



# Freshman Academy

# What is Freshman Academy

Learning without a fixed period

Biology, English, Social Studies, & Health in a 3 period block

Integration between the subjects through projects and themes

Personalized learning, voice and choice

Instruction delivered by individual teachers, or teams

3 houses, flexibility to group & regroup

7:45	8:33	1
8:37	9:25	2
9:29	10:17	3
10:21	11:35	Freshman Academy
11:35	12:00	9th grade Lunch
12:05	1:19	Freshman Academy
1:23	2:11	7
2:15	2:45	Falcon Time

# General Information...

Goals: Provide engaging and rigorous opportunities for students as independent learners through authentic experiences within our community.

Structure: Within the FA Block students are grouped in to 3 houses. Each house then has smaller groups for instruction and collaboration. Each house has a Science, English, Social Studies teacher, and shares 2 special education teachers and 2 health teachers.

Schedule: The schedule is broken into smaller chunks of time within the block for subject rotation. Lunch also breaks the block in half.

# AP Human Geography

Specific topics with which students engage include the following:

- Problems of economic development and cultural change
- Consequences of population growth, changing fertility rates, and international migration
- Impacts of technological innovation of transportation, communication, industrialization, and other aspects of human life
- Struggles over political power and control of territory
- Conflicts over the demands of ethnic minorities, the role of women in society, and the inequalities between development and developing economies
- Explanations of why locations matter to agricultural land use, industrial development, and urban problems
- The role of climate change and environmental abuse in shaping the human landscapes on Earth

# AP Human Geography vs. Global Studies

- Emphasis on college-level texts and interpretation and analysis of those texts.
- College-level writing requirements including, argumentation, proper citation of sources, deep analysis, and strong content knowledge.
- Increased frequency of both reading and writing assignments compared to Global Studies
- More focus on AP test preparation skills

# Readiness for AP Human Geography

- I feel comfortable working on challenging material independently
- I manage my days effectively to have time to complete school material nightly
- I am comfortable asking for extra help outside of class time and understand that the pacing of an AP course may require seeking extra help frequently
- I would like to enroll in an AP class for the challenge of the content and growth in academic and personal skills
- I am confident in my writing skills, and could complete a 2-3 page essay with little guidance on grammar and structure
- I am willing to commit to the increased amount of reading required of an AP social studies course, and understand that a failure to complete readings directly impacts my ability to participate effectively in class
- I am willing to commit to the course at the beginning of the school year and see it to completion. I understand that my schedule cannot change and I will need to persevere through the challenges of the course, rather than dropping when it becomes difficult.

# To Enroll in AP Human Geography

Please complete the form sent through Infinite Campus to all 9th grade students.

## Which aspects of school are valuable to you?

“The freedom to get to explore things that you wouldn't normally learn about or to learn about something in class at an even deeper level.”

# Honors Program

The Freshman Academy Honors program is an overlay of differentiated instruction and deeper learning opportunities in conjunction with the rigorous curriculum.

Modeled from college honors programs

The honors program is designed to facilitate academic challenges and growth opportunities for exceptionally motivated students.

# Honors Program

Students must complete 20 units for the honors designation on their transcript.

One unit may be attendance at a guest speaker and a reflection tying the speaker to their learning in the classroom. Larger projects such as a passion project may be counted as more than one unit.

Units can come from a menu of options provided to students, or can come from a build your own submission process.

A committee of academy teachers, academic coaches, and administration review the completed units and provide narrative feedback.

Honors Program is not grade weighted for GPA.



Questions?