

Freeport Middle School



Believes

Achieves

Respects

Knows

Succeeds

Curriculum Guide For Grades 6-8 2020-2021

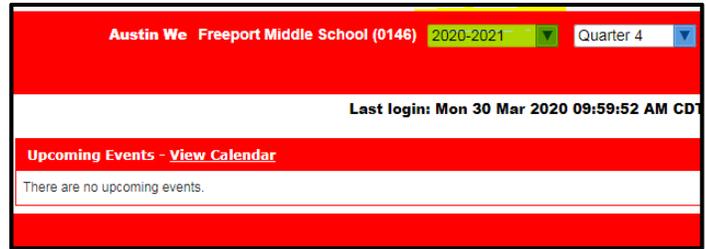
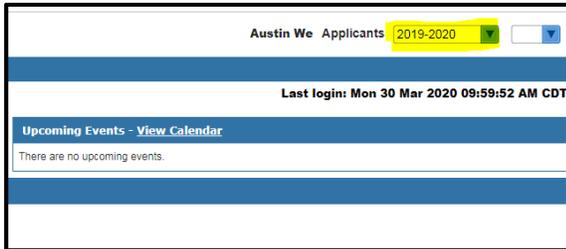
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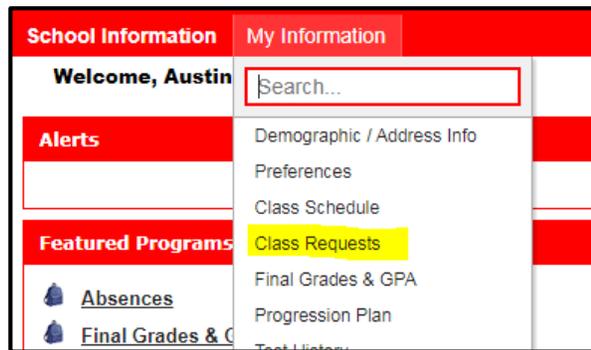
Elective Selection Process

To select your electives for the 2020-2021 school year, please follow the instructions below.

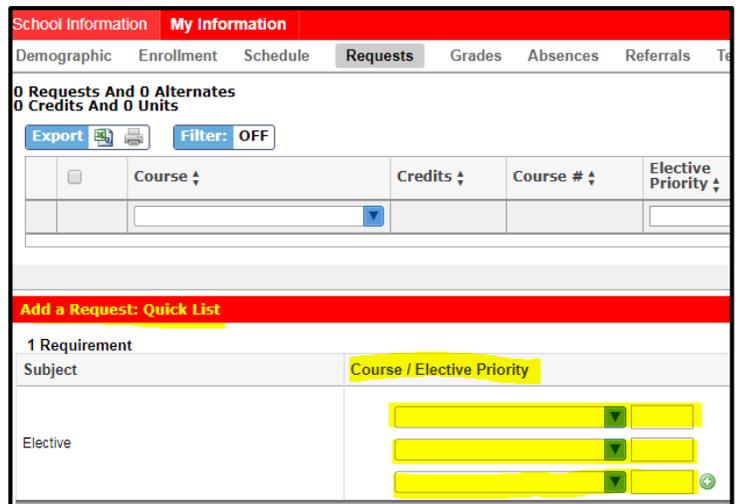
1. Login to ClassLink. Locate and click on the Focus icon. Students will be automatically logged in.
2. In the top right corner of the screen, change the year to 2020-2021. The color scheme will change to red when the year is changed.



3. Click "My Information" and select "Class Requests" from the list of options in the drop down box.



4. From the drop downs in the "Add a Request: Quick List", select 4 elective options and prioritize them from 1-4 using the boxes to the right of your choice. To choose a fourth elective, click the green "+" sign. Click Save.



Middle School Academic Requirements

Subject Area	Credit Requirements
English Language Arts (ELA)	Three (3) Credits
Mathematics	Three (3) Credits
Science	Three (3) Credits
Social Studies	Three (3) Credits; Including Civics
Physical Education	One and one half (1.5) Credits

Middle School Academic Core Course Offerings

English Language Arts	Grade 6	M/J Language Arts 1 M/J Language Arts 1 Advanced
	Grade 7	M/J Language Arts 2 M/J Language Arts 2 Advanced
	Grade 8	M/J Language Arts 3 M/J Language Arts 3 Advanced
History	Grade 6	M/J World Cultures M/J World Cultures Advanced
	Grade 7	M/J Civics M/J Civics Advanced
	Grade 8	M/J US History & Career Planning M/J US History & Career Planning Advanced
Mathematics	Grade 6	M/J Grade 6 Math M/J Grade 6 Math Advanced M/J Grade 7 Math*
	Grade 7	M/J Grade 7 Math M/J Grade 8 Pre-Algebra* Algebra I Honors* ^{HS} Geometry I Honors* ^{HS}
	Grade 8	M/J Grade 8 Pre-Algebra* Algebra I Honors* ^{HS} Geometry I Honors* ^{HS}
Science	Grade 6	M/J Comprehensive Science 1 M/J Comprehensive Science 1 Advanced
	Grade 7	M/J Comprehensive Science 2 M/J Comprehensive Science 2 Advanced
	Grade 8	M/J Comprehensive Science 3 M/J Comprehensive Science 3 Advanced

* Indicates an accelerated course track or teacher/administrative recommendation.

^{HS} indicates a course for high school credit.

High School Course Requirements

Grades earned in high school credit courses, whether taken in middle school or high school, become part of the student's high school transcript and are calculated into the student's high school GPA. It is of utmost importance that the student and parents understand that enrollment in a high school course will mean increased rigor, coursework and time requirements. The student must take this course seriously and be committed to working hard for the duration of the course in order to achieve a successful outcome. Additional information regarding high school coursework is provided below.

GPA: Grade-Point-Average is a number calculated based on the points earned when taking a class. Each letter grade is assigned a point value and based on the letter grade received; a student will have a resulting GPA. GPA is used to determine class rank, scholarships and awards, as well as being a minimum requirement to enroll in colleges or vocational programs.

Grade Forgiveness: Students who earn a grade of "C" or below on a high school course during middle school may retake the course for grade forgiveness.

High School Course Offerings

The following classes are available for students to enroll in and earn high school credits while remaining a student at Freeport Middle School. Placement in these courses follows the same criteria as placement in advanced courses.

- Algebra I Honors
- Geometry Honors
- Digital Information Technology
- Spanish I

Online Course Options

- Students who will be required to take Credit Recovery for the 2020-2021 school year must notify Mrs. Ellison (ellisonc@walton.k12.fl.us) for approval.
- Students who are interested in taking a virtual course through Florida Virtual School (FLVS) or Walton Virtual School (WVS) need to select "Study Hall" as an elective and notify Mrs. Ellison of your intentions. Students may take up to three (3) courses with approval from the Guidance Department and still be enrolled at Freeport Middle School. Students taking four (4) or more courses online must withdraw from Freeport Middle and register with the Home Education Department.
- The Walton Virtual School franchise aids our students in fulfilling their virtual classroom needs. Walton Virtual School offers full-time and part-time enrollments through online instruction from Walton County teachers who are certified and considered highly-qualified educators by the Florida Department of Education. Visit <https://www.walton.k12.fl.us/walton-virtual-school> for more information.
- The Florida Virtual School program offers a variety of online classes. For more information, visit <https://flvs.net>.

Course Level Expectations

Placement in advanced classes or high school courses is based on the following criteria:

- Work ethic, behavior, and commitment to academic excellence
- STAR data
- FSA data from previous years' administrations (level 4 or higher)
- Grades from previous coursework (A & B level students)
- Teacher recommendation
- Good attendance
- FSA and state-mandated EOC scores (level 4 or higher)

Intensive Courses

Placement in an intensive course is based on Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) scores and STAR Reading and Math data. Students who are deemed “not proficient” in Reading and/or Math may be placed in an intensive course. Students will receive remediation by participating in an intensive course and will have instruction tailored to meet their instructional needs.

- Placement in Intensive Math classes will be based on the recommendations listed in the Student Progression Plan which include achieving a level 1 on the FSA Math assessment or an equivalent score on the STAR Math assessment.
- Placement in Intensive Reading classes will be based on the recommendations listed in the Student Progression Plan which include achieving a level 1 on the FSA Reading assessment or an equivalent score on the STAR Reading assessment.
- These courses are considered year-long courses unless administration approves dismissal based on performance data that consistently proves proficiency and expected proficiency on the FSA.

Electives

The following elective courses will be offered at Freeport Middle School for the 2020-2021 school year. Classes with an **asterisk (*)** are courses that require students to submit an application. Participation in courses with an **“AD”** next to it require administrative approval and placement.

American Sign Language Beginning (Grades 7 & 8 Only)

M/J American Sign Language Beginning introduces students to the target language and its culture. Students will learn beginning receptive and expressive signing skills and be introduced to culture, connections, comparisons, and communities during this one-year course. This course is set up as an introductory course for students who wish to take American Sign Language in high school.

Art

Art courses offered are based on grade level. Art classes include Art in World Cultures (6th Grade), 2-D Art (7th Grade), and 3-D Art (8th Grade). Art students enter in a variety of art competitions and art shows. Students work on various collaborative projects such as 9/11 Patriot Day, “Where Will Your Wings Take You?”, canvas paintings, ink painting, clay and plaster sculptures, and so much more!

AVID*

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is offered as an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success. AVID is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long course. Each week students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum provided by AVID Center, tutor-facilitated study groups, motivational activities and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading to support their academic growth. Students must apply for and be accepted into the AVID program. To be in the AVID program, your application must be reviewed and approved by the AVID committee. If you are interested in joining the AVID family or have any other questions about AVID, please contact Ms. Job at jobm@walton.k12.fl.us.

Band 1: Beginning Band

Students with little or no instrumental experience develop foundational instrumental technique, foundational music literacy, and aesthetic musical awareness through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists work on the fundamentals of music notation, sound production, instrument care and maintenance, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. Not being able to provide or purchase an instrument should not be a barrier to registering for this course. Our band teacher will work with each family to ensure that each student has an instrument.

Band 2 & 3: Advanced Band

Students with previous band experience build on instrumental technique, music literacy, and aesthetic response through rehearsal, performance, and study of a variety of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists expand their knowledge of music notation, music theory, sound production, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. Not being able to provide or purchase an instrument should not be a barrier to registering for this course. Our band teacher will work with each family to ensure that each student has an instrument.

Beginning Spanish (Grades 7 & 8 Only)

M/J Beginning Spanish introduces students to the target language and its culture. Students will learn beginning skills in listening and speaking and an introduction to basic skills in reading and writing. Also, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities are included in this one-year course. This class is intended for students who will take Spanish I in 8th grade or in high school. Student academic performance will determine selection for this course.

Chorus

Students with little or no choral experience develop beginning vocal technique and skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through time. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals.

Creative Writing

Creative Writing is a year-long course that explores different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas. Through writing and thinking, students will learn to become better readers,

writers, and thinkers. The skills focused on in this course will help students in other courses as well, especially English.

Digital Information Technology (DIT)^{HS}

Digital Information Technology is the first course of the Administrative Office Specialist Secondary Program. The Administrative Office Specialist program offers a sequence of courses that provides coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further education and careers in the Business Management and Administration career cluster. Students should take ICT prior to the DIT course. This course is a rigorous high school level course that requires students to read at a 10th-11th grade reading level. This course requires a year-long commitment due to curriculum requirements.

Emerging Leaders

This course provides an introduction to service-learning and civic responsibility. Academic, personal, and career skills needed for effective service-learning project implementation will be taught and applied through structured service projects that meet real school or community needs.

Exploring Music Performance

Students with little or no vocal or instrumental experience develop basic foundational skills and knowledge, including music theory, musicianship and ensemble skills. Students will develop strategies for listening to unfamiliar musical works. Using these skills students also explore different genres of music, music history including classical and present day and learn about the benefits of music study. Students will learn to play rhythms and may play a variety of instruments. Students also work in small groups to write music.

Information Communication Technology Essentials (ICT)

This course introduces students to core concepts associated with computers and their use. The content includes hands-on opportunities to explore various software applications, including the creation of a template-based webpage and a basic computer program. There are multiple subsequent levels of this course for students to enroll in. This course requires a year-long commitment due to curriculum requirements.

Intensive Mathematics ^{AD}

This course is considered a Tier II intervention course for students who score a Level 1 on FSA Mathematics or on an equivalent assessment such as STAR. Per the WCSD Student Progression Plan, the student must receive remediation by completing an intensive mathematics course the following year or having the remediation integrated into the student's required mathematics course. This course should be tailored to meet the needs of the individual student.

Intensive Reading ^{AD}

The purpose of this course is to provide Tier II interventions for students who score a Level 1 or Level 2 on the Reading FSA or on an equivalent assessment such as STAR. This course enables students to accelerate the development of reading and writing skills and to strengthen those skills so they are able to successfully read and write middle grade level text independently.

Instruction emphasizes reading comprehension, writing fluency, and vocabulary study through the use of a variety of literary and informational texts encompassing a broad range of text structures, genres, and levels of complexity.

Library Skills/Information Literacy*

This course covers the basics of information literacy utilizing the Florida FINDS (Focus, Investigate, Note, Develop, Score) research model. Search strategies, database and website evaluation, note taking and organization, citation formats in MLA and APA, creation of presentation products, and an understanding of the meta-cognitive reflection process are an integral part of this course. Students will apply their knowledge by aiding in the management of the FMS Media Center. This course requires teacher and/or administrative recommendation.

Peer Counseling ^{AD}

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop an awareness of self and others. Emphasis will be on acquisition of basic skills for thoughtful planning, peer facilitation, effective communication, and making healthy choices. At Freeport Middle School, students are administratively placed in this course due to the need for behavior interventions.

Personal, Career, School Development Skills: Agriculture

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to become health literate and practice responsible behaviors to promote healthy living. This comprehensive course focuses on making wise personal decisions and respecting and promoting the health of others. This course has a strong emphasis on agriculture and careers in agriculture. Students will discover the deep embedded history of agriculture in the US and even compare facets of it to other countries. Students will have an opportunity to work hands-on in a greenhouse and garden area by growing crops from seeds, preparing and planting in raised beds, and harvesting crops and preparing seeds for the next planting. Topics include, but are not limited to, the Dairy, Beef, Swine, and Poultry Industries to the more traditional farming topics of Landscaping, Agricultural Pests, Floriculture, and even Fruit and Nut production. There is something interesting for all students!

Research I: STEM/Robotics

Students in Research I will research processes, topics, questions, and hypotheses related to STEM topics. STEM is a curriculum based on the education of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Students will also design projects using Legos and the fundamentals of robotics. This course will help prepare students to take Manufacturing and Engineering courses offered in high school.

Spanish I (Grade 8 Only)

Spanish I introduces students to the target language and its culture. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities. This class is open to students who have received a passing grade in Beginning Spanish. Student academic performance will determine selection for this course.

Speech and Debate

The purpose of this course is to develop students' beginning awareness, understanding, and application of language arts as it applies to oral communication concepts and strategies in a variety of given settings. Students will learn and practice a variety of speech formats, formal and informal public speaking techniques, use writing and research to support different points of view. Students will collaborate amongst peers.

Unique Skills ^{AD}

There are two strands of Unique Skills courses that are available at Freeport Middle School; Curriculum and Learning and Social and Emotional. Placement in these courses depends on a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Students in this course are also in our Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

When will student schedules be finalized?

Our goal is for student schedules to be finalized by July so that we can make adjustments to schedules prior to Orientation.

Who do I contact if I'm not sure what courses are for me/my student?

If you are unsure on what courses you should choose, you may contact Mrs. Ellison, the FMS Guidance Counselor. She can be reached by emailing her at ellisonc@walton.k12.fl.us or call her at 850-892-1221.

What if my student requires Intensive Reading and Intensive Math? Will they have other electives?

Yes, your student will still have PE as an elective.

Who do I/we contact if my student can't get into ClassLink?

Please contact your student's grade level technical assistance contact if you have questions. Their contact information can be found on the grade level webpages via www.fms.walton.k12.fl.us.

Who do I contact if I want individualized access to my student's Focus account?

To link a parent account to a student's information, you must contact our Data Control Specialist, Mrs. Weeks at jami.weeks@walton.k12.fl.us or call her at 850-892-1221, ext. 3203.

My sixth grade student wants to take Spanish I. Can they?

Students must successfully complete Beginning Spanish if they wish to take Spanish I. If your sixth grader has this requirement listed on their transcript through a previous course or virtual opportunity, please contact the Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Ellison.

What will the procedure for schedule changes be for the 2020-2021 school year?

Our goal is to make schedule revisions prior to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year to reduce/eliminate disruptions in learning. After classes have begun, schedule changes will only occur with the approval of Administration or Guidance Counselor based on student achievement or other extenuating circumstances. These changes will be kept at a minimum.

How do I figure out what Math class my student should take? How do Math class selections work?

Placement in Math classes will be made by Administration and the Guidance Counselor based on a student's work ethic and academic performance data. Once you have received a draft schedule, you can contact the Guidance Department for a schedule change if you think a schedule change should occur.

I do not have access to the internet at home. How can my student choose their electives?

There are a variety of ways that you can submit your course selections:

1. Pick up a paper elective selection form at the Freeport Middle School secure lobby. Due to COVID-19 precautions, we ask that you take a picture or scan the form to submit or fax the form to 850-892-1229.
2. You can also request a fillable selection form by emailing Mrs. Ellison at ellisonc@walton.k12.fl.us. Your selections will be placed in Focus for you.
3. Call Mrs. Ellison at 850-892-1221, ext. 3212, to submit your requests over the phone. We ask that this option only be used if other methods are not available due to limited access to the campus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When will elective choosing end?

The window for choosing electives will end at 11:59 PM on May 1, 2020.

If you have questions regarding the elective selection process or scheduling, please contact the Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Chelsea Ellison through email at ellisonc@walton.k12.fl.us, by phone at 850-892-1221, ext. 3212, by messaging the Freeport Middle School Facebook page, or by texting the grade level Remind account manager.