



TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION GUIDE

Dear Families and the Class of 2030,

The 2026–2027 school year is quickly approaching, and high school is right around the corner. We are excited to work with you and are committed to helping your child begin their high school journey with confidence. A strong start is essential for long-term success.

The 8th-grade transition process marks the beginning of your student’s high school experience. Our team is dedicated to supporting both you and your student throughout this important step. In this document, you will find key information to guide you through the transition, helping your student make informed decisions and begin high school on a successful path.

We believe that Ohio Virtual Academy’s student-centered curriculum, along with our supportive and dedicated staff, will help your student reach their full potential. If you have any questions about the high school program, please do not hesitate to contact your student’s school counselor.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure a smooth and positive transition to high school.

Sincerely,

OHVA Middle School Counseling Team



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Important dates for transition to high school:

Date	Time	Info	Event
Wednesday, January 28, 2026	6:00PM	Required High School Overview An introduction to the high school platform, expectations of high school students and meet your high school success team.	Link to login will be on students' school calendar. *Make sure you have the 8th grade course showing on your calendar
Monday, February 9, 2026	3:15-3:45PM	Required CTE Career Learning Opportunities in High School Informational Session for all 8 th grade students to review Career Learning in the high school	Link to login will be on students' school calendar. *Make sure you have the 8th grade course showing on your calendar
Monday, March 16, 2026 *Students who participate in IXL or Unique curriculum will be invited to a session with our OHVA high school special education school counselor. **Students who participate in high school courses or CCP and earning credit towards high school you will be invited to attend on Thursday, March 12, 2026 @ 3:15.	3:15-4:00 PM	Required Rising 9th Grade Course Selection Sessions Scheduling course request for 9 th grade will be discussed and the course selection form to select 9 th grade classes will be shared. Students must fill out this google form to select their classes for 9 th grade or they will be assigned courses by their counselor.	Link to login will be on students' school calendar.
Friday, April 3, 2026	5:00PM	Required Course Selection Form due by 5:00PM	Course selection link will be shared during the course selection session and must be submitted by today!
Friday, April 3, 2026	5:00 PM	Honors recommendations due	Students must reach out and have a conversation with their history 8 teacher if interested in honors level in 9 th grade. Math and ELA placement will be assigned based on student's 8 th grade progress.

Steps for 8th Graders Enrolling in OHVA High School:

1. **Attend or view recordings of the High School Information Session and Course Selection Sessions.** All 8th grade students will be invited to these sessions via their Class Connect calendar. We invite all Learning Coaches and guardians to attend with their students. Please see the calendar on the previous page for a list of scheduled events.
2. **Register for the next school year.** In March, change your registration status to registering for the next school year. More information on re-registering will be provided to all legal guardians, please contact the students' advisor with questions.
3. **Math and ELA Placement.** For your child to stay on track with graduation requirements we need to make sure they are assigned to classes which allow them to be most successful. **The 8th grade math and ELA teachers will use the student's current math grade, class participation and attendance to make recommendations for Algebra I and Honors ELA 9 placement.** Students with an 80% or higher who are **ALSO** engaged in the course and participating in class will be considered for Algebra I and Honors ELA 9 placement. If a student has any questions about their placement, please reach out to your school counselor during the course scheduling window.
4. **Start securing Honors Modern World Studies recommendation.** If you are interested in taking Honors level Modern World Studies, a teacher recommendation will be required. Please reach out to your current History 8 teacher to discuss if honors level would be a good fit. Please be sure to reach out to your teacher before you submit your course selection survey. **All deadlines will be outlined in the course selection session.**
5. **Check out our electives.** Course descriptions and short recordings from elective teachers will be sent out during the course selection session giving you more information about the elective classes we offer.
6. **Select your courses.** Please make sure you have your course selection survey submitted by the **deadlines listed in the transition calendar. This form will be shared during our course selection sessions.** Students who do not submit a form will be assigned classes by their high school counselor. We prefer our students to choose their classes, so that they will be interested and engaged in the classes selected. If you are still deciding on whether to attend OHVA for your 9th grade school year, we recommend you complete a course selection survey.



OHIO'S GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

CLASS OF 2023 AND BEYOND

Ohio's long-term graduation requirements take effect for the class of 2023. For students entering ninth grade on or after **July 1, 2019**, Ohio's new high school graduation requirements provide more flexibility to choose a graduation pathway that builds on a student's strengths and passions – one that ensures students are ready for their next steps after high school. Students in the classes of 2018 through 2022 may also use these requirements as a pathway to graduation.

As a part of this pathway to graduation, students must show that they have completed all three parts of these requirements.

1. Credit Requirements:

Students must earn a **minimum total of 20 credits** in specified subjects and take your required tests. Schools can locally require more than 20 credits. Schools are still required to administer all the high school end-of-course assessments. These are: English Language Arts II, Algebra I (or Integrated Math I), Geometry (or Integrated Math II), Biology, American History, and American Government.

2. Competency:

Students can demonstrate competency by earning a passing score on Ohio's high school Algebra I (or Integrated Math I) and English language arts II tests. Students who do not pass the test will be offered additional support and must retake the test at least once. If students have not met the competency score on these tests, there are four additional ways to show competency.

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
Algebra I and ELA II	Career Readiness	College Credit Plus	Military Enlistment	ACT or SAT

Option 1. To demonstrate competency using Ohio's state tests, students must earn a score of 684 or above on both the Algebra I (or Integrated Math I) and English language arts II end-of-course exams.

Option 2. To demonstrate competency by Career Readiness, students must demonstrate two career-focused activities, at least one must be a foundational option.

- Foundational options: 1. Cumulative score of proficient on 3 or more WebXams. 2. Earn 12-points of industry credential. 3. Complete a registered pre-apprenticeship, an apprenticeship, or show evidence of acceptance into an approved apprenticeship. 4. State-issued license for a practice in a vocation.
- Supporting options: 1. Work-Based Learning. 2. Earn the workforce readiness score on the Workkeys. 3. Earn the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal

Option 3. To demonstrate competency through the College Credit Plus Program, students must earn credit in a non-remedial math or English course for the subject area not passed.

Option 4. To demonstrate competency through Military Enlistment, students must provide evidence of enlistment in a branch of the armed forces to demonstrate competency.

Option 5. To demonstrate competency using the ACT or SAT, students must obtain a remediation-free score in the math and/or English subject area on the ACT or SAT. To demonstrate competency in English, a student must be remediation-free in the subjects of English and reading on the ACT or SAT.

3. Readiness:

Students can meet the readiness requirement by earning two diploma seals. In alignment with their graduation plan, students should be choosing seals that align with their goals and interests. These seals give students the chance to demonstrate academic, technical and professional skills and knowledge that align to their passions, interests and their post-high school pathway.

Of the two seals students are required to earn, at least one of the two must be State-Defined. Ohio's 12 diploma seals are:

- OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal (State-Defined)
- Industry-Recognized Credential Seal (State-Defined)
- College-Ready Seal (State-Defined)
- Military Seal (State-Defined)
- Citizenship Seal (State-Defined)
- Science Seal (State-Defined)
- Honors Diploma Seal (State-Defined)
- Seal of Biliteracy (State-Defined)
- Technology Seal (State-Defined)
- Community Service Seal (Locally-Defined)
- Fine and Performing Arts Seal (Locally-Defined)
- Student Engagement Seal (Locally-Defined)



Want to learn more?

Contact your school counselor or
visit education.ohio.gov/graduation

For more information on graduation requirements please visit [OHVA School Counseling Department website](#) or [Unlock Your Future](#) from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

Academic Honors Diploma:

Students must meet **all but one** of the following criteria. Each of these criteria go beyond the [standard requirements for a diploma for the classes of 2023 and beyond](#). Students must meet general graduation requirements and complete the requirements outlined below to qualify for honors diplomas. Students may replace one requirement of either 4, 5 or 6 with a “Student Strength Demonstration.”

Requirements	State Minimum
1 Math	Fourth math must be > Algebra 2
2 Science	One additional unit Advanced Science
3 Social Studies	One additional unit Social Studies
4 World Languages	Three sequential units of one world language, or no less than 2 sequential units of two world languages studied
5 GPA	3.5 on a 4.0 scale
6 ACT/SAT	ACT: Score of 27 or higher, SAT: Score of 1280 or higher
7 Seal Requirement	Earn two additional diploma seals, not including Honors Diploma Seal
8 Experiential Learning	Field Experience, OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal*,

Students can use the Student Strength Demonstration to replace one of either the **ACT/SAT, GPA or World Language** requirement for any Honors Diploma. The Student Strength Demonstration options are listed below. The same options exist for each of the six honors diplomas* but, where relevant, should reflect coursework or experiences relevant to the theme of the Diploma. For example, a student earning the Academic Honors Diploma and using the College Credit Plus option to replace another requirement for the diploma should have College Credit Plus courses relevant to the Academic Honors diploma.

Options:

- [College Credit Plus](#): 12 total College Credit Plus credit hours
- [Advanced Placement](#): three courses with score of 3 or higher on AP tests
- [Career-Technical Assurance Guide](#) (CTAG): 12 total credits
- [Apprenticeship/Pre-Apprenticeship](#): Completion or Evidence of Acceptance if required to be older than 18
- [WorkKeys](#): Score of 6 or higher on all tests (*void for Career-Tech Honors Diploma)
- [Armed Services Vocational Battery](#): Score of 50 or above on the ASVAB
- [Work-Based Learning](#): 250 total hours of work-based learning

OHVA students can choose to pursue one of five honors diplomas:

1. [Academic Honors Diploma](#)
2. [Career Tech Honors Diploma](#)

3. [STEM Honors Diploma](#)
4. [Arts Honors Diploma](#)
5. [Social Science and Civic Engagement Honors Diploma](#)

*****For further information on honors diplomas, you will work with your assigned high school counselor.**

OHVA's Career Technical Education (CTE) Program:

Ohio Virtual Academy's Career Technical Education (CTE) Program teaches career skills students need to be successful after high school. Whether students intend to go to college, are working in their career field now, or plan to start their career right out of high school, the occupational programs offered can combine passion and interests with the skills needed to compete for jobs in high-demand fields. A required informational session will be held for all 8th grade students interested in the OHVA CTE program. The link to attend will appear on all students' CC schedule. This session will review the CTE pathways OHVA offers. Students who are interested in pursuing a CTE pathway must apply and be accepted to OHVA's CTE program.

To review the OHVA CTE Pathway Opportunities please [click here](#).

College Credit Plus (CCP):



The OHVA CCP Information and Counseling Session was held in December. If you are interested in participating in CCP during high school, you **MUST** have attended or review the recording from this meeting.

You must turn in the Intent to Participate form by April 1st, 2026.

More information about CCP can be found at:

[OHVA CCP Website](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

What classes will I take in my 9th grade school year?

Most 9th grade students will be scheduled for the courses outlined in the sample schedule below. If a student took high school classes in middle school or is recommended for honors level classes their schedule would vary and can be discussed in more detail with the school counselor.

Sample 9th Grade Schedule

1. English
2. Developmental Algebra (or Algebra I)
3. Social Studies
4. Science
5. Physical Education & Health
6. Two semester-long electives of a student's choice **OR** year-long World Language course

How does a student earn credits in high school?

Students can earn ½ credit each semester course they take. To earn the ½ credit, students must receive a passing grade of a D- (60%) or higher along with completing all required course assignments. For more information on earning credit please review the [December counselor corner](#).

Should I take a world language course?

The state of Ohio and Ohio Virtual Academy do not require students to take a world language to earn their diploma and graduate. A world language is not a graduation requirement. We do strongly recommend students take at least 2 years of a world language if they are college bound. It is recommended by college admissions offices that the student has completed a minimum of 2 years of a world language.

What electives can I take in 9th grade?

9th grade students will have room in their schedule to take one year-long elective or two semester-long electives of their choice. Elective choices and course descriptions are sent out during course selection sessions.

Do students participate in state testing every year in high school?

The **End-of-Course Exams** in Ohio are standardized assessments that measure high school students' proficiency in specific subjects. These exams are a key part of Ohio's graduation requirements and are designed to assess students' knowledge and skills in core academic areas. Students will take the end-of-course exams in the spring of the year they are participating in the courses.

High school students in Ohio must take end-of-course exams in the following subjects:

- **English Language Arts**
 - **ELA:** Typically taken in 10th grade.
- **Mathematics**
 - **Algebra I:** Typically taken in 10th grade (if a student is placed in Algebra I they will complete the test in 9th grade)
 - **Geometry:** Taken after completing the geometry course.

- **Science**
 - **Biology:** Taken after completing the biology course, usually in 10th grade.
- **Social Studies**
 - **American History:** Taken after completing the American History course, typically in 10th grade.
 - **American Government:** Taken after completing the American Government course typically 11th grade.

What if my student has an IEP or participates in an alternative curriculum?

IEPs and accommodations will carry over to high school and students will be met very similar to the OHVA middle school model. Your student's Intervention Specialist will be able to answer more questions about what accommodation your student qualifies for.

Resources from 8th grade school year to help plan for high school:

[December Counselor Corner: Credits, GPA, and Transcripts](#)

In this session school counselors break down how to earn credits, the importance of a GPA and reading transcripts. Students will have the opportunity to calculate a GPA and determine if that student is on track for graduation as well as spot the similarities and differences between a report card and transcript.

November Career Month presented students with many opportunities to explore career interests and set goals for after high school.

[Career Interest Exploration](#)

[Military Pathways](#)

[College Pathways](#)

[Soft Skills and Goal Setting](#)

Middle School Counselor Contact Information:

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