

Inspiring minds.
Shaping lives.



Spring
Branch

Independent School District

Graduation Requirements and Instructional Programming

2016-17

**Opportunities for Every Child to
attain their T-2-4 Goals**



The Spring Branch Way

- **EVERY CHILD** • **COLLECTIVE GREATNESS** • **COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT**
- **LIMITLESS CURIOSITY** • **MORAL COMPASS**

2016-17 Program of Studies Guide

★ What's New?

- ◆ Foundation Plan Overview
- ◆ Graduation Requirement Pages for each Endorsement with hyperlinks to individual “pathway” requirements.

★ Instructional Programming Information

★ Course Listing

- ◆ Descriptions, Prerequisites, Course ID Numbers, Credit

[**SBISD will release the new POS soon.](#)

[Check my website for the link](#)

Foundation Graduation Plan

- ★ A 22-credit **Foundation Program** which is the core of the new Texas high school diploma
- ★ A 26-credit **Foundation Program with Endorsement**. Additional credits allow students to focus on a coherent sequence of courses within an Endorsement area.
- ★ Ability to earn a Distinguished Level of Achievement and Performance Acknowledgements
- ★ [Graduation Plan Overview](#)

Foundation Plan Requirements –22 Credits

English – 4 credits

Math– 3 credits (Alg I, Geometry, One Advanced Math)

◦Algebra II not required for Foundation Plan;

*****is required for Foundation Plan with Endorsement

Social Studies –3 credits (World Geo or WH, US History, Gov/Econ)

Science–3 credits (Biology, IPC or Advanced Science, AdvScience)

Foreign Language –2 credits (must be in the same language)

Fine Arts –1 credit

Physical Education –1 credit

5 Elective Credits



Foundation Plan with Endorsements

26 Credits

Foundation Plan plus the following:

- 4th Math Course

- 4th Science Course

- Endorsement Area Coursework- 2 electives in the endorsement area, one being a higher level course

Endorsements

- ★ **Spring Branch ISD encourages every student to graduate with at least one Endorsement**
- ★ **Each student selects (in Skyward) an Endorsement during 8th Grade and completes a 4-year course plan**
 - ◆ **Parents must sign Endorsement Selection and 4-year Plans**
- ★ **Endorsements can be changed at any time. See your student's counselor to revisit Endorsement decisions**

Distinguished Level of Achievement

- ★ **Requires students to earn**
 - ◆ **at least one Endorsement**
 - ◆ **Algebra II**
 - ◆ **4th Science**
 - ◆ **The Distinguished Level of Achievement is required to earn top 10 percent consideration for automatic admission to Texas public colleges and universities**

Enhancements

★ Performance Acknowledgements

- ◆ Dual Credit Coursework
- ◆ Bilingualism and Biliteracy
- ◆ PSAT, PLAN, SAT, or ACT
- ◆ AP or IB exams
- ◆ Nationally or Internationally recognized business or industry certification or license

Testing – End of Course Exams

In addition to meeting the course requirements for graduation, a student must also pass the following End of Course Exams:

- ★ **Algebra I**
- ★ **English I**
- ★ **English II**
- ★ **U.S. History**
- ★ **Biology**

Pre-AP/AP

- ★ **SBISD offers rigorous courses to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exams which provide an opportunity to earn college credit.**
- ★ **Guidelines for enrolling in Pre-AP/AP courses:**
 - ◆ **SBISD has open enrollment into Pre-AP/AP courses. As general guidelines, we suggest:**
 - **85th percentile or higher on the most recent standardized achievement test or other district-identified testing measure**
 - **Teacher recommendation**

Advantages

- Pre-AP and AP courses are college preparation classes with a more rigorous curriculum than grade level courses.
- In high school, students have the option of taking PAP and/or courses. AP courses are mostly offered junior and senior year with a few exceptions.
- AP courses include the AP exam at the end of the school year. If students score within a certain range, they could earn college credit.

Credits & GPA

- ★ **High School Credit is awarded any time a student successfully completes a high school level class. Credits can be earned in a variety of settings including: middle school, regular high school, summer school, night school, CBE, virtual school**
- ★ **Original credit courses are calculated into GPA only when taken during the regular school day at the high school.**
- ★ **Credits earned in a “retake” class are included in GPA calculations.**

Weighted GPA Points

- ★ **SBISD awards one weighted GPA point per year in each of the four core subject areas: **Math, English, Science, Social Studies.****

- ★ **Weighted GPA can be earned in the following types of courses:**
 - ◆ **Pre-Advanced Placement**
 - ◆ **Advanced Placement**
 - ◆ **Dual Credit (beginning with the class of students who entered high school in 2014-2015)**



Dual Credit: Campus-based

- ★ **Students earn high school and college credit simultaneously.**
- ★ **HCC has recently waived out-of-district fees for all students, so dual credit will now be free for SBISD students.**
- ★ **Courses are taught at the high school, usually by SBISD teachers qualified to teach dual credit.**
- ★ **Students must meet college readiness requirements (PSAT, SAT, TSI, English II EOC Scores)**



Dual Credit: Early College

- ★ **Students earn high school and college credit simultaneously.**
- ★ **Program is a two-year commitment**
- ★ **UHD currently charges \$65 a semester hour**
- ★ **Courses are taught at UHD professors on the Stratford Campus**
- ★ **Students can earn 24-30 college credit hours**
- ★ **Students must meet college readiness requirements (PSAT, SAT, TSI, English II EOC Scores)**

Virtual High School

- ★ **Students are offered the opportunity to earn credit outside of the traditional classroom for original or recovery credit. These courses are available:**
 - ◆ **During the school day**
 - ◆ **As an extra course beyond the regular class schedule**
 - ◆ **At Night School**
 - ◆ **Summer School**
- ★ **All SBISD high school students have the opportunity to take virtual coursework**
- ★ **GPA points for original credit classes are only available if taken during the school day.**
- ★ **Registration information coming in May.**

Credit by Exam

- ★ **CBE opportunities are offered four times each year, usually in October, March, June, and July**
- ★ **CBE offered for students without prior instruction for original credit**
 - ◆ **Score of 80% or above required to receive credit**
- ★ **CBE offered for students with prior instruction for recovery credit**
 - ◆ **Score of 75% or above required to receive credit**
- ★ **CBE grades are not calculated in the GPA**

Course Selection Process

- ★ Over the next several weeks, students will work with counselors to select their courses based on their graduation requirements and interests.
- ★ Families will be able to access the **Program of Studies Guide** online for further information about SBISD instructional programs, graduation information/requirements, and course descriptions



Freshman Class of 2020
STRATFORD HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION WORKSHEET

Name:

ID #

English I GL (EL112) PAP (EL111) PAP/GT (EL110)
World Geography GL (SS132) PAP (SS131) PAP/GT (SS130)
Algebra I GL (MT212) PAP (MT211) Geometry GL (MT312) PAP (MT311) Algebra II PAP/GT (MT230)
Biology GL (SC122) PAP (SC121) PAP/ GT (SC120)
5 (Foreign Language)
6 (PE, Band, Dance, Athletics)
7 (Fine Art)
8

1ST ALTERNATE:

2ND ALTERNATE:

Level explanations: GL – Grade Level; PAP – Pre-AP; GT – Gifted & Talented

*Divide a period line with a slash mark if taking two one semester courses.

*Example: Health/Speech

**Future Athletes will add one period of the sport with the exception of Football that will take two places in the above course selections.

If a student is approved for the team after try-outs, the counselor will omit one elective and add the second period of the sport.

** Guthrie Center Courses take two places on the above form, meaning two class periods on a student's schedule

** GT students will not be able to choose GT at this time and must choose the PAP section. The counselor will change the student to the GT section when confirmed with the Dept. of Advanced Academic Studies.

** Due to scheduling conflicts and class capacity, electives may be subject to change.



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STRATFORD HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION WORKSHEET

Name: **Suzy Spartan**

ID # 999999

English I	GL (EL112)	PAP (EL111)	PAP/GT (EL110)
World Geography	GL (SS132)	PAP (SS131)	PAP/GT (SS130)
Algebra I	GL (MT212)	PAP (MT211)	
Geometry	GL (MT312)	PAP (MT311)	
Algebra II	PAP/GT (MT230)		
Biology	GL (SC122)	PAP (SC121)	PAP/ GT (SC120)
5 (Foreign Language)	Spanish II (FL 112)		
6 (PE, Band, Dance, Athletics)	Golf (PB106)		
7 (Fine Art)	Art I (FA112)		
8	Journalism (EL322)		

1ST ALTERNATE: Health (HPE112)/ Intro to Film (ELA276)

2ND ALTERNATE: Study Hall A/B (ADS13 A/B)

Course Selection Process, cont.

- ★ **After Spring Break, parents will receive a course verification letter listing courses that were selected.**
- ★ **Students/Parents have until May 1 to make any desired changes to the courses selected.**
- ★ **At any time in this process, students and parents are welcome to make an appointment with their counselor to discuss graduation planning and course options.**

Meet the Coaches Night

April 25, 2016

**7:30pm in the Performance
Gymnasium**

**Dinner will be served prior to the
event at 6:00pm**