

High School Advancement Academy

High School Advancement Academy (HSAA) is a new and innovative program for over-aged middle school students. Through immersion in core academic subject areas of language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, we seek to accelerate their readiness for transition into high school. In addition, these students have the opportunity to take courses in health and physical education. The students who attend HSAA are designated as eighth graders for first semester. If they successfully complete all courses during first semester, they will be designated as high school freshmen during second semester. The ultimate goal is to enable these students to graduate from high school within a time frame that is in line with other students of their age group. With the sequence of courses scheduled for this academic year, students may matriculate to the high school with a possibility of 7 Carnegie Units.

The idea of this program is to eventually formulate into the Middle College concept. For some of the student identified to attend this program, they may also utilize the HSAA as an exit program to receive a high school diploma. The traditional high school setting is not an effective model for all students to achieve a high school diploma. High school educational reform initiatives such as HSAA and the Middle College High Schools are necessary to reach targeted students who are capable of academic success but may not perform well for a wide variety of reasons and life circumstances. Being able to increase the persistence rate to graduation of underperforming, underrepresented population and provide the support to do so is a key priority for Tupelo Public School District.

Students already identified as second and third year freshmen, will have the opportunity to recover credits and receive intense instruction for Algebra I and Biology. High School Advancement Academy will be designed for small class sizes. Students will be able to benefit from individualized attention.

Proposed Schedule – 7 th	
Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Pre-Algebra	Algebra I (120 minutes)
Pre-Biology	Biology (120 minutes)
Compensatory Reading	English I
Compensatory Writing	PE
Mississippi Studies/World Geography	World Geography
*Before entering the HSAA, 7th grade students will receive 7th grade math and language arts immersion during summer prior to fall semester.	
Proposed Schedule – 8 th	
First Semester	Second Semester
Pre-Algebra	Algebra I (120 minutes)
Pre-Biology	Biology (120 minutes)
Compensatory Reading	English I
Compensatory Writing	PE
Mississippi Studies	World Geography

Proposed Schedule -9 th	
First Semester	Second Semester
Students will enroll in elective and/or non-tested course offered through virtual classes. Credit recovery will also be offered for students.	Algebra I (120 minutes)
	Biology (120 minutes)
	English I
	PE
	World Geography

Commonly Asked Questions

How many students can attend High School Ahead Academy?	30-50
For the 2009-2010 school year, how does a child get recommended?	HSAA is looking for current six through ninth graders during the 2009-2010 school year who's 2 or more years behind grade level.
Are the students at HSAA responsible for taking and passing the SATP?	Yes. The students at HSAA will take the Algebra I and Biology SATP and they must perform at a Basic Proficiency level or above in order to move on to high school during the 2011-2012 school year.
How large/small are the classes?	The largest core class will have an ideal teacher/student ratio of 1:10.
Is bus transportation provided?	Yes. Bus transportation will transport students who are currently enrolled in a TPSD school.
How long is the bus route to HSAA?	It depends on where someone lives. Buses will transport students from all over the district.
Does HSAA have sports?	No. However, students may be able to participate in sports for their appropriate grade level.
Does HSAA have clubs?	Yes. There may not be many offered in the initial year. We will have more clubs offered during the 2011-2012 school year.
What are the hours of operation?	Office and school hours will be concurrent to the high school normal hours of operation.
Does HSAA have a uniform dress code?	A uniform dress code will not be enforced. However, a dress code will be implemented as outline by TPSD Board of Trustees Policy.
What school calendar does HSAA follow?	HSAA will follow the traditional calendar for TPSD. However, the classes will be arranged for a block schedule.
Is HSAA a school of choice?	No. Student 2 or more years behind will be placed at

	HSAA.
If my child will be an over-aged 8 th grader, will he/she be able to move to high school during the second semester of his/her 8 th grade year?	No. HSAA is a yearlong school. However, your child will be able to enroll in high school level courses during second semester.
What is the typical age of a student who attends HSAA?	14-17 years old.
Is HSAA a behavioral/disciplinarian school?	No. High School Advancement Academy is an alternative school to help students accelerate a grade level or two based on their age.
If my child agrees to attend HSAA, but decides later to return to his/her assigned school, is that an option?	No. Once a student is placed at HSAA, he/she must complete one year of HSAA. Students may opt out after the one year requirement and then attend their regular school. This will be a decision based on the school administrators, parents, and counselors.
Does HSAA have a PTSA?	No. Since HSAA gets a new group of each year, parents cannot hold an office for 2 years. HSAA will have a Parent Advisory Group that meets monthly/quarterly.
If my child passes the Algebra I and Biology SATP's and passes the classes, will that count towards his/her graduation requirement?	Yes. If a student passes the Algebra I class and perform at a Basic performance level on the Algebra I and Biology SATP that will count towards their graduation requirement. It will count towards their 4 math classes and 4 science units' requirement. Both classes are two of the "BIG 4" students must pass in order to receive a high school diploma.
How often are the students tested?	At HSAA, there will be district benchmarks at the end of each quarter. SATP will be given at the end of the school year.
Is there a tutoring program at HSAA?	The teachers at HSAA will offer tutoring before and after school, but parents are responsible for transportation after school hours.
How often are progress reports given out to students?	At HSAA, the students receive progress reports every 3 weeks. They will have 2 progress reports before their report cards.
How does HSAA communicate with parents?	Via phone, email, mailings, web pages, letters, conferences. Parents will be strongly encouraged to visit the school and classes as often as they like.
What are on the teacher web pages?	The teachers will update their web pages daily with homework assignments, tests, projects, assessments, etc.
Are the students grouped by ability levels?	No. They will be randomly grouped according to school schedule. Typically, the students stay with the same classmates all day. They will change teachers, but very seldom do they change classmates.

***Notes:**

Also, there may been some discussion about “relaxing” the local graduation standards in order to accelerate the high school tenure of students attending HSAA. This will only apply if students chose HSAA as an exit program.

Because of the perception of the Fillmore Center, the program will be better served if it is taken offsite. Students currently enrolled in the C.O.R.E program are crossing over into the disciplinary program when initially they were not attending Fillmore for disciplinary reasons.