

Class of 2025 Edition



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INTRODUCTION

Hello! My name is Cammie Adams and I am the Junior and IB Counselor at Fairhope High School. I am really excited to be working with all of you and am here to help you navigate your path after high school. Whether your plan is a four-year college/university, community college, the military or straight into a job, my goal is to help you get there! You will receive newsletters each month via REMIND. Please read them! I work hard to put A LOT of information in them about your junior year and many questions can be answered by reading them! :)

A little bit about me: I have my Master's degree from The University of South Alabama in School Counseling and have been here at Fairhope High School for 5 years. I have 2 kids, Kennedy (FHS '22) is a rising junior (thanks to dual enrollment) at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and Reese (FHS '25) is a rising Junior at FHS. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you! My email is cadams@bcbe.org if you have any questions.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



You hear it all the time: your college application needs to be more than just your classes. So what can you do to beef up your student resume? Here are some suggestions:

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Sports - Ok so maybe you can't sink a 3 pointer or strike out a batter but there are still sports you can participate in at FHS! Sports like cross country, track & field and tennis are great for even the novice athlete!

Organizations - Joining a club is a great way to show colleges your outside interests. Student Government fosters leadership, Drama Club can bring out your inner thespian and The Medical Careers Club is geared towards those wanting a career in medicine.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Helping out in your community is another great way to show colleges more about you. There are several local organizations that welcome high school volunteers like Prodissee Pantry, the Exceptional Foundation and The Humane Society. Volunteering is a win-win as both you and the organization benefit!



GPA - UNWEIGHTED V. WEIGHTED

What does this mean?

Your grade point average, or GPA, can be calculated two ways: unweighted and weighted. Traditional GPAs are unweighted and are measured on a scale of 0.0 to 4.0.

An A is a 4.0 regardless of what the class is. A student who has all As in a standard class and a student who has all As in honors classes will both have a 4.0 unweighted GPA.

Your weighted GPA reflects the rigor of your course load and is measured on a scale of 0.0 to 5.0. At FHS, honors courses and dual enrollment courses are out of a 4.5 and AP courses are on a 5.0 scale (but you must take the AP exam). So a student who has all As and is in all honors courses will have a weighted GPA of a 4.5 and unweighted of a 4.0. Both unweighted and weighted GPAs are included on FHS transcripts.

If you have a mix of classes, each class will be on its own scale. Say you have 2 standard classes, 2 honors classes and 2 AP classes. If you receive all As in those classes, your unweighted GPA will be a 4.0 and your weighted GPA will be a 4.5.

How do you calculate your GPA? Each class grade is assigned a number on the scale. Add up each number and divide by the number of classes you have to determine your GPA.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Standard Classes	Honors Classes and DE courses	AP Classes
90-100%	A	4.0	4.5	5.0
80-89%	B	3.0	3.5	4.0
70-79%	C	2.0	2.5	3.0
60-69%	D	1.0	1.5	2.0
<59%	F	0.0	0.0	0.0



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO THIS SUMMER TO PREPARE?

This summer is a great time to organize and prepare for your Junior Year. You should have your schedule set (if not, please email me right away) and be on track to graduate in May of 2025. This summer is a good time to:

- Start a list of colleges and universities that interest you
- Take the ACT this summer! (See page 5 of this newsletter)
- Read! It doesn't matter what, just make sure you read this summer
- Plan to visit a college campus or 2 (see page 4 for tips)
- Begin to think about career choices
- Get organized - a little bit of organization goes a long way
- Pick a new extracurricular activity (or two!) and jump right in
- Volunteer in your community

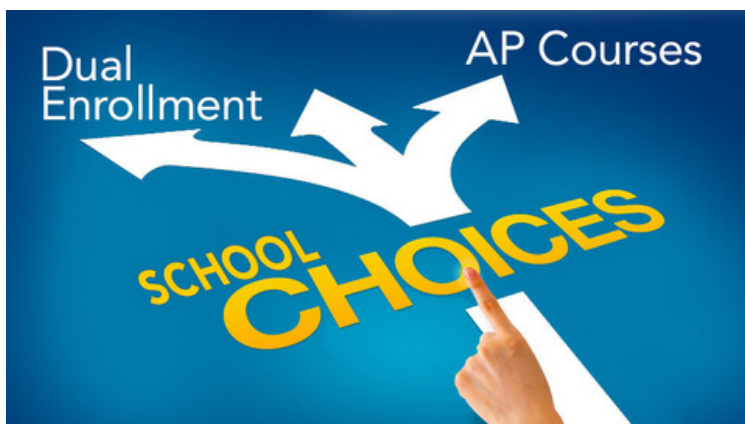


FYI:
Your GPA
at the end of
your
JUNIOR YEAR
determines your
college acceptance
and
scholarships!
**READ THAT
AGAIN!**

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

between dual enrollment and AP?

-Earning College Credit in High School-



AP classes are created by the College Board and are all taught by trained teachers all around the country and the tests are standardized. When a college sees an AP class on a transcript, they know what they are getting. AP classes require students to take an AP test at the end of the semester to determine how well students have mastered the material. Students who pass the exam will earn credit for the course and may earn college credits, saving them both time and money in their postsecondary studies. Scores needed for college credit depends on each college and almost all colleges accept AP credits. AP courses can give an added 1.0 bump in GPA (0.5 for taking the class, 0.5 for taking the AP test). AP test costs around \$100.

Unlike AP courses, dual enrolled students must pass the course with a C or better to receive credit. Courses can be taken at students' high school, online or at a local college. DE courses give an added 0.5 bump in GPA. Costs are different depending on which school you do dual enrollment with. For instance, Coastal Alabama gives every FHS student a free course in the Fall and a free course in the Spring. Check with individual colleges/universities as to whether or not they will accept DE credits, especially out of state and private institutions!

So, what's the catch? No catch, but there are a few critical facts to consider when determining whether dual enrollment or AP is a good fit for your student. Because these courses are designed to prepare students for the rigor of college, they require a substantial amount of work. Students' performance in these courses remains on their high school transcripts, (**dual enrollment courses are permanently on their COLLEGE transcript**) so it is vital that students take these classes seriously.

LOOKING AHEAD

Dual Enrollment at FHS

Earn College Credit in High School



UA Early College

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH ALABAMA



COASTAL ALABAMA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Baldwin County Schools have a dual enrollment agreement with three colleges. Dual enrollment classes give you the opportunity to earn college credit and all academic courses are guaranteed to transfer to public universities in the state of Alabama. Once the credit is earned, it is listed on both the high school AND college transcript. There is no denying the college credit once the grade is given. What you make in the high school class is also the grade on your COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT. When you take a DE class, you will receive a 0.5 GPA bump, but students must maintain at least a 70/C in the DE class. Otherwise, they will not be eligible for DE the next semester. Cost for each DE program are different. Read the fine print about academic probation. Are you eligible? Email me at cadams@bcbe.org.

Why Should I Do Dual Enrollment?

There are many advantages to dual enrollment:

- Less time after high school to finish a college degree
- Provides students with a head start on the college experience
- Dual enrollment classes often save students money on tuition
- Can increase your weighted GPA as classes are on a 4.5 scale
- Students may be able to transfer credits earned to a four-year college or university*
- Students may explore fields of study that may help them chose a major later
- Students may choose from classes not currently available at their high school

Students interested in CACC dual enrollment for their junior year should have been notified by Ms. Grant, our CACC representative.

**Check with individual colleges/universities as to whether or not they will accept transferred credits, especially out of state and private institutions*

COLLEGE VISITS - THE 411

WHY SHOULD I SCHEDULE A COLLEGE TOUR?



A college tour allows students to ask questions, meet other prospective students and understand the college on a deeper level. How you feel about a school once you visit in person may affect the direction your college search and application process takes. College visits help you refine your search. A tour can also help if you need to have a college interview or write a supplemental essay about why you want to attend. Finally, having your name on the tour rosters can mark what many admissions officers call "demonstrated interest."

What Questions Should I Ask?



1. What is the average class size of introductory classes?
2. Do you have an honors college?
3. Ask your tour guide why they chose that particular school
4. What is the social scene like?
5. What majors are popular?

What to Check Out



- Residence Halls
- Student Union
- Sports Complexes
- Academic Center
- Career Center
- Library
- Dining Halls



When Should I Visit?

Typically, the earlier, the better! Students are given 2 college visit days their junior year (and 2 their senior year) so make them count! Make sure you go on a day where you can get the full college life experience! Football game days are NOT the full college experience!



You can find tour schedules and sign ups on each college's website. Check under the admissions tab under the heading of 'visit'

Take Notes!



You may think you'll remember that College A requires a swim test for graduation (yes, some do!) and University B is known for their internships but after a few visits they can start to blend together. Keep a notebook with pros and cons about each school and after a visit/tour, write down your immediate thoughts about the campus and your general impression of the school. You'll thank yourself later!

LOOKING AHEAD

Junior Year and the ACT[®]

It is a VERY good idea to start taking the ACT now. You can register at www.act.org. All of the test dates and deadlines can be found on their website and our high school code is 011-060. Make sure you select 4 schools to send your score report when you sign up! Otherwise, you will have to pay to send them individually to each college! It doesn't matter if you bomb it! Colleges look at the highest score. PERIOD. I recommend taking it cold (with no test prep) the first time to see where to stand. Order your test scores to be mailed to you the first time you take it so you can see where you need to improve. You can take the ACT up to 12 times and many students improve their score the more they take the exam. If you receive free or reduced lunch, you could qualify for a total of four FREE fee waivers to take the ACT (and SAT) during junior and senior years of high school. Just come see me to get your waiver before signing up.

ALL juniors have the opportunity to take the ACT (this is the plus writing version), FREE, on our campus in the spring. You are automatically registered for this date. It is in somewhere in March so don't plan any trips or appointments! As soon as the date is set, I will announce it.

Remember, your GPA and ACT score determines most merit-based scholarships!

What about ACT Prep?

There are multiple ways to get ACT Prep if you didn't sign up for it as an elective.

Visit our FHS Counseling Website by clicking
<https://cadams519.wixsite.com/website/copy-of-act-prep-2>.



SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUESTS

In an effort to curb the hundreds of schedule changes at the beginning of the school year, students will not be granted schedule changes for elective choices. If a student sees an error or wants to change levels (regular/DE/honors/AP) in a core class, we will handle that on a case by case basis. The schedule change deadline is August 16th at 3:15 p.m. This gives students one full week in the class to determine if the course is what is best for them.

If you are requesting a schedule change, it must be done via email! Email me at cadams@bcbe.org.

Know anyone NOT on the Junior Remind?

**Get them to sign up to get the most up to date FHS Junior News!
This is the ONLY way I communicate with all juniors/parents!**

Juniors:

A – C
D – G
H – L
M – Q
R – U
V – Z

GROUP CODE:

@FHS25G1
@FHS25G2
@FHS25G3
@FHS25G4
@FHS25G5
@FHS25G6

**GET OUT AND ENJOY
THE REST OF SUMMER**



-Love, Mrs. Adams