

Inside Scoop 2025

May 10, 2025

Dr. Rivas, Mr. Klein, Mrs. Farris, & Mrs. Johnson

Welcome

Dr. Priscilla Rivas
Principal

Overview

Mr. Klein
Magnet Coordinator

Today

- General Info
- PGP & Course Selection – Counselors
- Ice Cream, Photo Booth, School Store (Thank you PTO!)

Introductions

- Assistant Principals
 - Oscar Perez (Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts)
 - Terrell Lockett Sr. (Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Creative Writing)
- Ms. Mathus – Registrar
- Ms. Leos – 504
- Ms. Jackson – Special Education
- Nurse Jordan
- Rhetta Detrich & Heather Powers – PTO President & President-Elect

First Things First

DO

- Let us know of a change of address by providing updated proof of residency.
- Entrance to HSPVA is contingent on promotion to the 9th or next grade. Please contact me if you are assigned summer school because you will be dropped from our roster.

DON'T

- Email/call faculty or other staff directly unless they contact you.

Laptop Info

All HISD high school students are issued a Chromebook for use during the school year. They are expected to have their fully charged laptop at school every day.

- The HISD Chromebook has all the apps and programs needed for students' required schoolwork.
- HISD filters restrict inappropriate material or sites.
- **Use of personal devices is highly discouraged;** there is no technical support for personal devices; and district-supplied apps may not be available for non-HISD devices. Teachers are not required and should not be expected to offer allowances for issues that arise due to use of non-HISD devices.

Note: There are no filters for time spent on a laptop or for excessive use of sites (like some games) otherwise deemed acceptable. Parents are encouraged to set limits with their students. One suggestion is to require the laptop to be plugged in overnight in the parents' room.

Transportation

- HISD Bus
 - HISD is offering families who live more than three miles from campus two options:
 - HISD Bus
 - METRO
 - Current HISD families should have already received a survey
 - July 1 is the deadline to provide updated residency for routes effective day 1
 - HSPVA is NOT coordinating transportation.
 - All questions/concerns/special requests should email:

transportation@houstonisd.org

- Drop off and Pick up – Details at Artist Academy
- Parking Permits – Seniors Only

FYI

- School Hours: 7:45 – 3:30
 - Bell schedule is available at HSPVA.org
- School Supplies
 - No supply list. Teachers will provide first day of class.
 - English Reading Books – Email to come from PT0

Special Education (IEP) & 504

- Special Education
Ms. Mia Jackson

- 504

Ms. Naomi Leos

Students with current 504 Service Plan – submit electronically to Mr. Klein.
If needed, Ms. Leos will reach out in August.

Counselors 101

Mrs. Christy Farris

Dance, Theatre & Visual Arts

Mrs. Becky Johnson

Creative Writing, Instrumental & Vocal

Agenda

- Texas Graduation Requirements
- Health
- Summer Courses
- Course Levels
- GPA – No Rank
- Personal Graduation Plans
- Course selections

Texas Graduation Requirements

- All students are on the Texas Foundation High School Plan with Distinguished level of Achievement.
- In HISD each student must earn 26 credits to graduate including the following courses:

English: 4 Credits

English 1 – 1 credit
English 2 – 1 credit
English 3 – 1 credit
English 4 – 1 credit

Math: 4 Credits

Algebra 1 – 1 credit
Geometry – 1 credit
Algebra 2 – 1 credit
4th Math – 1 credit

Social Studies: 4 Credits

World Geography – 1 credit
World History – 1 credit
US History – 1 credit
U.S. Government – .5 credit
Macro Economics – .5 credit

Science: 4 Credits

Biology – 1 credit
Chemistry – 1 credit
Physics – 1 credit
4th Science – 1 credit

- Foreign Language – 2 credits (two years of same language)
- Health – .5 credit
- PE – 1 credit
- Fine Art – 1 credit
- Electives – 5.5 credits (art area magnet courses) – This is where you get your “Fine Arts” Endorsement.

Health

- All students must complete a Health course during 9th grade using the online platform APEX.
- Health is completed online on the student's personal time with no designated class time; however, it will show on your schedule in August.
- Health has 7 units (6 with content, unit 7 is the final exam)
 - Each cycle, students will be required to finish 2 units in order
 - Cycle 1: Units 1 and 2
 - Cycle 2: Units 3 and 4
 - Cycle 3: Units 5, 6 and 7 (final)
- The entire course will be open from the beginning of the year and students are encouraged to work ahead. We've had some finish within the first month of school.

Summer Courses

As mentioned in the Entrance Agreement:

- Kinder HSPVA does not allow any courses to be taken outside of school that are offered on our campus.
- Only courses that have been previously completed or that a student was enrolled in as of February 2024 will be accepted for credit.
 - This includes Health, PE, Foreign Languages, Math, etc.

If you are required to take summer school courses for promotion to 9th grade, contact Mr. Klein ASAP.

Difference Between Level of courses: Regular, PreAP/Honors (HISDADV), and AP Classes

Students at Kinder HSPVA choose the levels of courses they want to enroll in for the upcoming school year. Most classes offer a regular level or PreAP level, while some upper grade level courses offer an AP level.

Regular level course: The courses are offered as high school credit meeting the TEKS of the class. **These courses are on a 4.0 scale.**

PreAP/Honors level course: In addition to meeting the TEKS, this class offers a more complex and deeper understanding of the curriculum. They are often taught at a faster pace and require more work to be completed in and outside of classroom. **These courses are on a 5.0 scale.**

Advanced Placement (AP) level course: These courses meet the standards and requirements of the AP curriculum set by College Board. These college level courses require a significant amount of work outside of the classroom, even on weekends. Students are automatically signed up for an AP exam at the end of the year. The grade earned on the AP exam may potentially earn them college credit. **These courses are on a 5.0 scale.**

*Please note: It is important to consider the overall requirements of Kinder HSPVA when planning course selections.

- **Difference Between Level of courses: Regular, PreAP/Honors (HISDADV), and AP Classes**
 - After first semester grades are finalized, if a student has not successfully passed (with a 70%) an Honors, PreAP, or AP course, they will automatically be moved to the level class for the spring semester (if possible, with the master schedule).
 - Counselors will contact the students through their HISD emails with the new spring semester schedule.
 - Does this automatically mean your student will attend summer school?
 - HISD allows “whole course averaging”, meaning if a student does not earn credit for the first semester of a course, they can earn credit in the spring by earning a semester 2 grade high enough to average with semester 1 to a 70% or above.
 - The transcript will show both grades earned for fall and spring, they will both go into the GPA, however the first semester grade of below a 70% will show credit awarded if “whole course averaging” is successful.

GPA

How does the GPA work at Kinder HSPVA?

- HSPVA is on a 5.0 weighted GPA scale. A GPA is calculated using the semester grade of each course listed on the transcript by assigning points to each grade and averaging them together. See below for chart we use to award points.

For example:

Biology A: 95 → 4.0 points

Algebra 1 A: 85 → 3.0 points

World Geography PreAP A: 78 → 3.0 points

English I PreAP A: 92 → 5.0 points

Spanish 3 PreAP A: 82 → 4.0 points

Academic classes	PreAP and AP classes
90 – 100 = A = 4.0 points	90 – 100 = A = 5.0 points
80 – 89 = B = 3.0 points	80 – 89 = B = 4.0 points
75 – 79 = C = 2.0 points	75 – 79 = C = 3.0 points
70 – 77 = D = 1.0 points	70 – 74 = D = 2.0 points
Below 69 = 0 points	Below 69 = 0 points

$4+3+3+5+4 = 19 \div 5 = \mathbf{3.8\ GPA}$

- The GPA is updated after each semester and added to the transcript. Unofficial transcripts are available each fall with an updated GPA*.

***Please Note: Middle School/Junior High credits are NOT calculated into the GPA.**

Why is my GPA Important?

- When you are applying to colleges your senior year, your transcript showing grades from **9th–11th** grade, including a cumulative GPA, will be sent with your application.
- The transcript is an important tool for colleges in determining admissions decisions.
- When viewing a transcript, colleges look at:
 - GPA
 - Types of classes taken
 - Growth

HSPVA No Rank Reporting Policy

How does class rank work at Kinder HSPVA?

HSPVA does not rank, however during the fall of your senior year, if a senior chooses to share their rank with colleges, they have the opportunity to waive the NO RANK policy, and we will share the rank.

Personal Graduation Plans

Personal Graduation Plans

- PGP is a roadmap developed to help students meet graduation requirements and plan for post-secondary goals. It's a flexible, working document that guides students through course selection, endorsements, and career/college aspirations. PGPs are required and developed in 9th grade, with updates as needed throughout high school.
- These are done in SchoolLinks in connection with the student's course planner.
- Today we will answer a few questions on paper and get signatures from parent/guardian and students.

Course Selection

Directions:

1. Please do not mark anything on the course selection sheet until we tell you to do so.
2. We will do this process together one subject area at a time.
3. After all 5 courses are selected, you will take a picture of the course selection sheet.
4. Turn in the course selection sheet exit the auditorium.
5. Take your ticket outside for a Scoop!

Please remember, these are requests. We try our best to honor all requests, but being at a Fine Art Magnet school means that our art area courses are our priority when scheduling. Classes cannot be overloaded to honor schedule requests. This means that sometimes the level of a course must be changed from your original request to make your whole schedule work.

Course Selections

Courses for incoming 9th graders are dependent on currently enrolled high school credit bearing courses in middle school.

Student will be taking courses in the following areas:

1. English
2. Math
3. Science
4. Social Studies
5. Foreign Language
 - If 2 years of the same language has been completed, students will have the option of a Study Lab.

The new 10th and 11th graders will be enrolling in the same subject areas.

Course Selections – We will do these together! 😊

At Kinder HSPVA, you will be taking a total of nine courses per year. Five of your courses will be planned today. The four remaining courses will be determined by your Art Area Departments.

Your personalized course selection sheet is based on the report cards or grade documents that were submitted to HSPVA. When final grades or transcripts are submitted, course requests may be updated if necessary.

- **We need final transcripts/report cards showing HIGH SCHOOL credits earned by June 15th. Mr. Klein will send follow-up information on how to provide this documentation.**

Please remember, the school year is not over, and some requests are dependent upon completing current courses with a passing semester average to earn credit.

Academic offering for 2025-2026

- If you have your email from Mr. Klein with the link to the Academic Offerings, you may want to open and view it.



English 1 PreAP

- 9th grade English: All classes will be designated as PreAP. There will not be a regular level offering.
- We want every student to experience what Pre-AP courses at PVA provided. We have a strong vertical alignment from 9th-12th (Pre-AP to AP), so students who wanted to take advanced courses later in their academic career struggled learning the missed content.
- We have systems in place to help support their learning during regular class periods as well as tutorials.
- Going into your 10th grade year, you will be given the option of continuing on the PreAP/AP track or taking traditional Academic English.

Select your English Course now!

Math

If you are currently in 8th Grade Math:

- **Algebra 1** – only regular level offered at HSPVA.

If you are currently in Algebra 1:

- **Geometry or Geometry PreAP**

If you are currently in Geometry:

- **Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 PreAP**

Please make your math selection now.

Science

If you are currently in 8th Grade Science or IPC:

- **Biology or Biology PreAP**

If you are currently in Biology:

- **Chemistry or Chemistry PreAP**

Please make your science selection now.

Social Studies:

Your options will be:

- **World Geography or AP Human Geography**
 - AP Human Geography is the only college level course offered to incoming 9th grade students.

Please make your Social Studies selection now.

World Languages (prerequisites must be met):

If you are currently not enrolled in a World Language: **French 1** or **Spanish 1**

Currently enrolled in French 1: **French 2**

Currently enrolled in Spanish 1: **Spanish 2**

Note for above – you may change to the other language; but be aware that you would be required to take two years of the new language.

If you are currently enrolled in Mandarin Chinese 1, German, Latin, etc.:

- you may choose to continue the second year through an approved provider at your own cost by selecting **Study Lab** or select **French 1** or **Spanish 1** and start a new language. (2 years required)

If two years of World Languages have been completed, you can:

- Select the next appropriate level of Spanish: **Spanish 3 HADV, AP Spanish Lang 4, or AP Spanish Lit, or French 3 HADV**; or
- You can opt not to continue in a language and select a **Study Lab**
 - This is the only elective available for 9th graders if they have completed their LOTE requirements.

Please make your LOTE selection now.

World Language Avant Placement Test

- If you are currently enrolled in an HISD school and believe that you have the language knowledge to take an upper-level language, you could take a placement CBE through HISD and possibly earn up to 3 regular level 4.0 credits (years 1-3) in order to be able to take AP French Lang or AP Spanish Lang.
- Please note:
 - Free of Charge to students enrolled in HISD
 - The level (4.0) grades will go on your transcript and WILL factor into the GPA for each level in which you earn credit.

How to sign up:

- Parent must order during the designated application window dates: **May 27 – June 2**
 - Go to www.houstonisd.org/cbe
 - Click on **CBE Ordering for Parent/Students**
 - Select CBE REQUEST FORM
 - Form does not open until 5/27
 - Your middle school counselor will receive an email from the testing department to approve your request if you qualify.
 - Your middle school campus Testing Coordinator will set tests dates between **June 16 and June 23**
 - Final scores will be sent to us by the district registrar

If you are electing to do this option, please write in the notes section at the bottom of the course selection page.

If you are not currently enrolled in HISD, there will be an additional testing window open in August in which you may sign up for the Avant test. Once scores are received, if it works with your schedule, we will make those changes. Please check www.houstonisd.org/cbe for 25-26 testing windows.

Course selection reminder:

Please make sure that only **5** courses are selected, one for each area:

- English
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- World Language or Study Lab

Just an FYI:

- There will be summer reading for all HSPVA students, Mr. Klein will send out the information at a later date.
- No academic summer assignments.
- Some art areas may have assignments. These will be sent by the teachers or Mr. Klein.

== *Take a* ==
PICTURE



★ IT WILL LAST ★
LONGER

Notes about Course Selections

Reminder, important to note:

- We make every effort to honor all requests, but we are limited art area conflicts, class availability and other master schedule limitations.
- Art area requirements take priority over other schedule issues and classes cannot be overloaded to honor schedule requests.
- **When conflicts occur, the levels of courses may need to be changed.**

Students will have the first 15 class days of the semester to request schedule changes. A link to make the request will be provided in the fall.

Final notes: Culture at HSPVA

- Students: Check your HISD email regularly!! This is how you will receive important information from counselors, etc.
- Students and Parents: Check grades in HISD Connect.
- If there are questions regarding anything involving a class, your first stop is ALWAYS the teacher.
- No pass, no play. Make sure you are turning in your assignments on time!
- Deadlines are very important. Keep a planner/calendar, make sure to list due dates for academics and art area activities...this is a busy place to be!



In the Commons

- School Store & PTO
- Mrs. Farris - Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts
- Mrs. Johnson - Creative Writing, Instrumental, Vocal
- Registrar - Laura Mathus
- Nurse - Kimberlyn Jordan
- 504 - Naomi Leos
- Special Education - Mia Jackson
- Mr. Klein - Anything else

Available in Lobby - You do not need to stand in line to see counselors, nurse, or registrar unless you have individual questions that have not been addressed.

Thank you for your patience!

What's Next?

Wednesday, May 21 – PTO Social (Parents Only)

6 pm – 8 pm

Woosters Gardens, 3315 Milam

All Families Welcome (Current and Incoming)

***parking lot available or public parking garage at 3500 Main (Travis/Main)**

New Student & Parent Orientation – Friday, August 8, 2025

Parents – 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Students – 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Laptops, Schedules, Lockers, Art Areas

Tuesday, August 12 – First Day of School – Required to Attend

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Time	Cost
May 15 th	Creative Writing – Fish Fry (9th grade)	Studio Theatre	6:30 pm	FREE
May 20 th	Band End of Year Concert	Denney Theatre	6:30 pm	\$10-20
May 22 nd	Creative Writing End of Year Readings	Studio Theatre	6:30 pm	FREE
May 22 nd	Orchestra End of Year Concert	Denney Theatre	6:30 pm	\$10 – \$20

www.hspvaboxoffice.org

Volunteers
PTO (Ice Cream)
Tech Crew



Final Procedures for Today

- As you exit the Denney Theatre, please put your course selection sheet in the box.

Outside in the Bus Lane

Ice Cream!



**Thank
you!**