



# 8th Grade Parent Coffee

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Transition to High School  
Frequently Asked Questions



# Today's Topics

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- 9th Grade Scheduling
- World Language
- Visual Performing Arts
- PE/Athletics
- Summer School
- Registration
- Bell Schedule

# Freshman Schedule

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- 1.) English 1 (opportunity to earn honors distinction)
- 2.) World History or H World History (open enrollment, C or higher recommended))
- 3.) Biology or Honors Biology (based on prerequisites and teacher recommendation)
- 4.) Math (based on prerequisites and teacher recommendation)
- 5.) Physical Education (PE, Dance, Athletics, Color Guard, Marching Band\*)
- 6.) Elective (World Language, Visual/Performing Art, CTE)
- 7.) Optional open elective

\*Student will be enrolled in a PE class for 2nd semester

\*\* Course Selection Google Form will go out today, 4/16 at 10am via email - due by 4/23 \*\*

# Open Electives

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- Six classes are considered a full course load
- Students are not required to take seven classes
- If a student wants to take a 7th class, it must be from the list of approved optional open electives:
  - UHS Choir: intro level, learn the basic foundations in singing and music theory
  - Musical Theater Wheel: dance, vocal technique, acting, and storytelling/culture
  - Drama 1: introduction to acting
  - Technical Theater: introduction to stagecraft
  - String Orchestra-student will be placed in correct level after audition
  - Concert Band-student will be placed in correct level after audition
  - Beginning Journalism: introduction to journalism & the greater field of mass communications
  - Guitar Studio
  - Art Studio: drawing using a variety of media
  - Art of Fashion: teaches basic concepts and fashion fundamentals
  - Printmaking: printing on a variety of surfaces such as paper, fabric, plaster, etc.
  - Songwriting
  - Improvisation
  - Ceramics: for incoming 9th graders with prior experience or who will commit to the three year pathway
  - AVID: You will be emailed an application form to complete if you select this as one of your course requests

# World Language

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- Students must take two years or levels of the same world language to meet the requirements to apply to a 4 year university
- If a student is in Spanish 1 in 8th grade and moves to Spanish 2 in 9th grade and completes the course successfully, they will have met the two year requirement for 4 year university
- If a student takes a world language outside of IUSD it will not count towards graduation requirement credit or be listed on the transcript
- Please visit the IUSD World Language website to view a list of schools that offer world language credit for private instruction:
  - <https://iusd.org/about/departments/education-services/academics/world-languages>

# Visual/Performing Arts

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- Students must complete one year of a visual or performing art to be eligible to apply to a 4 year university
- Students can complete their VPA in grade 9, 10, 11 or 12
- Students can choose from a variety of visual or performing arts
- Please see UHS course of study for more information:
  - <https://universityhigh.iusd.org/academics/course-study>

# Physical Education

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- All 9th grade students must be enrolled in a full year of physical education
  - PE
  - Dance
  - Color Guard
  - Athletics
  - Marching Band (fall), PE (spring)
- If a student is enrolled in marching band for 1st semester, they will be placed in a PE class for 2nd semester
- A student is eligible for a maximum of 20 credits of the independent study physical education program (ISPE), on a pass/fail basis, if they are a nationally ranked athlete in an individual sport. For more information see here:
  - <https://iusd.org/about/departments/education-services/academics/physical-education>

# Athletics

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- Summer camps will be offered at UHS, please see website for more information: <https://universityhigh.iusd.org/athletics/summer-athletic-camps>
- Students must try out for sports teams
- Students will be placed in PE and then once the student is added to the sports roster and the roster is given to the counseling department from the athletics department, the student will be removed from PE and added to the sport
- Sports are offered during period 7/8 only
- Students/parents must complete athletic clearance in order to play a sport:
  - <https://universityhigh.iusd.org/athletics>

# Summer School

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- IUSD Summer school is not available to incoming 9th grade students
- If interested in summer courses, please consider the following options:
  - IPSF-Irvine Public Schools Foundation
    - Summer courses offered at Portola High School
    - Session A: June 22 - July 10
    - Session B: July 13 - July 31
    - Registration opened on March 19th
    - For enrollment information please visit:  
<https://ipsf.net/classes-and-camps/summer-programs/>
  - IVC/IUSD Summer College
    - Dates: June 9 - July 24 (online and in-person)
    - A variety of classes will be offered
    - For a list of classes and enrollment information please visit:  
<https://www.ivc.edu/dual-enrollment/iusd>
    - Contact [kevinocconnell@iusd.org](mailto:kevinocconnell@iusd.org) with any dual enrollment questions

# 9th Grade Registration

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- Freshman registration/orientation: Wednesday, August 12th 2026
  - Assigned by impact groups
  - Campus tour
  - Receive ID card
  - Course request list
  - Books
  - Locker
- Students will be able to view class schedule on the evening of Monday, August 17th on [my.iusd.org](https://my.iusd.org)
- First day of school: Tuesday, August 18th 2026

# UHS Bell Schedule

Monday		
Period	Start	End
1	8:30 AM	9:15 AM
2	9:20 AM	10:05 AM
Break	10:05 AM	10:15 AM
3	10:20 AM	11:05 AM
4	11:10 AM	11:55 AM
Lunch	11:55 AM	12:30 PM
5	12:35 PM	1:20 PM
6	1:25 PM	2:10 PM
Break	2:10 PM	2:15 PM
7	2:20 PM	3:05 PM
8	3:10 PM	3:55 PM

Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday		
Period	Start	End
1/2	8:30 AM	9:50 AM
Office Hours	9:55 AM	10:35 AM
Break	10:35 AM	10:45 AM
3/4	10:50 AM	12:10 PM
Lunch	12:10 PM	12:45 PM
5/6	12:50 PM	2:10 PM
7/8	2:15 PM	3:35 PM

Friday		
Period	Start	End
2	8:30 AM	9:50 AM
Homeroom	9:55 AM	10:10 AM
Office Hours	10:10 AM	10:35 AM
Break	10:35 AM	10:45 AM
4	10:50 AM	12:10 PM
Lunch	12:10 PM	12:45 PM
6	12:50 PM	2:10 PM
8	2:15 PM	3:35 PM

Classes can be scheduled anytime between period 1 and period 8. The school day runs from 8:30-3:55 Monday and 8:30-3:35 Tuesday–Friday. Please schedule extracurriculars outside of school hours.