



Preparing for High School

Class of 2026

NISD High Schools

8th graders attend one
of four high schools
depending on zoning or
academy acceptance.





Performance
Acknowledgements

Distinguished Level of
Achievement

Endorsements

Foundation High School Program

**Your
PGP**

**Creating Your Personal Graduation Plan
(PGP): Begins with the Foundation High
School Program.**

Graduation Requirements

This chart and other information regarding high school academic planning is located on the district website:

<https://www.nisdtx.org/departments/student-services/counseling/high-school-academic-planning>

Subject Area	Foundation with Endorsement	Distinguished Level of Achievement
English Language Arts	Four credits: - English I - English II - English III - Advanced English credit	Four credits: - English I - English II - English III - Advanced English credit
Mathematics	Four credits: - Algebra I - Geometry - Advanced math credit - Advanced math credit	Four credits: - Algebra I - Geometry - Algebra II - Advanced math credit
Science	Four credits: - Biology - IPC, Chemistry, or Physics - Advanced science credit - Advanced science credit	Four credits: - Biology - IPC, Chemistry, or Physics - Advanced science credit - Advanced science credit
Social Studies	Three credits: - World Geography or World History - US History - US Government (0.5 credit) - Economics (0.5 credit)	Three credits: - World Geography or World History - US History - US Government (0.5 credit) - Economics (0.5 credit)
Physical Education	One credit	One credit
Languages Other Than English	Two credits in the same language	Two credits in the same language
Fine Arts	One credit	One credit
Speech	0.5 credit	0.5 credit
Elective	6.5 credits	6.5 credits
Endorsement	At least one of the following endorsements is required. See next page for the detailed NISD Endorsement Guide.	
Arts and Humanities Endorsement	Includes courses directly related to World Language, English Literature, History, and Fine Arts	
Business and Industry Endorsement	Includes credits directly related to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Architecture and Construction, Arts, Audio Visual, Business and Management, Hospitality and Tourism, Information Technology, and Marketing	
Public Services Endorsement	Includes credits directly related to Education and Training, Human Services, and Health Sciences	
STEM Endorsement	Includes credits directly related to Science, Technology, Computer Science, Engineering, and Advanced Math	
Multidisciplinary Endorsement	Allows a student to select credits from the curriculum of each endorsement area and earn credits in a variety of advanced course from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the distinguished level of achievement.	
Total Credits	26 credits	26 credits

Potential High School Credits Fulfilled in Middle School

- ❑ **Algebra I Honors** (1.0 credit)
Fulfills Algebra I requirement for graduation
- ❑ **Art I** (1.0 credit)
Fulfills fine art requirement for graduation
- ❑ **Digital Art and Animation** (1.0 credit)
Fulfills fine art requirement for graduation
- ❑ **Fundamentals of Computer Science** (1.0 credit)
- ❑ **Geometry Honors** (1.0 credit)
Fulfills Geometry requirement for graduation
- ❑ **Interpersonal Studies** (.5 elective credit)
- ❑ **Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness** (.5 elective credit)
- ❑ **Medical Terminology** (1.0 elective credit)
- ❑ **Principles of Applied Engineering** (1.0 elective credit)
- ❑ **Principles of Human Services** (1.0 elective credit)
- ❑ **Professional Communications** (.5 credit)
Fulfills speech requirement for graduation
- ❑ **Robotics I** (1.0 elective credit)
- ❑ **Spanish I Honors** (1.0 credit)
Fulfills a LOTE requirement for graduation



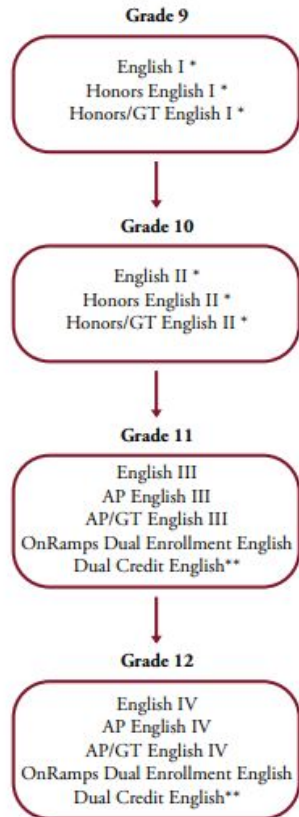
Benefits of Advanced Courses

College admissions: Colleges look for students who have completed rigorous coursework (Honors, Honors/GT, AP, and Dual Credit)

While in high school, students will have the opportunity to earn college credit through AP courses and Dual Credit courses.

Students with higher level courses are generally more prepared for college level work and more likely than their peers to complete a college degree on time.

NISD English Course Sequence: Four Credits

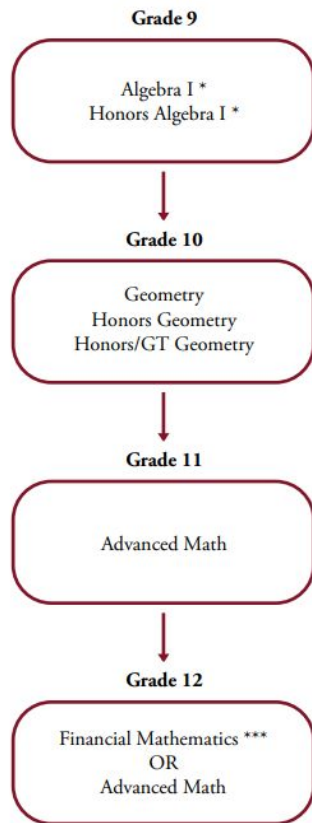


*Denotes that the course requires an End of Course Test (STAAR)

**See Online or Off-campus Dual Credit Opportunities in the Academic Planning Guide

Depending on the student's graduation plan and endorsement, a student may satisfy the fourth English credit by completing other approved English courses.

NISD Math Course Sequence: Four Credits



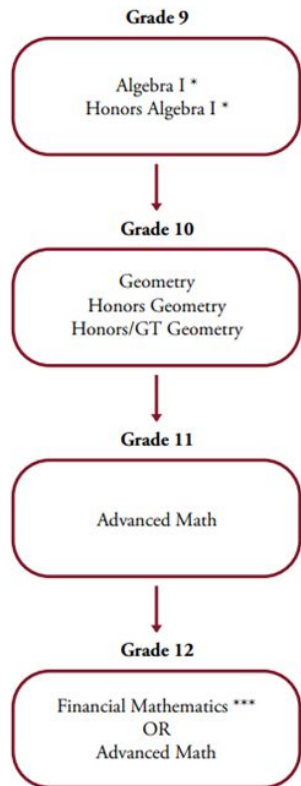
*Denotes that the course requires an End of Course Test (STAAR)

**See Online or Off-campus Dual Credit Opportunities in the Academic Planning Guide

***This course is not an advanced math and does not meet NCAA eligibility for student-athletes.

A student may not receive credit for the same course twice. If a student successfully completed Algebra I Honors in middle school, then he/she must register for the next math course, Geometry.

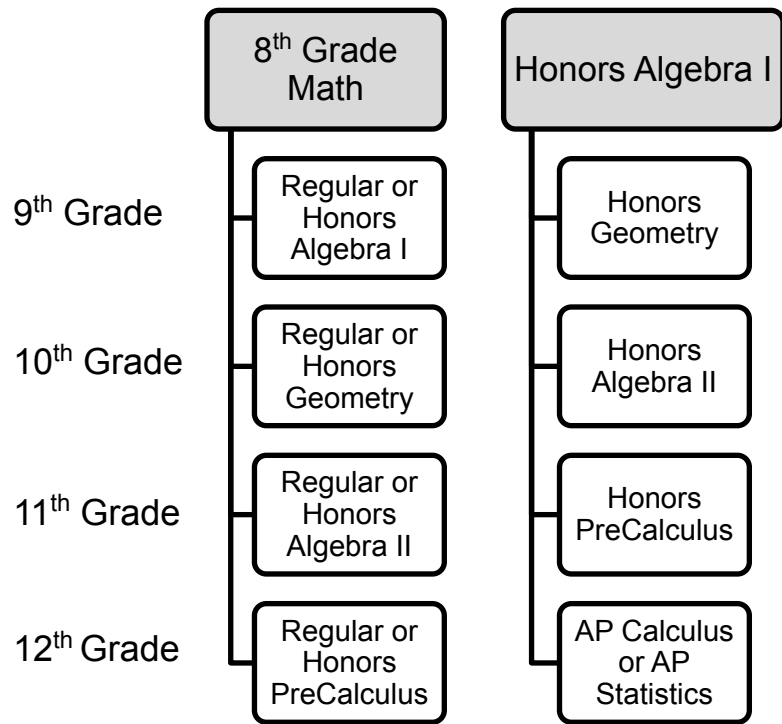
NISD Math Course Sequence continued...



Advanced Math Courses:

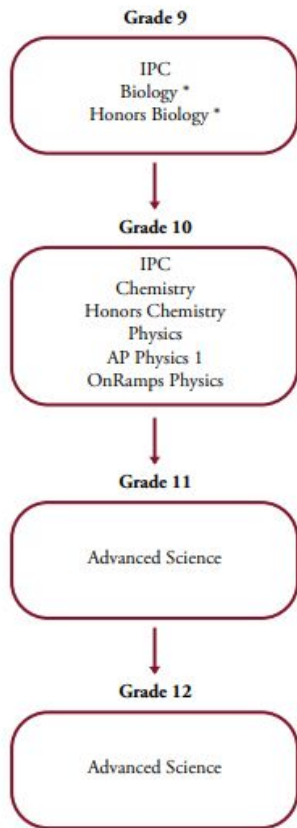
- Algebraic Reasoning***
- Algebra II, Honors Algebra II, Honors/GT Algebra II, or OnRamps College Algebra
- Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR)
- Precalculus, Honors Precalculus, or OnRamps Precalculus
- OnRamps Statistics (HS Independent Study credit)
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- Multivariable Calculus
- AP Statistics
- Dual credit courses

***Course does not meet NCAA eligibility for student-athletes.



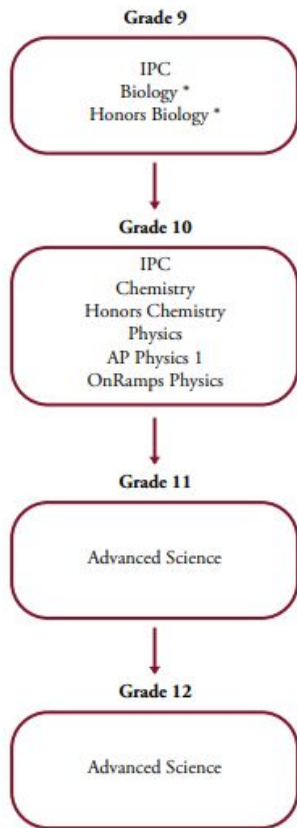
Specific Examples of Math Sequences

NISD Science Course Sequence: Four Credits



*Denotes that the course requires an End of Course Test (STAAR)

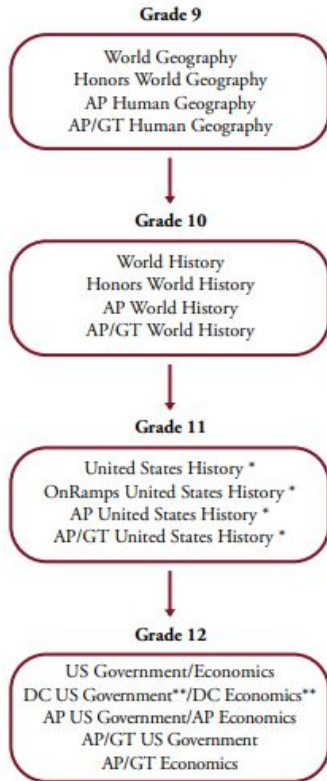
NISD Science Course Sequence



Advanced Science Courses:

- Chemistry or Honors Chemistry
- Physics or OnRamps Physics
- Earth and Space Science
- Environmental Systems
- Advanced Animal Science
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Forensic Science
- Engineering Science (STEM Academy)
- Scientific Research and Design
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Physics 1
- AP Physics C: Mechanics
- AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
- AP Environmental Science
- Dual credit courses

NISD Social Studies Course Sequence: Three Credits



*Denotes that the course requires an End of Course Test (STAAR)

**See Online or Off-campus Dual Credit Opportunities in the Academic Planning Guide

Students are *highly encouraged* to complete FOUR credits in social studies. Four credits in social studies are required for the multidisciplinary endorsement.

NISD Language Other Than English (LOTE) Course Sequence

Spanish

Spanish I & Spanish I Honors
Spanish II & Spanish II Honors
Spanish I-II for Spanish Speakers
Spanish III Honors
Spanish III Honors for Spanish Speakers
Spanish IV AP Language and Culture
Spanish V AP Literature

French

French I & French I Honors
French II & French II Honors
(not available 22-23)

German

German I & German I Honors
German II & German II Honors
(not available 22-23)

American Sign Language*

American Sign Language I
American Sign Language II

Computer Science*

Computer Science I
Computer Science II
Honors Computer Science III

Students must complete two credits of the same Language Other Than English (LOTE).

A student who successfully completes Spanish I Honors in middle school should register for Spanish II or Spanish II Honors for 9th grade.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers requires an oral and written fluency test.

*When considering a language other than English (LOTE) for college admission, please confirm your LOTE choice with your potential college/university. Not all colleges/universities accept American Sign Language or Computer Science to fulfill world language requirements.

NISD Physical Education Options: One Credit Required

- **Athletics** – Students will select the specified sport and not a generic athletics class. If a student participates in more than one sport, choose the sport that occurs first in the school year.
- **Band, Color Guard, or Drill Team** – provides 1.0 fine art credit (full year) AND .5 PE credit (fall only); completing two years of one of these activities will provide 1.0 PE credit. Students can earn a maximum of 1.0 PE credit through these activities.
- **Cheerleading I** – provides 1.0 PE credit for the first year; subsequent years are local credits and do not count toward state graduation credits.
- **Dance I** – provides 1.0 fine art credit and 1.0 PE credit (Lifetime Fitness and Wellness Pursuits). Athletes who take Dance I cannot be awarded additional PE credit.
- **Football Athletic Trainer** – All start by being enrolled in Football. Subsequent years will be Sports Medicine I, II, and III.
- **PE courses**

NISD Athletic Options

- Baseball (B)
- Basketball (B,G)
- Cross Country (B,G)
- Diving (B,G)
- Football (B)
- Golf (B, G)
- Soccer (B, G)
- Softball (G)
- Swimming (B,G)
- Tennis (B,G)
- Track (B,G)
- Volleyball (G)
- Wrestling (B,G)



B = Boys
G = Girls

Available Physical Education Courses

01

Lifetime Fitness and Wellness Pursuits
(1.0 credit)

02

Skill Based Lifetime Activities
(1.0 credit)

03

Lifetime Recreation and Outdoor Pursuits
(1.0 credit)

Fine Arts: One Credit Required



- Art I
- Band I (includes Color Guard/Winter Guard)
- Choir I
- Dance I or Drill Team I (Drill Team is by audition only)
- Digital Art and Animation (Grades 7-8 only)
- Floral Design (Grades 10-12 only)
- AP Music Theory – Must read and write basic music notation and have basic skills in voice or instrument; to be taken concurrently with Band, Choir, Orchestra.
- Orchestra
- Theatre I

Endorsements: Another Piece of the Puzzle



What is an Endorsement?

A coherent sequence of electives in a specific area of interest. These electives may be taken through an academy or through a specified Program of Study (POS). There are FIVE endorsements:

- Arts and Humanities
- Business and Industry
- Multidisciplinary Studies*
- Public Services
- STEM

*NISD counselors monitor students for the Multidisciplinary option if another endorsement is not selected/met.

Arts and Humanities Endorsement

See the [NISD Endorsement Guide](#) for additional details

Arts and Humanities Options:

- **Additional social studies credits** – Complete five social studies credits
- **Fine Arts** – Complete four fine arts credits from one or two disciplines in the fine arts
- **World Language (4)** – Complete four levels of the same language in a language other than English
- **World Language (2+2)** – Complete two levels of the same language in a language other than English and two levels of a different language in a language other than English
- **Additional English credits** – Complete four English credits from specified list

Business and Industry Endorsement

See NISD's [Career and Technical Education Guide](#) for additional details



NORTHWEST ISD
Career & Technical
Education

Business and Industry Options:

Complete a CTE Program of Study (POS)

Programs of Study available include:

- Accounting and Financial Services
- Advanced Manufacturing and Machinery Mechanics
- Animal Science
- Applied Agricultural Engineering
- Architectural Design
- Business Management
- Culinary Arts (Academy only)
- Design and Multimedia Arts
- Digital Communications
- Engineering (STEM Academy only)
- Entrepreneurship (Academy only)
- Networking Systems
- Plant Science
- Programming and Software Development

Business and Industry Endorsement

See NISD's Career and Technical Education Guide for additional details



Business and Industry Options

Complete a CTE Program of Study (POS)
continued:

- Aviation (Flight)*
- Aviation Maintenance*
- Drone (Unmanned Flight)*

*Aviation and Aeronautics Academy only

Complete a Business and Industry – English option:

- Debate
- Newspaper

Multidisciplinary Endorsement

See the [NISD Endorsement Guide](#) for Additional Details

Multidisciplinary Options:

- **Additional core classes*** – Complete four credits in each area: English, math, science, and social studies. *Completed courses must include English IV and for science, Chemistry and/or Physics.
- **AP and/or Dual Credit** – Complete four credits in Advanced Placement (AP) or dual credit from English, math, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English, or fine arts
- **Advanced CTE Courses** – Complete four advanced CTE courses from within one endorsement or among multiple endorsements.

Public Service Endorsement

See NISD's Career and
Technical Education Guide
for additional details



Public Service Options:

Complete a CTE Program of Study (POS)

Programs of Study available include:

- Biomedical Science (Academy only)
- Cosmetology and Personal Care Services
- Early Learning
- Family and Community Services
- Healthcare Diagnostics
- Healthcare Therapeutic
- Teaching and Training

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics {STEM} Endorsement

See [NISD Endorsement Guide & the CTE Guide](#) for additional details

STEM Options require the completion of Algebra II, Chemistry, Physics and one of the following options:

STEM Math – Complete two additional advanced math credits

STEM Science – Complete two additional advanced science credits

Complete a CTE Program of Study (POS)
Programs of Study available include:

- Advanced Manufacturing and Machinery Mechanics
- Animal Science
- Applied Agricultural Engineering
- Architectural Design
- Aviation (Flight) (Academy only)
- Biomedical Sciences

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Endorsement

See NISD's Career and
Technical Education Guide
for additional details



NORTHWEST ISD
Career & Technical
Education

STEM Options require the completion of Algebra II, Chemistry, Physics and one of the following options:

Complete a CTE Program of Study (POS)
continued:

- Drone (Unmanned Flight) (Academy only)
- Engineering (Academy only)
- Healthcare Diagnostics
- Healthcare Therapeutic
- Networking Systems
- Plant Science
- Programming and Software Development

Performance
Acknowledgements

Distinguished Level of
Achievement

Endorsements

Foundation High School Program

**Your
PGP**

A look at the pyramid again ...

Distinguished Level of Achievement



01

Must meet all **Foundation High School Program** requirements

02

Must meet the requirements for an **Endorsement**

03

Must meet the requirement of completing **Algebra II** as one of the advanced math courses

Examples of math sequences:

Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and PreCalculus

Algebra I, Geometry, Algebraic Reasoning, and Algebra II

Performance Acknowledgements



Students may earn performance acknowledgements for outstanding performance in the following areas:

- Dual credit courses
- Bilingualism and bi-literacy
- AP testing
- ACT, PSAT, or SAT
- Earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license

See the [NISD High School Academic Planning Guide](#) for details regarding Performance Acknowledgements.

Thinking Ahead: Automatic College Admission

Students who rank in the top 10%* of their graduating class are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas.

To be eligible for this automatic admission, students must complete the Distinguished Level of Achievement.

*UT Austin – top 6% currently




Thinking Ahead: How is class rank determined?

Class rank includes grades earned in courses under the following subject matters:

- English
- Math
- Science
- Social studies
- Languages other than English

Only the Grade Point Average (GPA) used to determine class rank is calculated on a weighted scale.

Level 2 - Regular		Level 3 - Gifted and Talented/Honors		Level 4 - AP, Dual Credit, and OnRamps Courses	
Grade	Grade Points	Grade	Grade Points	Grade	Grade Points
100	5.0	100	6.0	100	7.0
99	4.9	99	5.9	99	6.9
98	4.8	98	5.8	98	6.8
97	4.7	97	5.7	97	6.7
96	4.6	96	5.6	96	6.6
95	4.5	95	5.5	95	6.5
94	4.4	94	5.4	94	6.4
93	4.3	93	5.3	93	6.3
92	4.2	92	5.2	92	6.2
91	4.1	91	5.1	91	6.1
90	4.0	90	5.0	90	6.0
89	3.9	89	4.9	89	5.9
88	3.8	88	4.8	88	5.8
87	3.7	87	4.7	87	5.7
86	3.6	86	4.6	86	5.6
85	3.5	85	4.5	85	5.5
84	3.4	84	4.4	84	5.4
83	3.3	83	4.3	83	5.3
82	3.2	82	4.2	82	5.2
81	3.1	81	4.1	81	5.1
80	3.0	80	4.0	80	5.0
79	2.9	79	3.9	79	4.9
78	2.8	78	3.8	78	4.8
77	2.7	77	3.7	77	4.7
76	2.6	76	3.6	76	4.6
75	2.5	75	3.5	75	4.5
74	2.4	74	3.4	74	4.4
73	2.3	73	3.3	73	4.3
72	2.2	72	3.2	72	4.2
71	2.1	71	3.1	71	4.1
70	2.0	70	3.0	70	4.0

A scenic view of a paved road winding through a desert landscape. The road is dark asphalt with a white dashed line down the center and white concrete curbs on either side. The surrounding terrain is arid, with sparse green shrubs and dry grass. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains with visible geological formations under a hazy, orange-tinted sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and open.

**As you plan ahead, do not
hesitate to ask questions! Your
NISD school counselors are
here for you.**

Dr. Jamie Farber
NISD Director of Guidance and
Counseling