

Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
Homestead Parent Club Meeting
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 7pm
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Start time 7:00 pm

Present: *(56 attendees: combination of students and parents) including Chris Perez, HHS Parent Club Incoming President; Elizza Wesner, HHS Parent Club Secretary; Tanya Dely, HHS Parent Club Incoming Secretary, Tina Keinsley, HHS Parent Club Co-Vice President, and Monica Willits, HHS Parent Club Incoming Co-Vice President.*

Welcome by Elizza Wesner, HHS Parent Club Secretary

Student Guest Panel:

Ninth graders: Jose Guzman, Sydney Adams, and Will Grinsfelder

Tenth graders: Luke Keinsely and Harper Harris

Eleventh grader: Danielle Tinkle

Twelfth grader: Will Milne

Part One: Introduction

Students were asked the following for introductions

First & Last Name

Grade

Favorite Class

List your extracurricular activities (HHS, travel sports & clubs), jobs, clubs, (include National Honor Society, Key Club, etc.), leadership roles, volunteer work, etc.

For Danielle & Will Milne: explain any/all college plans, special admissions, etc.

Part Two: Open Question and Answer

How did you transition from a block schedule in middle school to the HHS schedule of all classes every day?

-Transition went well

-Teachers understand that you have class every day and plan homework and assignments accordingly.

Do you use your locker?

-In all my four years here, I never bothered to find my locker.

-Not enough time in the passing period to go to the locker.

-HHS athletes are assigned a locker in the locker room for their season. Many athletes go to that locker in the morning to put practice gear, cleats, etc. in it.

What type of backpack do I need?

-Book bags/Backpacks are heavy with notebooks, some books, and the laptop. Choose a good supportive backpack and work on developing a strong core.

-It's a personal preference how big your backpack needs to be to carry everything. Many students have one that includes a padded section for the laptop.

-Students do not carry a laptop bag like they did in middle school.

Do you have textbooks?

-If you are given a textbook for a class, it stays at home. Each classroom has a classroom set of textbooks.

What do you put in your backpack?

-Since there isn't a high school supply list, wait until after the first day of classes to purchase anything specific.

-I carry a few folders, a notebook, some paper, and pens & pencils in my backpack.

-For math calculators, find out ahead of time which calculator you need.

-Calculators are expensive when you enter the high-level math classes.

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What is lunch like in the cafeteria at Homestead?

- The biggest fear of an incoming freshman is finding a friend to sit with at lunch. "Don't worry, you will find a friend to sit with pretty quickly"
- When you get your class schedule, text all your friends to find out who has lunch at the same time. If you find someone, plan a place to meet before going into the cafeteria. If you cannot find a friend that has the same lunch, seek out classmates in the class right before lunch. Take these classmates and walk down to the cafeteria together.
- Most students don't change where they sit in the cafeteria after the first day of class. Once you have a spot, it will most likely be your spot all semester.
- There are several food lines in the cafeteria: Pizza, Salad, Mexican, etc.
- On the first day of school, pick one line. And as the days go on, explore other food lines.
- Cafeteria food can become expensive and you will go through your money very quickly.
- Parents can view what you are purchasing by visiting www.sendmoneytoschool.com. Create an account to view activity
- You can send in a check with your student to add money to the lunch account.
- Many students pack a lunch. They do this to avoid waiting in line or they want to healthier options.

How many hours of homework do you have every night?

- 1 hour to 6 hours per night. This depends on the class and the student.
- Don't skip homework and studying on the weekends.
- Don't procrastinate.
- Freshman year grades matter a lot! It's hard to recover from low grades after your first year of high school.

Can I get a tutor?

- National Honor Society members (eleventh and twelfth graders) offer free tutoring to students.
- All teachers offer office hours before or after school.
- Don't hesitate to ask for help.
- Many options for tutors: private, ask your Homestead guidance counselor for options, teacher office hours, National Honor Society members, Sylvan Learning Center, etc.

What is a Flip Classroom in Math?

- New and unique method in math.
- Learn the lesson at home via online textbook, videos, and homework.
- Arrive at class the next day to ask questions, how to's, etc.
- Takes a lot of self-motivation, but there are many resources to learn the material. It is a learning process for many.
- Class time is very valuable. Ask your teacher questions and seek out office hours before or after school.
- Many parents don't understand this method of learning, but the students are earning good grades and getting what they need if they utilize all the resources available to them.
- This method is used oftentimes in a college class across multiple subjects.

Can you change your schedule on Registration Day?

- No
- At Registration Day, if you have questions about your schedule and teachers, go to the Student Services office immediately. You may sign in and ask to see a guidance counselor.

Explain Honors, AP, and Dual Credit

- Only a few Honors, AP and Dual Credit classes are open to ninth graders.
- Go for it! Especially if it's in a subject you love, take advantage of Honors and Dual Credit.
- All these options offer rigor in your coursework which looks strong on your transcript.
- College admissions want to see rigor in your high school classes. This is especially important in earning merit based scholarships.

Was it a challenge going from a grade-level/Academic class to an Honors class in high school?

- A student on the panel moved to Honors Biology from a grade-level science in middle school. She loves her Honors Biology class! She does notice the increase in work load and rigor, but she was up for the challenge.

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Can you level down from an Honors class to an Academic class?

- Yes. You have nine weeks to make the change.
- Please go to the Homestead High School website www.homestead.sacs.k12.in.us then click on "Resources" then click on "For Parents" then on the "HHS Handbook" icon
- Parents should attend Back to School Night to meet the teacher and review the syllabus

How are you handling Honors English 9 and AP World?

- Again, varied responses. Some said they handled it very well. Others dropped Honors English 9 because of the heavy reading.
- Give it an honest try and work with your teacher if the load seems overwhelming.
- Mrs. Wyss with AP World teaches valuable lessons on how to manage a workload. This skill can be applied throughout high school and then college.

Explain the PE Waivers

- You need PE 1 and PE 2 to graduate from high school.
- PE 1 can be fulfilled by taking Summer PE or taking a semester of PE in high school.
- PE 2 can be fulfilled by successfully completing a team sport, dance, cheer, show choir or marching band plus taking an exam. The details of when the exam period takes place are communicated at school.
- In order to take Weight and Strength class, PE 1 and PE 2 need to be completed successfully.

How are you fulfilling your Fine Arts graduation requirement?

- This is a great way to change the pace of your day and break up the rigorous course load.
- Some of the students on the panel took or are taking: Theater Arts, Fiber Arts (a.k.a Basket Weaving), Visual Communications, Digital Design, Photography, etc.
- Ask your friends what courses they enjoyed.

Is there a car pool line at Homestead?

- For ninth graders, there is a pick up and drop off line at the ninth grade academy door #26
- If you are picking up your student at a different door, your options are door #7 and door #4 which face the baseball and practice fields.
- Use caution when navigating through the high school parking lot before and after school.

Explain early dismissal and late arrival

- For ninth graders, call the Attendance Line for the Ninth Grade Academy 431-2305. Early dismissal students need to pick up a dismissal slip at door #26 in the morning. Late arrivals need to enter at door #26.
- No need to sign your student in and out. Pull up to the door and they will exit the building.

Administering medications

- Medications are dispensed according to the SACS guidelines.
- Go to the Homestead High School website, then Resources, then For Parents. Review the HHS Handbook for specific details.

How do you get involved in clubs at Homestead?

- Listen to morning announcements when they announce club meeting day and times.
- Go to the Homestead website to read the Daily Announcements for meeting times.
- Ask other students about clubs or ask your guidance counselor.
- Create your own club if you don't see one you like.
- High school is what you put into it. Seek things out.

Explain the dress code at Homestead

- The high school policy is very similar to the middle schools. It is very strict.
- Violators will be asked to change, then they receive a warning or detention or suspension, and a parent is called.
- If the student does not have a change of clothes, he or she will be asked to choose appropriate clothing from the Lost and Found bin.
- It is very cold in the high school. If you tend to get chilled easily, wear pants and a sweater or hoodie.

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Can I take classes over the summer and do online classes?

-Yes. This is an excellent option.

-Ask a guidance counselor for details and which specific courses are available online.

Will I have the same guidance counselor all through high school?

-No. Ninth graders are assigned a guidance counselor. Once they move to the tenth to twelfth grade, they will be assigned another one who will remain with them all through high school.

-Student Services is located across from the cafeteria. It is a wealth of knowledge for navigating through high school.

-You must be pro-active and seek new courses to study. Guidance counselors cannot do everything for you.

-Parents are allowed to have a relationship and keep open communication with their student's guidance counselor.

-Go to the Homestead website for the online course descriptions.

If I forget something at home, can my mom or dad drop it off?

-No

Explain the best part of Homestead High school and an area of improvement for yourself

-Engineering classes are the best and working on time management is an area of improvement.

-Meeting new people, football and basketball games are the best part. And getting good grades is always an area of improvement.

-The football and basketball games are the best and trying to stay within budget in my cafeteria account is an area of improvement.

-Making best friends, my state championship marching band ring, and my English classes are the best part of high school.

-The best part of Homestead is tailoring your courses and class schedule to what you want. There are many choices here at Homestead for every student.

Special notes:

-Familiarize yourself with the Homestead website www.homestead.sacs.k12.in.us

-Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is Tuesday, August 7, 2018. 8 am to 8 pm

-Online registration will be available prior to registration day. It must be completed prior to arriving on August 7th for registration.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm