

FAQ's

What is the difference between AP and Honor courses?

AP courses are College Board approved classes taught at the high school. An end of the year exam is taken by the students and depending on the AP test score (1-5) the student may receive college credit in the area of study. AP courses are college level courses taught by highly qualified high school teachers. Honor or Pre-AP courses have greater rigor than the normal classes.

What is your opinion on IB vs. AP?

Why would an IB student want to come to FCHS rather than PHS?

Our opinion is IB is great for some students but not all for a number of reasons. Students wanting to take rigorous college level courses in high school should seriously look at the Advanced Place (AP) program. FCHS offers 18 AP level courses and we are looking at expanding the offerings in the near future. The students taking the AP exams at Collins score well above the national average in all curriculum areas.

Will counselors be assigned by grade or by last name?

We are unsure at this time; currently FCHS students are assigned by last name. We are looking at expanding the number of counselors to accommodate the influx of freshmen in our building.

What do you offer for highly gifted students?

Pre-AP courses for students who are college bound, and AP courses for those students wishing to take College level courses. Students can take courses at Front Range Community College and Colorado State University if they exhaust the curriculum offerings here at Fort Collins High School. We also offer opportunities such as Science Olympiad and Mock Trial.

Do you recommend students limit the number of AP classes they take in a semester? Our child has been in the honors track so it seems natural to sign up for the AP option whenever it is offered.

It will all depend on the student and their motivation level. Some students do very well with taking a balanced load between AP, required and elective courses. Some highly motivated students will take every AP course they can fit in their schedule. Please contact the counseling department for more information.

Will the counselors visit all Jr. High's or just those that feed FCHS? (We care about Preston)

Our counselors visit all the junior highs which have students that are scheduled to come to Collins including Preston.

If you don't visit my son's Jr. High, what do we do for registration information?

Our counselors will be at all Jr. Highs which have students coming to Collins.

If the FCHS Counseling office cannot accommodate the load of people coming in this year on an individual basis, how will you handle the need in the upcoming years when registration rolls around?

The difficulty now is the number of counselors to do the pre-registration and registration is reflected in the number of students currently in our school (Student Based Budgeting). Once the freshmen are here, we will have the staffing to handle our student's counseling needs. Next year (09-10) we will have adequate counseling coverage to accommodate the 500 projected increase of students. We have planned on having a retired counselor come in during the registration phase to help with the registration of the new 900 students to FCHS.

Do we get to choose what lunch we have?

Students will be assigned their lunch based on their pre-registration. At this point, lunch will 4th or 5th period for all incoming sophomores and freshmen.

Will 9th graders have off periods?

The only “off period” will be lunch and we are planning on having it 4th or 5th period.

Will 9th graders have open campus?

The 9th graders will have an open campus when it comes to lunch as we do not have the personnel to monitor the 72 exterior doors. Could 9th graders cut class and leave? Yes, having the conversation with your student about your expectation of staying on campus is extremely important.

Who will be my student’s counselor? Is there a counselor for each grade?

We are unsure if you students will be aligned by last name or by grade level. We are currently discussing which option might be better for our students.

Will counselors be going to Preston with registration information?

Yes

If my student takes AP Human Geography in 9th grade, which AP History class is available for her in 10th grade?

We are planning on offering AP European History for the incoming freshmen that take AP Human Geography in the 9th grade..

Can 9th graders take both Pre-AP English and Speech?

Yes

Is Speech required?

Yes

How are you going to keep the 8th and 9th graders differentiated so they don’t get “lost” in the school or be considered as “one” large class?

We have several ways to separate the classes, one of which is to have different color tee shirts given to them at the end of the year for our transition assembly. The classes have their own class meetings at the beginning of the year.

Currently there is no bus service to FCHS from the Golden Meadows neighborhood... there better be next year!! There will be 2 classes – freshmen and sophomores – who can’t drive! We need a bus from Golden Meadows (Harmony and Lemay) to FCHS!! Please! Will that happen?

The information I received after the parent meeting from transportation was no, there will not be bus service from Golden Meadows. The current district policy is high school students beyond 2 miles can be bussed.

What about bussing for my student, we are from the Willow Springs area and would have to cross a major road (Harmony)?

I did receive confirmation that the district is looking at bussing students from the Willow Springs area so they would not have to cross Harmony. The transportation department is supposed to get back to us later on that subject.

My son will be entering FCHS as a 9th grader. He plays tennis and baseball. How will he be able to get on the FCHS teams? Will there be Freshman teams?

Our athletic program should be unaffected by the grade configuration as we currently accommodate freshmen athletes.

What is the projected class size for the upcoming 10th grade, 9th grade?

Freshmen grade projection for Collins is 472, for the Sophomores 432.

Should parents attend the Curriculum Fair?

Yes if they have any questions about course selection or sequencing of courses.

What is the planned start time/end time?

The district has said we are looking at changing our start time to 7:30 am and getting out at 2:50 pm.

February 16th Curriculum Fair – on Presidents' Day?

We have changed our Curriculum Fair to February 18th at 6:30pm in our Cafeteria and media center.

Are doors locked around the school throughout the day? I am concerned over a repeat Columbine or something similar.

Our door locking system is set up to allow students access to the building five minutes before a class starts and then relocks one minute after the tardy bell rings. The building is completely open in the morning to allow students in and the system does not start locking door until second period.