

## **High School Course Selection FAQ**

### **A guide for Classical School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Families**

Please review this guide as you prepare to select freshman high school courses. Contact Ms. Krause at [krauserebecca@asds.k12.wi.us](mailto:krauserebecca@asds.k12.wi.us) with any questions.

#### **High School Course Request Worksheet:**

Eighth grade students complete a course request worksheet for the comprehensive high school they selected to attend. Completed worksheets are typically due to Classical School in mid-January. Certain course selections require the signature of the student's 8<sup>th</sup> grade subject area teacher. If a student gains enrollment to a charter school, the counselor for that charter school will get in touch with students to make any necessary schedule modifications prior to the end of their eighth grade year.

#### **Credits:**

Freshman must take at least 6 credits and no more than 7 credits. One credit is equivalent to a year-long class; a half-credit is equivalent to a semester class. Credit-load options include:

- 7 credits plus lunch
- 6.5 credits, study hall one semester, plus lunch
- 6 credits, study hall both semesters, plus lunch

Five credits a student's freshman year are required classes, including:

- 1 credit of Science
- 1 credit of Social Studies
- 1 credit of English Language Arts
- 1 credit of Math
- .5 credit of Physical Education
- .5 credit of Health

This leaves 2 credits remaining (of a 7 credit schedule) for elective courses. Many Classical School graduates will fill one of those credits with a foreign language class (generally Spanish), while the other credit is often filled with a fine arts elective (music, theater, or art). The Appleton Area School District Course and Career Planning Guide (available each year in late December or early January) contains graduation requirements and descriptions for all courses, including all electives, available to freshmen: [http://www.asds.k12.wi.us/district/district\\_departments\\_\\_contacts/standards\\_\\_curriculum/course\\_planning/](http://www.asds.k12.wi.us/district/district_departments__contacts/standards__curriculum/course_planning/)

### Summer School:

If a student would like to take more than 7 credits their freshman year, summer school online through Appleton eSchool is an option to create some scheduling flexibility. Students may take a semester course online the summer prior to their freshman year. The two most popular online freshman courses are Health and Semester 1 of Civics. Students opting to take one of those required courses online during the summer will create a half-credit opening in their freshman-year schedule. That half-credit opening may then be filled with another half-credit elective or a study hall. The list of summer online courses is typically available in January on Appleton eSchool's website:

<http://appletonschool.org/summer-session/>. **Registration begins in March (check the Appleton eSchool's website for exact date). Popular classes often reach capacity the first day of registration.**

### Science:

One credit of science is required for freshman. That credit is recommended by the high schools to be filled with Biology. See the science sequence in the Course and Career Planning Guide for more information.

### Social Studies:

Civics is the required social studies course for freshman. While there are no other social studies options available to freshman, summer school through Appleton eSchool may provide some scheduling flexibility. It may be possible for a student to accomplish completion of this credit in a few different ways:

- Semester 1 & 2 Civics in school during freshman year
- Semester 1 Civics online during summer prior to freshman year and Semester 2 Civics in school during freshman year
- Semester 1 Civics online during summer prior to freshman year and Semester 2 Civics online summer prior to sophomore year

If not taking Civics in school both semesters freshman year, please note the desired course scheduling option on the course request worksheet. NOTE: If choosing an option including one or more semesters of Civics online, you will still need to register for the Appleton eSchool class separately when registration opens (see *Summer School* section above).

### English Language Arts (ELA):

Freshman must choose from two ELA courses. One course is considered more rigorous by the high schools, though the course typically only includes one additional writing assignment. The majority of Classical School graduates choose the more rigorous option. The signature of the Classical School English teacher is required on the course request worksheet.

### Mathematics:

There are generally five math course options available to freshman. Students successfully completing Geometry at Classical School will register for either Algebra 2, Algebra 2 for Pre-Calculus or Math Topics (a new option in 2020). Students successfully completing Algebra at Classical School will register for Geometry. Students successfully completing Pre-Algebra at Classical School will register for Algebra 1. An optional 1 credit support class is available for either Algebra, Geometry, or Algebra 2. On the course request worksheet, the support class may be referred to as WIN, which stands for “What I Need.” An additional, though not often pursued, option does exist for those who successfully complete Pre-Algebra at Classical School to spread Algebra 1 over two years by taking Algebra 1A as a freshman and Algebra 1B as a sophomore. The signature of the student’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade Classical School math teacher is required for the course selected.

### Health and Physical Education:

Freshmen are required to take both a half-credit health course and half-credit freshman physical education course. As noted in the summer school section of this FAQ, taking health online the summer before freshman year is a popular option to create some flexibility in a student’s schedule. If a student wishes to take Health online the summer prior to freshman year, please make a note on the course request worksheet. NOTE: A student choosing to take Health online will still need to register for the Appleton eSchool class separately when registration opens (see *Summer School* section above). Freshman physical education cannot be taken online.

### Foreign Language:

While not required for high school graduation, at least two-years of a single foreign language in high school are required for admission to some universities. Students should review the requirements of any post-secondary schools they may be interested in attending. The majority of Classical School students choose to continue their Spanish studies in high school in either Spanish 3 or Spanish 4. While the course request worksheet may not include a section for it, the signature of the student’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade Classical School Spanish teacher is required if selecting to take any Spanish class above Level 1 as a freshman. Beginning studies in French or German is also an option for freshman. Latin is also typically listed as a language option in the course guide; however, the classes do not always run due to insufficient enrollment. Additional foreign language courses may be available online through Appleton eSchool during the school year.

### Fine Arts:

One fine arts credit is required for high school graduation. Many students choose to complete this credit their freshman year. There are several fine arts opportunities available to freshman, including band, orchestra, chorus, theater, and art classes. Humanities is an option beginning sophomore year if not used as a social studies credit. The Appleton Area School District Course and Career Planning Guide will include all options.

### Preliminary Freshman Schedules:

Your child will receive a “Course Confirmation Sheet” in March. You are asked to review, sign, and return the sheet to confirm course choices. The high schools will then create a preliminary schedule for each student. Classical School will notify families if copies of these preliminary schedules are sent home with students before the end of the school year. Students should contact their high school

counseling office immediately regarding any necessary schedule changes. Final schedules are usually provided at high school registration at the end of summer.