

Cairo-Durham Class of 2025

8th Grade Transition Handbook



*EXPECT
EXCELLENCE*

TIPS for 9th GRADE

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO GUIDE AND ADVISE YOUR FRESHMAN

When a student becomes a freshman, everything starts to “count.” Freshman grades are used in determining GPA (Grade Point Average), and GPA is used to determine class rank. Activities, honors and awards can all be listed on college and scholarship applications. Freshman courses, grades, credits, and attendance will all become part of the student’s transcript. As will all credit bearing courses taken in High School.

❖ MONITOR ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Make sure that you see all interim/progress reports and report cards. Provide encouragement and support, making certain that your son or daughter understands that freshman grades are vitally important. Make a plan and start now see the four year plan in this packet.

❖ ENCOURAGE YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER TO BECOME INVOLVED IN A WIDE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

Now is a good idea to encourage your son or daughter to develop leadership skills by volunteering to be an officer of a club, captain of a team, etc. Encourage your son or daughter to also participate in activities outside of school (e.g., church, scouting, recreational sports). Community service is particularly impressive on an application.

❖ IN THE SPRING, REVIEW YOUR CHILD’S COURSE SELECTION SHEET FOR SOPHOMORE YEAR TO BE CERTAIN HE/SHE HAS SELECTED THE MOST APPROPRIATE COURSES. WE ARE OPEN TO MEETING WITH YOU AT ANY TIME PLEASE CALL US AND WE CAN SCHEDULE A DATE FOR THIS TYPE OF THING

❖ STUDENT ATHLETES AND COLLEGE- SEE YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Before an athlete can play a sport or receive an athletic scholarship at a Division I or II college, he/she must meet the specific academic criteria as set forth by the NCAA. Students must take specific courses in order to meet NCAA eligibility requirements. It is very important that athletes meet with their School Counselors in the ninth grade to obtain information on all of the NCAA requirements.

❖ HELP YOUR CHILD CHOOSE MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS.

The School Counseling Department has information on excellent summer programs that are available on college campuses and elsewhere. For example, your child could join an athletic team, take a course at the local community college, mow yards, baby-sit, perfect a skill, take lessons, develop a hobby, read, and/or volunteer at a local nursing home or hospital.

4700 WEIGHTED GRADING POLICY

Purpose:

Cairo-Durham Central School District recognizes that increased academic rigor improves College and Career Readiness. In order to encourage students to continuously challenge themselves by taking courses of increased academic rigor, grade weights will be determined based on each course's level of academic rigor.

In order to recognize that the academic rigor of courses varies, the Cairo-Durham School District is implementing a weighted grading policy that will be used in the calculation of class rank. While both weighted and unweighted ranks will continue to be calculated, the weighted class rank will be used in the determination of:

- Class Rank including Valedictorian & Salutatorian
- Honor Graduate Designation
- Scholarship Eligibility and Determination

Considerations:

Grade Point Average

- Weighted courses differ substantially in their level of academic challenge.
- All students are encouraged to take a more rigorous course of study and be appropriately recognized for doing so.

Class Rank

- Class rank should be cumulative. The rank should include all courses taken by the student and should not be limited to a select few core courses. In addition, class rankings should include all students within a given cohort.
- The system of calculating class rank should allow students to improve through persistence and hard work and should ensure that the success of one student should not be at the expense of another student.

Definitions:

Courses designated as advanced will be weighted for the purpose of determining class rank.

- Students enrolled in advanced placement courses will have their grade multiplied by a factor of 1.07.

- Students enrolled in courses designated as College Connection/University in the High School (UHS)/ Project Lead The Way (PLTW) will have their grade multiplied by a factor of 1.05.
- Students enrolled in courses designated, as honors will have their grade multiplied by a factor of 1.03.
- Students taking general courses will have their grade multiplied by a factor of 1.0.

In order to receive the full AP weight multiplier, students must sit for the College Board exam in May.

Course weight determinations will be made and updated on an annual basis and include courses in all content areas.

For clarification, the following example is provided to outline how weighted grades shall be calculated.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (1.07 factor)
College Connections/UHS/PLTW (1.05 factor)
HONORS (1.03 factor)

Student Example

Course	# of Credits	Grade	Weight	Weight Adjusted Grade	Multiplier	Total
AP Biology	1	94%	1.07	100.58	X 1	100.58
Band	.5	98%	1.00	98	X .5	49
Global 1H	1	90%	1.03	92.70	X 1	92.70
Spanish IV	1	89%	1.05	93.45	X 1	93.45
Total Credits	3.5	322	Sub-Total		Sub-Total	335.73
	Divided by 3.5				Divided by 3.5	335.73/3.5
Total Un-Weighted GPA	92.00				Total Weighted GPA	95.92

Electives for 9th graders

PERFORMING ARTS

HS Concert Band

Credit: ½ per year

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th/8th Band and/or permission of instructor through audition or successful study through a private teacher.

Class schedule: Meets for a 42-minute period every day or as the student's schedule permits.

The High School Concert Band is available for students in grades 9 - 12 who have demonstrated proficient skills on their instrument. The Concert band provides an opportunity for students to expand their aesthetic awareness and sensitivity for artistic expression through a regularly scheduled ensemble class during the normal school day. Students will also develop their critical thinking and self-assessment skills through the study of a musical instrument.

The High School Concert Band performs regularly throughout the year. The band may participate in the NYSSMA major organization festival depending upon instrumentation. All band members are eligible to take part in the **NYSSMA** solo and ensemble festival each spring. All band members are **required to participate in Marching Band** are eligible to participate in, Jazz Band, Pep Band and various small ensembles which rehearse outside of the school day.

Group lessons are a major component of this course. Students will meet once a week on a rotating basis in small groups to help develop their technical and expressive skills.

Grading will be assessed by:

- * Lesson attendance/performance
- * Practice times
- * Participation
- * Small ensemble performance
- * Full Band participation

HS Concert Chorus

Credit: ½ per year

Prerequisite: Recommendation of Middle School Music Instructor or High School Choral Instructor's approval or by audition.

Class schedule: Meets for a 42-minute period every day or as the student's schedule permits.

This choir presents a minimum of three concerts per year. This choir may perform for outside engagements if they occur. They also participate in NYSSMA Majors and individual students are encouraged to attend NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble Festivals. During rehearsals students are taught good vocal production and sight-reading skills. They will sing music that is representative of different styles and periods in history.

Grading will be assessed by, but not limited to:

- * Individual performances
- * Ensemble singing
- * Collaborative efforts within the large ensemble

- * Vocal quality
- * Vocal Improvement as measured throughout the year

Women's Choir

Credit: ½ per year

Prerequisite: Recommendation based on Middle School or High School performance in choir.

Class schedule: Meets for a 42-minute period every other day.

This is meant to be an additional choir to Concert choir for the enrichment of students who have a passion to sing and are dedicated to learning additional music. If for some reason Concert Choir does not fit into a student's schedule, this choir may take its place upon recommendation from the conductor. This choir presents a minimum of three concerts per year. This choir may perform for outside engagements if they occur. Individual students are encouraged to attend NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble Festivals but must meet outside of class to prepare for that. During rehearsals students are taught good vocal production and sight-reading skills. They will sing music that is representative of different styles and periods in history.

Grading will be assessed by, but not limited to:

- *Individual performances
- *Ensemble singing
- *Collaborative efforts within the large ensemble
- *Vocal quality
- *Vocal Improvement as measured throughout the year.

Musical Theater

Credit: ½ per year

No Prerequisite

Class Schedule: 1 Full Block every other day for 1/2 year.

A study of the musical theater as it evolved in the United States is presented through videos, live performances and reading. History will include vaudeville through present day Broadway productions, including both the dramatic and musical aspects of performance. This would be the first building curriculum to touch on NYS Standards 1-4 at the intermediate and commencement/general education level for dance. Emphasis is on group work and interaction, as well as students touching on the finer skills of directing.

Grading will be assessed by, but not limited to:

- *Individual performances
- *Ensemble performances
- *Collaborative efforts within the large ensemble
- *Homework
- *Quizzes and Tests
- *Compositions and reports

BUSINESS EDUCATION

Career and Financial Management A

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: None

Class schedule: 1 Full Block every other day for 1/2 year.

This course covers three modules, designed to make students become more aware of business: how and what affects business, both as workers and citizens. A checkbook simulation and creation of a resume will be accomplished. These modules include:

- * Problem Solving-Decision Making
- * The Working Citizen: Obligations and Responsibilities
- * Personal Resource Management

Grading will be assessed by but not limited to:

- * Homework
- * Quizzes/Tests
- * Projects
- * Class Performance

Career and Financial Management B

Credit: 1/2

Class schedule: 1 Full Block every other day for 1/2 year.

This course covers three modules, designed to make students become more aware of business and economics. These modules include:

- * The Economics of Work
- * Labor and Management
- * Ethics in the Workplace and Daily Lives

Grading will be assessed by but not limited to:

- * Homework
- * Quizzes/Tests
- * Projects
- * Class Performance

Computer Essentials

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Class Schedule: 1 Full Block every other day for 1/2 year.

This course is designed for any student desiring to become proficient in word processing, excellent for those going to college or those planning to study computers. Emphasis will be placed on problems, outlines, business letters, and reports.

Grading will be assessed by:

- * Projects (in class)
- * Tests/Quizzes

ART EDUCATION

Studio Art Comprehensive Foundation

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Art 8

Class schedule: 1 Full Block every other day for 1 full year.

Students will learn the language of art, the elements and principles of art, art criticism and art history. Hands on projects will include but not be limited to; painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, crafts and architecture. Students will visit museums and/or exhibits to study original art works. Students will learn to critique their work and the work of others following ***Discipline Based Art Education*** criteria. Students will learn basic skills associated with computers in art, which may include an introduction to applications such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, Fractal Painter, Strata 3D, or others as the instructor deems appropriate.

Grading will be assessed by:

- * Sketchbook
- * Notebook
- * Quizzes, Tests
- * Class work (includes media problems, oral critiques or presentations, exhibition of work)
- * Reports/Term papers
- * Web Page contributions
- * Portfolio completion
- * Final examination

Successful completion of this class is required as a prerequisite to further art courses at Cairo-Durham High School.

FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE

Food and Nutrition

Credit: 1/2

Class schedule: 1 Full Block every other day for 1/2 year.

This course is broken down into six modules. They include nutrition awareness, meal management, food purchasing, beginning food preparation, careers in food and nutrition, meal service, and basic food preparation skills, while using nutrition knowledge for everyday living and develop skills in menu planning.

Grading will be assessed by:

- * Food labs classroom food preparation
- * Demonstration of appliance usage and care
- * Quizzes and Tests
- * Final Exam

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Credit: 1/2

Class schedule: 1 Full Block every other day for 1/2 year.

This course is broken down into six modules. Role of food in the body, nutrition and physical fitness, food preparation, intermediate food preparation, basics of baking and careers in food and nutrition. Emphasis is placed on more complex food preparation and planning the various types of meals.

Grading will be assessed by:

- * **Food labs classroom food preparation**
- * **Demonstration of appliance usage and care**
- * **Quizzes and Tests**
- * **Final Exam**
- * **Projects**

TECHNOLOGY

Wood Working

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Class schedule: 1 Full Block every other day for a semester.

This class will explore the areas of woodworking and metalworking to develop the basic skills needed to set up and manufacture a product that can be made and sold.

Most of the class time will be spent in the wood and metal working areas, with the final capstone project being the mass production assignment where the class will set up a business. They will design, make and then sell a product.

This class is recommended for any student interested in wood and/or metal working, as well as students with an interest in business management

Introduction to Engineering Design

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Class schedule: 1 Full Block every other day for the full year.

This course is a full year drafting class that explores many of the technical drawing areas as well as basic design procedures. Students use a problem-solving model to improve existing products and invent new ones. Using sophisticated three-dimensional modeling software, students communicate the details of the products. Emphasis is placed on analyzing potential solutions and communicating ideas to others.

Students who earn qualifying grades have the opportunity to earn college credit from RIT. This course can be used by all occupational students to satisfy the Art/Music requirement.

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR PARENTS

College and Career Information -- It's never too early to begin exploring, planning and saving!!

1. *Peterson's Education and Career Center*: <http://www.petersons.com/> -- At this site, access Colleges and Universities, Graduate Study, Studying Abroad, Careers & Jobs, Summer Programs, Special Schools, Financing Education, Executive Education, Distance Learning, Learning Adventures, Open Choices, Testing & Assessment, Vocational, Technical, Resources for Professionals, Resources for Students, etc. Peterson's is an information services company that is the "leading provider" of information on educational institutions and other educational opportunities in the United States.
2. *FinAid/ The Financial Information Page*: <http://www.finaid.org/> -- This site sponsored by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), provides a "free, comprehensive, independent, and objective guide to student financial aid." Areas of information are: Navigating, Sources of Aid, Special Interest, Assistance, Government/Schools, Other (links), and an opportunity for Discussion. Provides access to databases including FastWEB, SRN Express, ExPAN Scholarship Search, CollegeNET MACH25, and Parent's Guide CANFUNDS.
3. <http://www.collegeboard.com>
4. <http://www.princetonreview.com>
5. <http://www.studentaid.ed.gov>
6. www.actstudent.org
7. www.nycolleges.org - a site that has 100+ New York private colleges and universities
8. www.mappingyourfuture.org -- Mapping Your Future is a national collaborative, public service organization of the financial aid industry – bringing together the expertise of the industry to provide free college, career, financial aid, and financial literacy services for students, families, and schools.
9. www.fafsa.ed.gov - Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, ensures that all eligible individuals can benefit from federally funded or federally guaranteed financial assistance for education beyond high school.

Course Selection Sheet

Math: CHOOSE 1

Algebra 1A _____
Algebra _____
Geometry Honors _____

Science: CHOOSE 1

Earth Science/Lab _____
Living Environment/Lab _____

English: CHOOSE 1

English 9 _____
English 9H _____

Social Studies: CHOOSE 1

Global 9R _____
Global 9Honors _____
AP World History _____

Foreign Language: CHOOSE 1

Spanish 1B _____
Spanish II _____
French 1B _____
French II _____

Electives: CHOOSE A TOTAL OF 2 CREDITS (see below)

Studio Art (1 credit) _____
Digital Photography (1 credit) _____
Fashion Design (.5 credit) _____
Interior Design (.5 credit) _____
Career and Financial Management A (.5 credit) _____
Computer Essentials (1 credit) _____
Food and Nutrition (.5 credit) _____
Food Prep and Nutrition (.5 credit) _____
HS Chorus (.5 credit) _____
Women's Choir (.5 credit) _____
HS Concert Band (.5 credit) _____
HS Concert Jazz Band (.5 credit) _____
Hand Bell Choir (.5 credit) _____
Music Appreciation .5 credit) _____
Musical Theatre (.5 credit) _____
Introduction to Engineering Design (1 credit) _____
Woodworking / Industrial Design (1 credit) _____

Note: Based upon NYS 8th grade test scores, you may be scheduled for Reading Writing Workshop (which is a credit bearing course).

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Cairo-Durham High School Guidance Department

Student's Name _____

Grade 9 Entry Date _____

Graduation Requirements: 22 credits

Check indicates successful completion

Regents Diploma Requirements: (65 or higher)

<input type="checkbox"/> English 9 <input type="checkbox"/> English 10 <input type="checkbox"/> English 11 <input type="checkbox"/> English 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Global 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Global 10 <input type="checkbox"/> US History <input type="checkbox"/> PIG <input type="checkbox"/> Economics <input type="checkbox"/> Electives (3.5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Math 1 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Math 2 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Math 3 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Science 1 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Science 2 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Science 3 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> PE (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Language <input type="checkbox"/> Health (.5) <input type="checkbox"/> Art and/or Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies Regents _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Math Regents _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Science Regents _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ELA Regents _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways Examination* _____ <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Advanced Regents Designation</u> -Add the following exams:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Math 2 Regents <input type="checkbox"/> Math 3 Regents <input type="checkbox"/> Science 2 Regents
---	--	---

Additional

3 units in a Foreign Language

Students who do not obtain 3 units in a Foreign Language may satisfy this requirement though, a 5-unit sequence in Fine Arts, Music, Business, Family and Consumer Science, or Career and Technical Education.

* Pathways Exam could be additional SS, Math, Science, or CTE

90 average for Regents Examinations = Diploma with Honors