and senior year?
A student may only waive a maximum of TWO qualifying electives during their junior year and TWO qualifying electives during their senior year.

*Students who intend to graduate early will only be eligible once the student is classified as a junior. Early graduates must have an approved Intent to Graduate Early form on file with their counselor. (Form is available from HS counselors after sophomore year.)
* GPA waiver form can be found on the counselor's page or in the counselor's office.

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DUAL CREDIT-

What is the process to take dual credit classes?

1. Visit with Mrs. Anderson, our dual credit counselor, when she is on our campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
2. Fill out the "Columbia High School Dual Credit Student Approval Form" and have it signed.
3. Complete the BC Application for admission at www.applytexas.org.
4. If required, meet minimum college readiness test score requirements in reading and writing. Math TSI is not required until you take a math-based dual credit course. Courses that require Math TSI include College Dual Credit Math, Biology, and Chemistry. You must complete the pre-assessment activity for the TSI before testing. The QR code to sign up is in the counselor's office.
5. For more information regarding dual credit at CHS, please click the following link: https://www.brazosport.edu/dualcredit/columbia-high-school/

What happens if I drop a dual credit class or fail a dual credit class?

- Any student who failed a CHS or BC course the prior semester will not qualify for CBISD tuition payment program for the current semester.
- Students must be in good standing. Meaning if the student passes everything in the current semester, the student will be eligible to take dual credit classes in the following semester and receive CBISD tuition assistance.
- Students that fail dual credit, funded by CBISD, become ineligible for tuition assistance from the district until they are in good standing.
- If a student failed a dual credit course and would like to apply for CBISD tuition assistance again, the student must pass all classes in the semester following the semester they failed the dual credit course. Or, have passed the DC class in which they failed, in a minimester or summer session, following the semester in which they failed.
- Students that are not in good standing and want to appeal the decision. They then need to set up a time with the principal to discuss why they failed the dual credit class, and how they will be successful in the next attempt.
- Students that are not in "good standing" can still choose to take dual credit at their expense, or if they qualify for BC tuition assistance (free and reduced student) at the discretion of the college.

- Poor attendance will result in the student not qualifying for CBISD tuition payment program in the following semester.

- If any CHS student withdraws from a BC course or makes a change to their courses in which they are enrolled in **AND DOES NOT** notify their counselor within 5 school days of withdrawal and/or change, the student will not qualify for the CBISD tuition payment program the following semester.
- If a student withdraws from a BC course, they will assume ALL responsibility for any associated fees and tuition.

FINANCIAL AID-

How can I apply for Financial Aid for college?

1. You can request federal grants, work-study, and loans in one application called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
   FAFSA Link: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

2. Students who cannot apply for federal financial aid are encouraged to fill out the TASFA. TASFA applicants usually include students who are non-citizens or non-permanent residents of the United States. Before you begin, contact the institution you plan to attend to verify your eligibility to submit the TASFA.
   TAFSA Link:
   https://www.highered.texas.gov/our-work/empowering-our-students/tasfa/

Where can I find a list of scholarships?

A list of local and national scholarships can be found at:
https://columbia-brazoriaisdchs.ss20.sharpschool.com/our_school/guidance_and_counseling/scholarships

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COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

1. **What is the difference between the PSAT and the PSAT/NMSQT?**

   Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT and meet other program entry requirements specified in the PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide will enter the National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). The PSAT 8-9 and PSAT 10 measures readiness for college, access to scholarships, and serves as a practice for the SAT.

2. **How do I register for the PSAT 9, 10, NMSQT, or SAT?**

   You must register for a college board account at: https://cbaccount.collegeboard.org/iamweb/smartRegister?appId=424&DURL=https://mysat.collegeboard.org/login

   PSAT 9,10, NMSQT, and SAT (11th grade) using the QR codes on campus. SAT (12th grade) sign up through the college board account. CHS is a testing site that offers the SAT test on select Saturdays.

3. **How do I sign up for the TSI?**

   Students can sign up for the TSI using the QR codes on campus, but must complete the pre-assessment activity included in the QR code registration before they test.

4. **How do I sign up for the ACT test?**

   We do not currently offer the ACT test on our campus, but there are local ACT testing centers in the area.

   Register at: https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html and search a location near you.

PAL CLASS

How do I become a PAL?

1. Enroll during 9th/10th grade in Principles of Education and/or Human Growth and Development.
2. 11th and 12th grade- enroll in Instructional Practices

   *Without these prerequisites, a student will not be allowed to enroll in the PAL class. You may take the prerequisites concurrently with Instructional Practices.