

New Student Onboarding 2023

ESD College Guidance

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- 4 staff members who are also advisors in every US grade level
- Students are assigned to an individual counselor during sophomore year
- About 35 students per counselor in each grade level
- Student and parent college topic meetings throughout the year
- More focused approach as students enter their junior year

Hallmarks of an ESD Education



GRADING SYSTEM**4.0 SCALE**

Letter Grade	Numeric Value	Grade Points for Regular courses	Grade Points for Honors courses	Grade Points for AP courses
A+	97 - 100	4.3	4.8	5.3
A	93 - 96	4.0	4.5	5.0
A-	90 - 92	3.7	4.2	4.7
B+	87 - 89	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	83 - 86	3.0	3.5	4.0
B-	80 - 82	2.7	3.2	3.7
C+	77 - 79	2.3	2.8	3.3
C	73 - 76	2.0	2.5	3.0
C-	70 - 72	1.7	2.2	2.7
D+	67 - 69	1.3	1.8	2.3
D	65 - 66	1.0	1.5	2.0
F	0 - 64	0	0	0

Grade 9

Year	Course	Level	Sem1	Sem2	Credit
2021- 2022	English I		B	B	1.00
	Honors Geometry	Honors	B	B-	1.00
	World Cultures		B+	A-	1.00
	Biology		A-	A	1.00
	Spanish II		A-	A-	1.00
	Health and Wellness		A-		0.50
	Principles of Engineering with Programming			A-	0.50

Total Credits: 6.00

Grade 9 Highland Park High School

Year	Course	Level	Sem1	Sem2	Credit
2019-2020	Highland Park High School				
	English I		B-	A-	1.00
	Algebra I		B-	A-	1.00
	World Geography--PAP	Honors	C	B+	1.00
	Biology		B	A	1.00
	Spanish II		B	A	1.00
	Art I -- PAP	Honors	A+	A+	1.00
	Women's Basketball		P		0.25
	Softball			P	0.25
Total Credits: 6.50					

Grade 10

Year	Course	Level	Sem1	Sem2	Credit
2020-2021	English II		B	B	1.00
	Geometry		B	B	1.00
	World History		B-	B	1.00
	Chemistry		C	B+	1.00
	Spanish III		B	A-	1.00
	Studio Art I		A+		0.50
	Field Hockey		P		0.25
	Studio Art II			A-	0.50
	Track & Field			P	0.25
	Women's Basketball			P	0.25
Total Credits: 6.75					

School Year	Grading Period	Course	Course Grade	Grade Points	Bump	Credits Earned	Grade Points Earned	Credits Attempted
2021	S2	Biology	95.00 ■ A	(4.00	+ 0.00)	× 0.50 =	2.00	0.50
2021	S2	English I	85.00 ■ B	(3.00	+ 0.00)	× 0.50 =	1.50	0.50
2021	S2	Honors Geometry (<i>Honors</i>)	82.00 ■ B-	(2.70	+ 0.50)	× 0.50 =	1.60	0.50
2021	S2	Principles of Engineering with Pr...	92.00 ■ A-	(3.70	+ 0.00)	× 0.50 =	1.85	0.50
2021	S2	Spanish II	92.00 ■ A-	(3.70	+ 0.00)	× 0.50 =	1.85	0.50
2021	S2	World Cultures	90.00 ■ A-	(3.70	+ 0.00)	× 0.50 =	1.85	0.50
2021	S1	Biology	92.00 ■ A-	(3.70	+ 0.00)	× 0.50 =	1.85	0.50
2021	S1	English I	85.00 ■ B	(3.00	+ 0.00)	× 0.50 =	1.50	0.50
2021	S1	Health and Wellness	90.00 ■ A-	(3.70	+ 0.00)	× 0.50 =	1.85	0.50
2021	S1	Honors Geometry (<i>Honors</i>)	85.00 ■ B	(3.00	+ 0.50)	× 0.50 =	1.75	0.50
2021	S1	Spanish II	92.00 ■ A-	(3.70	+ 0.00)	× 0.50 =	1.85	0.50
2021	S1	World Cultures	88.00 ■ B+	(3.30	+ 0.00)	× 0.50 =	1.65	0.50
							21.1	6.0

$$\text{GPA: } \underline{3.517} = \frac{\underline{21.1}}{\underline{6.0}}$$

How do colleges look at grades and GPA?

- Every college will take your grades into strong consideration when evaluating you for admission but the extent to which they use the reported GPA can vary by college.
- Looking at trends
 - Upward trend: Grades are getting better every year/semester.
 - Consistency: Grades are consistent every year/semester
 - Downward trend: Grades are getting worse every year/semester.
- How are you doing in the core academic classes? (English, Math, Science, History, & Language)
- Are you taking advantage of rigor (AP & Honors) appropriate to you?

Rank

- We only rank the top 6% (UT Austin) and top 10% (Texas A&M) for purposes of automatic admits directly to those two universities
- Students must have been at ESD for at least 4 semesters to be ranked
- Otherwise, ESD does not report rank
- The top 10 students will be honored at the end of their senior year at the Honors Assembly.

Transition to ESD

Use resources available to help you succeed academically at ESD

- **Academic Enrichment Center (AEC)**
 - Free Math and English help from ESD Faculty Members
- **Peer tutoring**
 - Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honors Society)
 - National Honor Society
- **Meet with Teachers**
 - Before school, during flex, after school
- **Use your study hall**
- **Communicate with your advisor**

UPPER SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Classical & Modern Languages	3 credits	Through level III of the same language*
Computational Thinking	½ credit	Principles of Engineering with Programming required
English	4 credits	English I, II, III, IV required
Fine Arts	1 credit	½ credit must be performance-based or hands-on
Health Science	½ credit	Recommended freshman or sophomore year
History and Social Science	3 credits	World Cultures (½), World History, US History, ½ US Government
Mathematics	3 credits	Through Algebra II
Physical Education	2 credits	Physical Education and Athletics (6 trimesters)
Religion	1 credit	½ credit for World Cultures + ½ for a junior/senior elective
Science	3 credits	Biology, Chemistry, and Physics required

Get involved to stand out to colleges

- Get involved in your community (think quality over quantity)
 - ESD, Neighborhood, Dallas, Place of Worship, etc.
- Leadership
 - It is better to meaningfully contribute to a few activities than lightly participate in many activities
- Get to know your teachers (particularly from junior year)
 - These are the teachers writing the recommendation letters
- Service with a clear impact
- Summer Activities