



August 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of the Class of 2024,

We are excited that you will have a student in 9th grade for the 2020-2021 school year. We are glad that your student will be joining us and look forward to getting to know him or her better over the next four years. It is going to be a great journey towards graduation.

Included you will find some basic information that will answer some of the most commonly asked questions. As the situation changes, the school and district will release new information on their websites. Please refer there for the most current information. Early in the year your student will receive a copy of the Code of Conduct and also a Student Handbook that will give more detailed information on a broader set of topics.

Parents are encouraged to follow Homewood High School on both Twitter and Instagram. All of the addresses to the official social media sites for Homewood High can be found at a link on of the [Homewood High School webpage](#).

With all of the changes this school year, we know there are plenty of questions. If you cannot find the answer in any of the material published on the school or district website, please do not hesitate to contact either the 9th grade assistant principal, Latta Johnston (ljohnston@homewood.k12.al.us), or 9th grade counselor, Tonya Mills (tmills@homewood.k12.al.us), via email or by calling the school phone at 871-9663.

We are glad you have joined us as a Homewood High School Patriot!

The 2020-2021 Freshman Team

Bell Schedule

8:00 – 8:50	1st Period
8:55 – 9:45	2nd Period
9:50 – 10:40	3rd Period
10:45 – 11:35	4th Period
11:40 – 1:20	5th Period
	includes lunch & study hall
1:25 – 2:15	6th Period
2:20 – 3:10	7th Period

What does my student do on the first day of school?

We know the first day of school can be scary, especially since we were not able to offer student tours this year. On the first day of school all freshmen students will report to the gym to receive a paper copy of their class schedule. There will be adults and student ambassadors stationed to help them find their way. They will be released from the gym in plenty of time to find class before the tardy bell rings.

How will my student find his or her way around school on the first day?

Members of our Patriot Pride student ambassadors will be available to help students find their classes on the first day of school. They are readily identified by their uniforms and nametags. Also, teachers will help give directions to the next classes and will help students get to the cafeteria during the assigned lunch times. There are plenty of people to help students get to the right place. In consideration of this, tardies are not recorded for class for several days.

How does carpool work?

For drop off and pick up, parent drivers should enter school through the east side of campus by the National Guard Armory. As you drive up the hill, take the first right through the gates to drive behind the school. (**note: This is the former front of the school, but is now the new back of the school.**) Freshman dropoff will be at the same area where carpool has run in previous years. Freshmen are encouraged to enter the building through the first entrance closest to the freshman hall. Grades 10-12 carpool should enter across the bridge by the baseball field and drop off in the new front of the school.

The main entrance to the building will be open to students at 7:15 a.m. At this time students will be able to go their lockers and then to their designated area. Freshman students are expected to report to the competition gym and keep physical distance from other students. The cafeteria opens at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast.

When school is finished at 3:10, freshmen students will be picked up in the same area as they were dropped off. Students will spread across the back of the school to wait for their rides. Drivers picking up freshmen are asked to enter campus by the National Guard Armory to avoid student traffic. All students must leave campus by 3:30.

What school supplies do I need?

There is no official supply list. We recommend having a three ring binder and paper for each class. Colored pencils are used in Biology. Since we are emphasizing not sharing materials, please have a good supply of pens and pencils. With the requirement of face coverings in place, students should ensure that their mask is comfortable enough to wear for the full school day.

What kind of electronic device is needed this year?

Students will not be sharing devices in the classroom. Chromebooks are available for students to check out for the school year or students may bring a comparable electronic device from home. If a student chooses to use his or her own device, it should have a keyboard that allows students to create electronic documents. A phone is useful for some activities, but is not sufficient for many classroom assignments.

What happens if my student gets his or her phone taken up by a teacher?

Students may bring their phones to class, but must put them away when asked by the teacher. A student that violates this may have his or her phone taken up by the teacher and be subject to the following actions:

- 1st Offense Warning and parent must pick up device
- 2nd Offense Saturday School and parent must pick up device
- 3rd Offense One day of ISS and parent must pick up device
- 4th Offense Two days of ISS and parent must pick up device
- 5th Offense More severe action will be taken with a consideration of alternative school placement and parent must pick up device

As a parent, how can I see my student's assignments for the week?

Using the account information that was previously mailed home, you can create a parent Schoology account to have access to calendars from each teacher.

How do I check my student's grades?

You may check your student's grades on the iNOW home portal. You should have received your username and password in the mail.

How do semester exams work?

Freshmen will take semester exams in their core classes and world language classes. The final semester average is calculated with each nine weeks counting 40% and the semester exam counting 20%. During exam week, students only report to school at the times when they have exams.

First semester:

Tuesday, December 15	1st and 2nd Periods
Wednesday, December 16	3rd and 4th Periods
Thursday, December 17	5th and 6th Periods
Friday, December 18	7th Period

Second semester:

Monday, May 24	6th and 7th Periods
Tuesday, May 25	4th and 5th Periods
Wednesday, May 26	2nd and 3rd Periods
Thursday, May 27	1st Period

What is the format of Open House this year?

Open House will not meet in person this year. Information will be sent at a later date that will describe how our "virtual" Open House will be held.

How to I check in or check out my student?

All check-ins and check-outs will occur at the main office in the new front of the building. Students arriving after 9:00 A.M. must check-in using one of the following methods:

- A. with a doctor's note
- B. physically signed in by a parent or legal guardian
- C. contacted by the attendance clerk or administration to verify the check-in

Checking a student out of school requires an adult on the approved Enrollment Form to come to the school and provide identification. Parents/Guardians may supply the

attendance clerk with the applicable check-out information as early as 7:00 A.M. the morning of the potential check-out. Parents are required to sign a document noting they have given permission for their child to check-out of school.

What is the attendance policy?

For an absence to be excused, the parent/guardian must explain in writing the cause of the absence no later than three (3) days following the return to school. A note from the parent will be accepted for up to five (5) days of absences per semester to excuse an absence. After which prior approval by the principal and/or other documentation [such as a doctor's note] will need to be presented to excuse the absence. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence. (No credit will be given and a zero will be recorded for work missed due to an unexcused absence.) A student will be considered truant for any unexcused absence.

What are the consequences for being tardy?

Tardies are counted both to school and for each class period. They are cumulative for the semester. The consequences for tardies are as follows:

5th cumulative tardy – Detention

10th cumulative tardy – Saturday School

15th cumulative tardy – ISS, two days

20th cumulative tardy – ISS, three days

25th cumulative tardy – ISS, five days

30th cumulative tardy – Out of School Suspension, three days

35th cumulative tardy – Out of School Suspension, Alternative School Referral

Where can I find a copy of the Code of Conduct?

A digital copy of the [Code of Conduct](#) can be found on the District Website.