

Freshman Course Selection

Appointment date and time will be mailed home. You are responsible for reading the letter, and knowing your appointment time.

High School Graduation Requirements

To graduate from NHS, you must accrue at least 120 credits over the course of four years. Your School Counselor will keep track of the credits you earn. The credits for any course are determined by the number of blocks you spend in the course. For example, Spanish I is one semester long and you take 5 days a week of this course so you would earn 5.0 credits. Of the 120 credits necessary to graduate, the following are required courses which you **MUST** pass:

- (4) years of English
- (2) years of U.S. History
- (1) year of World History
- (4) years of Physical Education/Health
- (3) years of Mathematics which must include Algebra I and Geometry. (*4 years recommended by colleges/universities*)
- (3) years of Science which must include Biology and an additional lab-based Science course, (Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science), and a third lab/inquiry-based course. (*4 years recommended by colleges/universities*)
- (1) year of Practical Art/21st Century
- (1) year of Fine/Performing Arts
- (1) year of World Language (*2+ years recommended by colleges/universities*)
- (1/2) year of Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy

Notes: Fine/Performing Arts: All Visual Art, Media Art, Music, Theatre, and Dance Courses Apply
Practical Arts include: All courses in Business, Technology, ROTC and Vocational subjects.

In addition to the course requirements listed above, students are required to sit for and meet NJ state standardized testing requirements (NJSLA/NJGPA).

Your Counselor at Neptune High School will be:

Alphabet	Counselor's Name
A-C	Mr. Jonathan Gant ext. 7018
D-H	Ms. Jamie Tuzeneu ext. 7021
I-Mi	Ms. Amanda Bradley ext. 7017
Mo-R	Mr. Zachary Skeeter ext. 7022
S-Z	Ms. Mikayla Edwards ext. 7019
Director of School Counseling	Mr. Juan Omar Beltran

Freshman Course Options

English Language Arts:

- **English 9-** This course builds upon the eighth grade standards and challenges students to expand their critical reading and writing skills through literary analysis, argumentative writing and research based essays. Short stories, poetry, plays, novels, historical documents and informational text will be read throughout the course.
 - *Honors level course available upon student/guardian request, with final current year grades and possible teacher recommendations considered for placement.*

Mathematics:

- **Algebra I**: This course integrates skills required in the study of more advanced mathematics. The course includes the study of rational and irrational number properties, variables, polynomials, exponents and factoring. The algebra of linear equations and inequalities, and the graphing of lines are emphasized. Probability concepts are integrated, along with geometric applications modeled by algebraic equations and preparation for the 11th grade High School Proficiency Assessment.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra
 - *Honors level course available upon student/guardian request, with final current year grades and possible teacher recommendations considered for placement.*
- **Geometry**: This course explores basic geometric concepts associated with the spatial relationships of points, lines, and planes. Students will learn definitions, postulates, and theorems to solve problems using inductive and deductive reasoning skills. Students will develop a working knowledge of the properties of angles. Parallel lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles, and apply this knowledge to the algebraic solution of geometric problems. Open-ended problems with practical applications will be integrated throughout the course.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I
 - *Honors level course available upon student/guardian request, with final current year grades and possible teacher recommendations considered for placement.*

Social Studies/History:

- **United States History I-** United States History I will provide a study of American history from the 1600s up to the early 1900s. Emphasis will be placed upon the concepts and individuals involved in forming and forging the nation from the American Revolution to the Gilded Age. It will also integrate current events with the study of history on an ongoing basis.
 - *Honors level course available upon student/guardian request, with final current year grades and possible teacher recommendations considered for placement.*

Science:

- **Laboratory Biology -** is the study of the natural world. In this course, emphasis is placed upon both the complex process of life itself and the diversity of organisms that abound in the living world. Lectures, discussions, readings, and laboratory work are essential components of this course. This course meets the New Jersey Department of Education graduation requirement and prepares students to take the New Jersey state assessments and upper level science courses including College Board Advanced Placement and science electives.
 - *Honors level course available upon student/guardian request, with final current year grades and possible teacher recommendations considered for placement.*
- **Laboratory Environmental Science -** is an introductory laboratory course that provides students with a sound foundation in basic principles and unifying concepts of Environmental Science and

Biology. Topic selection is based on major themes of modern environmental sciences such as: humans and sustainability; science and ecological principles; sustaining biodiversity and natural resources. This course will provide the students with the tools to be able to identify problems that are both natural and human-made, to observe and examine solutions, and evaluate preventative strategies.

World Languages:

- **French I** - The students learn basic word patterns of the spoken language and are encouraged to participate orally from the first day. By actively participating, they are encouraged to think in the target language. Listening for understanding is first and speaking is next. Correct verbal and written responses become automatic through practice. Grammatical discussions are in English. Translation and writing are based on material previously learned orally. French culture will also be interwoven into the course. (*Students may place into French II via placement exam.*)
- **Spanish I** -The students learn basic word patterns of the spoken language and are encouraged to participate orally from the first day. By actively participating, they are encouraged to think in the target language. Listening for understanding is first and speaking is next. Correct verbal and written responses become automatic through practice. Grammatical discussions are in English. Translation and writing are based on material previously learned orally. Spanish culture will also be interwoven into the course. (*Students may place into Spanish II via placement exam.*)
 - **Spanish II, Spanish II Honors, French II:** These courses are a continuation of the process begun in Level 1 and include development of more advanced skills through all modalities of the language, listening, speaking, reading, and writing with a heavy emphasis on grammatical structures and verb tenses. Students will move beyond present tense to the past, present progressive, present perfect, conditional, and future tenses, along with learning commands, stem-changing verbs and reflexive verbs.
 - Current eighth grade students may sign up with the Middle School Guidance Office for the Placement Assessment. Students who successfully pass the written, speaking, and listening portions of the assessment may register for Spanish II or Spanish II Honors in lieu of Spanish I or French 2 in lieu of French 1.

Physical Education/Health:

- **Grade 9 Health** is a mandatory component of the Comprehensive Health and Physical Education program and meets the New Jersey Department of Education graduation requirement. Topics covered include: health literacy; wellness, relationships; family life; substance abuse prevention and nutrition. This course focuses on helping students make good decisions on their own.
- **Grade 9 Physical Education** students will learn how the components of health-related and skill-related fitness are developed and measured. Students will design and implement a personal fitness plan that supports a healthy and active lifestyle. Students will participate in a wide range of developmentally appropriate games, sports, dance, and lifetime recreational activities. A fitness- and wellness-based approach to physical education, combined with skills and health related activities, is infused throughout the units, including individual and team sports.

Freshman Elective Course Options

- **Comp Apps I-** Computer Applications I is a semester long course designed to prepare students for work in an environment that utilizes computer systems. They will gain an understanding of the Microsoft Office Suite products, including Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, and Publisher, as well as gain practical experience using these programs. We will also discuss the use of technology and how it affects society, including online predators, safe use of the internet, and the use of Social Networking Sites, such as Facebook and Twitter. Lastly, students will learn how these programs and knowledge of these programs are helpful in various career paths, as well as in their personal lives.
- **Creative Writing-** This course is an elective at NHS. It allows for students to produce high quality writing using various styles and approaches. This course is designed for students who enjoy writing for purposes which differ from those in the English classroom. It also promotes communication and feedback amongst peer writers and the teacher in a safe, productive environment. Ultimately, students complete this course with a polished portfolio of some of their best creative work with writing. Students are also encouraged to submit their writing to various school publications for enjoyment by the greater Neptune community.
- **Financial Literacy-** Financial Literacy, a New Jersey Department of Education graduation requirement is designed to inform and educate students in money management. Students will learn various aspects of the personal financial responsibility and the skills necessary to manage money. Students will gain invaluable critical thinking and problem-solving skills, learn effective communication, and demonstrate knowledge of the global economy.
- **Engineering I-** Engineering I is a rigorous course where students will learn about the fundamentals of engineering and how to apply them to all disciplines of engineering. Students will be tasked to apply the design process to multiple hands-on activities. Students will practice skills involving the Metric and US units of measurement, isometric sketching, and multi-view drawings. Students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge of isometric sketching by using a computer-aided design program (CAD).
- **NJROTC-** The Naval Junior ROTC is a joint secondary school Navy youth program that emphasizes leadership, academic and citizenship development, self-discipline, and the Navy's role in national security. As society's demands for advanced education and strong leadership abilities continue to rise, this program provides the initial training and incentive necessary to meet these needs. By its nature and scope, the NJROTC program seeks to stimulate the student to set and achieve worthwhile goals in high school, in advanced education, and in lifetime careers. There is no military obligation associated with this course. Students and their parents are encouraged to fully explore the demands expected of those enrolling in this program, especially the requirements to meet uniform and grooming standards as set forth by the United States Navy. Participation in physical fitness training is an integral part of this program. ROTC is eligible for Option 2 during 9th, 11th and 12th grade

Visual & Media Arts Electives:

- **Visual Art 1-** This course focuses on the introduction to the basic vocabulary of art, as well as the elements of art and principles of design. Included are the very basic drawing and painting techniques designed for students with a minimum of art background. The objective is to teach students technical skills to enhance their abilities to express themselves through the creative process. Students will explore the influence of the arts in history and culture. The course offers experiences with a variety of materials, concepts, and art disciplines. No prerequisites are required for this course. *(Students may place into Visual Art II via portfolio submission)*

- **Visual Art II:** This course is designed for students who have developed expertise with basic materials and who are artistically skilled beyond the foundations of art. Emphasis is placed on conceptual and abstract ideas as it pertains to each individual artist's interpretations. Current eighth grade students may submit an electronic photo portfolio of at least five works of visual art to their current art teacher. Students who successfully pass the portfolio review may register for Visual Art II in lieu of Visual Art I.
- **Crafts-** Crafts explores the design possible of a wide variety of materials and techniques. The work is planned to help a student examine, create and develop an understanding of materials techniques and their cultural significance as used in two and three dimensional expressions. The following are a few of the areas from which students explore: basketry, soft sculpture, leather, simple jewelry, string art pottery mobiles, puppets and weaving.
- **Digital Graphics I-** This course is an introduction to digital imaging and computer-based art. Students will explore different avenues of visual communication, self-expression, and creative problem-solving through the creation of commercial, interactive, and fine arts. All work is based upon the study, aesthetics, purpose, and criticism of digital art forms.
- **Digital Photography I-** This course is a beginning study in Digital Photography. Students will use the DSLR camera to capture images in the photography studio. Images will then be edited in the digital darkroom. The class is structured around projects emphasizing photographic elements such as lighting, portraiture, still life, props and more. Students will be introduced to the principles of contemporary media as a verbal and visual means of communication in today's society. Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to determine their niche in the world of photography

Performing Arts Electives:

- **Concert Band-** The Band program consists of a multi-dimensional approach to concert band literature. Students in the band class perform a variety of musical styles ranging from Baroque to Contemporary Music. Students entering the class should have a basic knowledge of their major instrument. Instruction is provided before and after school. The student is required to perform in all Concert Band performances and rehearsals; Jazz Band and Small Ensembles are offered after school. In addition to growing as a musician students will learn numerous life skills such as dedication, leadership, time management, and resiliency. Students are strongly encouraged to take this course for a full school year.
- **Mixed Chorus-** Mixed Chorus provides an opportunity for students to experience performance through singing. Students will perform a variety of modern and classic repertoire while learning proper performance techniques. Numerous performance opportunities are available to students, including concerts, and other school wide special events. In addition to growing as a musician students will learn numerous life skills such as dedication, leadership, time management, and resiliency. Students are strongly encouraged to take this course for a full school year. Attendance at rehearsals and participation in scheduled performances during the school year are mandatory and are an integral part of the student's grade.
- **Digital Music & Piano-** Students will have the opportunity to create music through digital means. This course will focus on developing piano skills, musicianship, and composition. The opportunity will be granted to utilize available technology to explore student's interest in chosen musical genres and compositional styles.
- **Acting & The Theatre-** The course focuses on an introduction to stage production and related theatrical arts; it provides a solid factual and literary background for further work in Theater Arts, Acting, Stagecraft, and all other aspects of the theatrical experience will be covered. It also

introduces the student to the basic art of theatre. The student actor begins with the basics of acting and advances to more complex techniques used in the professional theater. Group and individual acting experiences afford the student both acting and directing practice.

- **Technical Theater 1-** Technical Theatre 1 strives to foster a student centered learning environment, allowing students to gain and use knowledge of scene design and construction, lighting, and audio. The course's essential goal is to introduce the learner to the basic operation, management, and maintenance of the various theatre systems, while promoting safety, critical thinking, and communication skills across the entire course. Students will be required to pass a mandatory safety exam as part of this course.
- **Honors Music Theory-** This course will expand a student's knowledge base of music fundamentals. Students will explore counterpoint, fundamentals of harmony, chord structure, harmonic progress, and score analysis. This course is designed for the serious student musician. Prerequisite: The ability to read and notate at least one clef of music.
- **Honors Wind Ensemble (audition required)-** Honors Wind Ensemble is designed for the advanced instrumental music students. Students will be expected to perform higher level concert literature. In addition to growing as a musician, students will learn numerous life skills such as dedication, leadership, time management, and resiliency. Prerequisite: Department approval, pending a successful audition.
- **Honors Chamber Singers (audition required)-** Honors Chamber Singers is designed for the advanced vocal music students. Students will be expected to perform higher level concert literature. In addition to growing as a musician, students will learn numerous life skills such as dedication, leadership, time management, and resiliency. Prerequisite: Department approval, pending a successful audition.
 - **Honors Chamber Singers and Honors Wind Ensemble:** These courses are designed for experienced music students and include the development of more advanced skills through creating, performing, responding and connecting. Students will be expected to perform higher level concert literature and demonstrate dedication, leadership, and time management skills.
 - Current eighth grade students may audition. Students must register for this through their current music teacher. Students who successfully pass the audition may register for Honors Chambers Singers or Honors Wind Ensemble in lieu of Concert Band or Mixed Chorus.
- **Marching Arts:** Marching Arts (Band) is an interdisciplinary course, instructing students through the participation and performance in a competitive Marching Unit. This is a non-traditional course that meets outside of regular school hours. Students may participate as a musician or color guard (dancer) member. Credit is awarded through the N.J. Department of Education's Option II program. Marching Arts instruction is a year-round cycle that begins on July 1 before the upcoming school year, ending on June 30 of the given school year, meeting for approximately 240 hours during that time frame.
- **Dance 1-** Students will have the opportunity to learn specific dance techniques, from a variety of genres and styles. This course will explore techniques in creating dance, choreography, performance, and responding to critique to improve performance. Students will have the opportunity to focus on genres that may interest them, if they choose to further participate in Dance. Students will also learn specific techniques to help them use their bodies in an appropriate manner for Dance performance.

