

Grady High School is on a 4 x 8 (Four by Eight) Block Schedule. This means that students take four classes per day X eight class periods per semester. We achieve the total of 8 classes per year by taking 4 classes on “A-days” and 4 more classes on “B-days.” WOW... This might look like this:

A - Day 8/5/19		B-Day 8/6/19		A - Day 8/7/19		B-Day 8/8/19		<i>And this pattern keeps going for the entire school year...</i>
1	PE	1	Math	1	PE	1	Math	
2	Language Arts	2	Social Studies	2	Language Arts	2	Social Studies	
3	Science	3	Health	3	Science	3	Health	
4	Technology	4	Latin	4	Technology	4	Latin	

There are some courses 99% of you will take:

1. **English/Language Arts** (called 9th Grade Lit.) - This is a **yearlong course** which means it is on the schedule from **August to May**. Students get “**credit**” for the “**first half**” of it from **August - December**, and then they get credit for the **second half** of it from **January - May**. **TWO HALF CREDITS equal ONE CREDIT**. Thus, the word “credit” is different from the word “course” in high school.

Here’s how that looks:

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit

The same is true of the next courses:

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit

9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit
		Total Credits so far:		4 credits

**Notice, we have 4 credits so far. A complete schedule contains 8 credits. Remember this is different from 8 “courses.”
Social Studies is the place where it becomes interesting.**

LET’S ADD TWO NOTES ABOUT WORLD LANGUAGES:

- Some students (very rarely) choose NOT to take a world language course in 9th grade. Just keep in mind that colleges like to see three (3) years of the SAME world language on your transcript.
- Also, if students show a lot of deficiencies in middle school language arts work, Grady High School may avoid putting them in a world language course the first year in high school so we can put them in a reading/writing/communications course instead.

LET’S ADD A NOTE ABOUT MATH:

- Some 8th graders DON’T DO WELL on their end-of-grade math tests. In such cases, we add a “math support” class to their schedules. This gives them a chance to have some exposure to math EVERY DAY (instead of every-other-day). It also gives them a chance to have more one-on-one intensive practice in Algebra. Here’s how that looks on a schedule:

9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH SUPPORT	½ credit	9th Grade MATH SUPPORT	½ credit	1 credit

2. **Social Studies** - Some students will take American Civics; some will take AP Human Geography; some will take BOTH Civics AND AP Human Geography.

(FYI - AP Human Geography is not a requirement for graduation. CIVICS IS A REQUIREMENT. HOLD ON - There are three ways you can fulfill the civics requirement: 1) Take the course in school any time over the next 4 years, 2) Do it online (after hours or during the summer), or 3) Take AP Government and Politics in 11th or 12th grade instead of taking Civics.)

AP Human Geography is a **YEARLONG COURSE**. American Civics is a **SEMESTER-LONG COURSE**, so we would have to “pair” it or put another semester long course with it to take up the yearlong slot. Here is how that looks:

For the student who is ONLY taking American Civics:

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
American Civics	½ credit			½ credit

For the student ONLY taking AP Human Geography:

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
AP Human Geography	½ credit	AP Human Geography	½ credit	1 credit

For the student taking BOTH CIVICS and AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY:

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
American Civics	½ credit			.5 credits
AP Human Geography	½ credit	AP Human Geography	½ credit	1 credit

Notice the areas in RED. We will have to find another semester long course to fill that slot. Our options are Intro to Art, PE, General Health, Personal Fitness, Music Appreciation, Beginning Guitar, Speech/Debate 1. Let's put in General Health.

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
American Civics	½ credit	General Health	½ credit	1 credit

So let's see what we have so far for a student only taking AMERICAN CIVICS along with General Health:

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit

9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit
American Civics	½ credit	Gen Health	½ credit	1 credit
		Total Credits so far:		5 credits

Notice, we have 5 credits so far. A complete schedule contains 8 credits. Remember this is different from 8 “courses.” Notice that you have 5 credits BUT you have six different COURSES: 1) ELA, 2) MATH, 3) SCIENCE, 4) WORLD LANGUAGE, 5) CIVICS and 6) GENERAL HEALTH.

So let’s see what we have so far for a student taking AMERICAN CIVICS along with General Health AND AP Human Geography:

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit
American Civics	½ credit	Gen Health	½ credit	1 credit
AP Human Geography	½ credit	AP Human Geography	½ credit	1 Credit
		Total Credits so far:		6 credits

Notice, we have 6 credits so far. A complete schedule contains 8 credits. Remember this is different from 8 “courses.” Notice that you have 6 credits BUT you have seven different COURSES: 1) ELA, 2) MATH, 3) SCIENCE, 4) WORLD LANGUAGE, 5) CIVICS, 6) GENERAL HEALTH and 7) AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY.

Pathways and Electives:

Well a PATHWAY is like a college “major.” For a course to be considered a “pathway course,” a student MUST take 3 courses in that subject area between grades 9 - 12. For instance, you may decide to take 3 engineering courses or 3 journalism courses. These SAME courses can be elective courses IF you don’t take them for 3 years. CONFUSING ISN’T IT??? For example, you may only want to take ONE semester of art (Intro to Art). That’s it. It will only become a pathway IF YOU TAKE ART COURSES FOR TWO MORE YEARS. You may only want to take Theater Arts 1 for one year and then do something else. **Since you didn’t take it for three years, it is simply an “ELECTIVE.”**

- a. 99.9 Percent of our pathways are yearlong. The ONLY TWO THAT ARE NOT IN 9TH GRADE are 1) 2D Art [Drawing/Painting] and 2) 3D Art.
- b. **Intro to Visual Art** is a semester-long course. Students will take it in 9th grade IF they choose 1) 2D Art [Drawing/Painting], 2) 2D Art [Photo] or 3) 3D Art as pathways.
- c. They won’t begin the next 2D Art [Drawing/Painting] or 3D Art courses until the **10th grade school year**, so they will take Intro to Art in the 9th grade and pair it with another semester-long course.
- d. **PHOTO** - Since PHOTO ONE is a semester-long course, we can **generally** pair it with Intro to Visual Arts in 9th grade.

So here’s a schedule for a student taking AP Human Geography, Photo and Intro to Visual Art along with 2 other pathway courses (let’s just choose Engineering and Journalism):

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit
Photo	½ credit	Intro to Visual Arts	½ credit	1 credit
AP Human Geography	½ credit	AP Human Geography	½ credit	1 Credit
Engineering course	½ credit	Engineering course	½ credit	1 credit
Journalism course	½ credit	Journalism course	½ credit	1 Credit
		Total Credits so far:		8 credits

Notice, we have 8 credits so far. A complete schedule contains 8 credits.

Here's a schedule for a student taking General Health, Personal Fitness, Civics and Intro to Visual Art along with 1 pathway course and MATH SUPPORT (let's just choose Sports Marketing as the PATHWAY):

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit
American Civics	½ credit	Intro to Visual Arts	½ credit	1 credit
General Health	½ credit	Personal Fitness	½ credit	1 Credit
9th Grade MATH SUPPORT	½ credit	9th Grade MATH SUPPORT	½ credit	1 credit
Marketing Course	½ credit	Marketing Course	½ credit	1 Credit
		Total Credits so far		8 credits

Notice, we have 8 credits so far. A complete schedule contains 8 credits.

WE HAVE TWO MATH CLASSES THAT MEET EVERY DAY INSTEAD OF EVERY OTHER DAY.

Some of you in Algebra One (1) right now will want to take two math courses next year. In addition, students who score REALLY LOW on the end-of-grade math test will be in a class that meets every day (this is a course different from traditional MATH SUPPORT) in order to build math skills with a level of "every day consistency." Here's

how that may look: (This is ONLY for students who are taking TWO MATH COURSES next year. These classes meet EVERY DAY and get 1 credit per semester INSTEAD of ½ credit per semester.)

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH (Algebra II)	1 credit	9th Grade MATH (Geometry_	1 credit	2 credits
9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit
American Civics	½ credit	Intro to Visual Arts	½ credit	1 credit
AP Human Geography	½ credit	AP Human Geography	½ credit	1 Credit
Business Course	½ credit	Business Course	½ credit	1 credit
		Total Credits so far:		8 credits

WORD OF CAUTION for those who **ONLY** want World Languages and/or Advanced Courses as Pathways.

Most students take world languages and/or 3 or more AP courses in the same subject area for three years anyway. You will really need to pay attention to elective options to complete your schedule. Make sure you choose enough electives to get you to at least 8 credits. For example:

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit

9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit
American Civics	½ credit	Intro to Visual Arts	½ credit	1 credit
General Health	½ credit	Personal Fitness	½ credit	1 Credit
Weight Training	½ credit	Speech Debate	½ credit	1 credit
Marketing Course	½ credit	Marketing Course	½ credit	1 Credit
		Total Credits so far		8 credits
Notice, we have 8 credits so far. A complete schedule contains 8 credits.				

I Think You Get It.

As you choose courses, note whether they are yearlong or semester-long. Create your system to “chart” as you go. Here are some things to remember:

1. All students will take Language Arts and Science. Both of these are yearlong courses. Therefore you are all up to at least 2 out of 8 credits:

ELA	½ credit	ELA	½ credit	1 credit
SCI	½ credit	SCI	½ credit	1 Credit

- 2) Think about the math options.

ELA	½ credit	ELA	½ credit	1 credit
SCI	½ credit	SCI	½ credit	1 Credit
MATH	½ credit	MATH	½ credit	½ credit

If you are in Algebra I right now and want the “double math create a line that looks like this:

ELA	½ credit	ELA	½ credit	1 credit
SCI	½ credit	SCI	½ credit	1 Credit
DOUBLE MATH	1 credit	DOUBLE MATH	1 credit	2 credit

3) Remember what we said about the social studies options:

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit
American Civics	½ credit	SOMETHING ELSE FROM THE ELECTIVE OPTIONS	½ credit	1 credit
		Total Credits so far:		5 credits

OR

9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit

American Civics	½ credit	SOMETHING ELSE FROM THE ELECTIVE OPTIONS	½ credit	1 credit
AP Human Geography	½ credit	AP Human Geography	½ credit	1 Credit
		Total Credits so far:		6 credits

OR

9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit
AP Human Geography	½ credit	AP Human Geography	½ credit	1 Credit
		Total Credits so far:		5 credits

THIS IS HOW WE BUILD YOUR SCHEDULE:

Keep a list and COUNT THOSE CREDITS. This is how scheduling works:

Lawrencia has requested these courses:

1. ELA - 1 credit
2. MATH - 1 credit
[Remember if you are in Algebra I NOW and want the double math, you would put 2 credits here].
3. SCI - 1 credit
4. American Civics - ½ credit
[Remember what we said about Civics and AP Human Geography.]
5. SPANISH - 1 credit
6. Engineering 1 credit

7. Intro to Art - ½ credit
8. Photo - ½ credit
[Remember what we said about DRAWING/PAINTING & FASHION DESIGN. You can ONLY take Intro to Art and pair it with something else if you want these two pathways.]
9. Graphic Communications - 1 credit
10. Guitar (as an elective) - ½ credit
[Remember GUITAR as a PATHWAY is yearlong, so it's 1 CREDIT. As an elective, it's one for a semester, so it's ½ credit.]
11. Speech - ½ credit
12. PE - ½ credit
13. General Health - ½ credit

1. We schedule CORE CLASSES FIRST - Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and World Language. Here we have 4.5 out of 8 credits. Notice Lawrencia is NOT taking AP Human Geography.

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit
American Civics	½ credit			½ Credit
		Total Credits so far:		4.5 credits

2) Then we schedule PATHWAY COURSES. Notice Lawrencia wants Engineering, 2D Photo and Graphic Communications as pathways. This gets us to 7.5 credits.

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
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9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit
American Civics	½ credit			½ credit

ENGINEERING	½ credit	ENGINEERING	½ credit	1 credit
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS	½ credit	GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS	½ credit	1 credit
Intro to Visual Arts	½ credit	Photo	½ credit	1 credit
		Total Credits so far:		7.5 credits

3) If we are at 8 credits without electives, GREAT... We only use the electives if you still have a hole (space) in your schedule because of art or civics, for example. If we are NOT at 8 credits by the time we finish adding the Pathways, we start looking at what students requested for ELECTIVES.

Lawrencia is NOT at 8. Lawrencia still needs ½ credit. The scheduler then looks at the first elective: Guitar (as an elective) - ½ credit. If that won't work, we look at Speech - ½ credit. If that won't work, we go for PE - ½ credit, if that won't work, we try General Health - ½ credit. We go down Lawrencia's list IN ORDER and try to make it work.

Sometimes it's your first choice; sometimes it's your 4th choice; sometimes it nothing you chose. OOPS!!!! That's how scheduling works. We try to give EVERYONE MOST of what they want, but every now and then we have to take something that we just don't want in order to get everything else we do want.

Course	Semester 1: August - December	Course	Semester 2: January - May	Total Credits
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9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	9th Grade Lit.	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade MATH	½ credit	9th Grade MATH	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	9th Grade SCIENCE	½ credit	1 credit
9th Grade World Language	½ credit	9th Grade World Language	½ credit	1 credit
American Civics	½ credit	General Health	½ credit	1 credit

ENGINEERING	½ credit	ENGINEERING	½ credit	1 credit
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS	½ credit	GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS	½ credit	1 credit
Intro to Visual Arts	½ credit	Photo	½ credit	1 credit
		Total Credits so far:		8 credits

HOPE THIS HELPS!!!