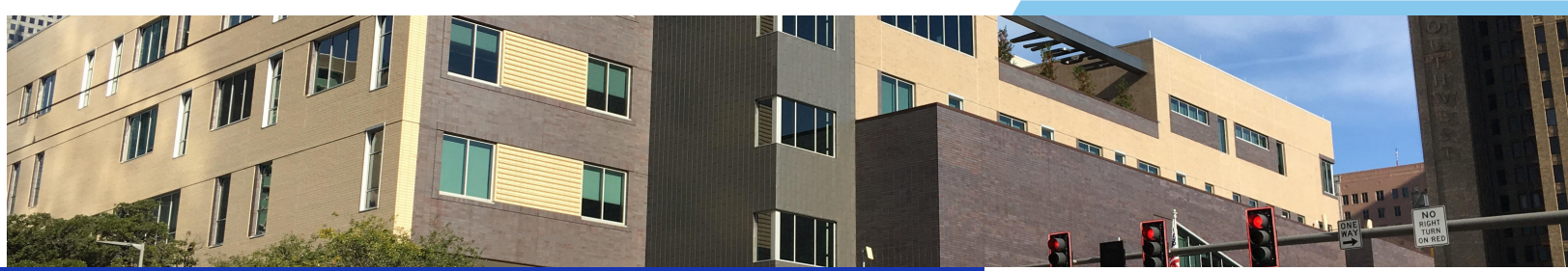


TIPS FOR SURVIVING YOUR FIRST YEAR AT PVA

For parents of first year students from the faculty and staff



Tips for Parents and Guardians

Teach them to be self-advocates

- Have the student email a teacher when they miss a class to see about any missing work
- If you're worried about not being in the loop, have your student cc you on emails to the teacher

Help them organize their time and materials

- Sit down with them and create a weekly calendar starting with non-negotiables
- Teach them how to be intentional with their time, 15 minutes here and there of scrolling through the phone can add up
- Teach them how to plan ahead, studying and reading nightly to prepare for the work due in a week can help a lot
- Teach them how to use their time wisely in school too. There are smaller bursts of time throughout the day to get things done

Help them stay healthy

- Help make sure they are getting a good night's sleep each night
- Remove electronic devices from their bedrooms at night
- Teach them how to balance academic requirements with extra-curricular choices
- Help them understand that perfectionism is not realistic nor required
- Engage in realistic conversations regarding course requests for next year and talk about balance
- Set timers so they know when to move forward

Encourage them to be an artist

- Help them prepare for try outs for Diversity Series, the All School Musical, The Happenings, and be involved in art area shows and competitions

USE RESOURCES

Check Week at a Glance weekly on the HSPVA.org website

- Should be updated by Sunday each week
- Help students input information into planner and plan time for the week ahead

Check grades on Power School

- Download the app and get notifications of new grades
- Make sure to check specifically for missing, late, & incomplete assignments
- Make sure you are looking at the correct grade
- Check weekly for 0's, ask them what happened, and help them problem solve

Join Remind or other resources the teachers use to communicate

From the Art Areas

- When art is being critiqued / processed by peers it is normal and natural for it to feel awkward and sometimes uncomfortable, artistic growth happens when artists recognize their work has a life of its own and it is our job as artists to direct and support it
- Encourage your child to practice every day. Make absolutely sure that parents know the calendar that their child is committed to.
- Ask the major teacher if you're not sure if an event on the calendar applies to you
- Journals are a tool for practicing techniques. Journals should be used with a timer and completed around an hour
- If students have questions, encourage them to communicate with their teachers to clarify expectations

PowerSchool Tips

P = Progress Report Grades

C = 6 week Cycle Grades

S = Semester Grades

Y= Yearly average

There are three 6 week cycles per semester, which average together (including the final) to determine the semester grade. The **semester grade** is the only grade to show on the transcript and also calculated into the GPA.

HISD allows whole course averaging which means if a student's yearly average is a 70% or more in a course, they will earn credit for the whole course.

Example: S1=75% and S2=65%

The semester grades will remain on the transcript and calculate into the GPA and full credit will be awarded.

Course Selection for 2022-2023

After the end of the first semester, all students will receive a copy of their transcript with updated GPA. This should include all high school credits awarded in middle school (which do not calculate into the GPA). Make sure to review the transcript.

Counselors will meet one on one with students to review:

- Graduation requirements
- Grades and GPA
- Course requests for next year
- Answer any questions about the transcript

Course verifications will go out later in the spring semester, confirming the student's course requests for next year and there will be an opportunity to make any changes to course requests.

