

## Freshman Academy

Overarching Goal: Improved Student Achievement for ALL Students

The Freshman Academy has been established to build a greater sense of school community, to foster a successful transition from middle school to high school in support of long term goals for student achievement, and to create a school culture in which each student is supported by adults and peers. All first-time freshmen, except for those enrolled in the Classical Academy, will be in the Freshman Academy.

Specific objectives of the Freshman Academy include:

- Ensuring the academic success of all students using a comprehensive, research-based approach
- Creating a safe and orderly learning environment that more intentionally addresses the social, emotional, and academic needs of ninth grade students.
- Maintaining on-going communication with parents to establish a positive working relationship.
- Providing teachers with consistent use of planning time for collaboration on all aspects of curriculum design and instruction to support the achievement of all students.
- Incorporating a Freshman Seminar ... a course within the Freshman Academy

The Freshman Seminar is designed to address the needs of students across curriculum areas. The following focus areas and positive initiatives will be addressed:

- Career and course planning
- Research and study skills
- Literacy across the content areas
- Technology
- Building communities of learners

By modifying the students' schedules for the first five periods of the day, we will strengthen our current Small Learning Communities into a true team concept with all students in common. We believe that this team structure will build a stronger school community that will encourage more meaningful relationships, increase attendance rates decrease behavior incidents, teach organizational skills necessary to be successful, and foster higher student achievement.

### Freshmen Academy Sample STUDENT SCHEDULE

2011-2012	
1	7:25 – 8:25 (math w/ homeroom included)
2	8:25 – 9:20 (English)
3	9:20 – 10:15 (science)
4	10:15 – 11:10 (history)
5	11:10 – 11:55 (Freshman Seminar)
lunch	11:55 – 12:25
6	12:30 – 1:15 (elective)
7	1:20 – 2:05 (elective)
foreign language, wellness, art, band, etc...	
Periods 1-5: with Freshman Academy team	
Periods 6 & 7: mainstreamed throughout school	