

High School Vocabulary for Freshmen

Starting high school can be intimidating – it doesn't help that your teachers and counselors are using mysterious words you've never heard before! Here's a quick reference list of words you might need to know now that you're in high school.

Class Rank is a rating which compares your cumulative grade point average to other members of your class. Class rank is often used as a basis for college admission and scholarship determination.

Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) is the numerical value earned by a student, figured by dividing the grade points earned by the number of credits attempted. An A is worth 4.0 points, a B is worth 3.0 points, a C is worth 2.0 points, and a D is worth 1.0 points. Your **GPA** is extremely important from your first year of high school – your grades your freshman year set the foundation for the rest of your high school career.

An **elective** is a course you may choose to enroll in, but is not required. During your freshman and sophomore years, you don't have a lot of room for **electives**, but by your junior and senior years, you'll have a little more freedom to choose your **electives**.

Prerequisite is a course which must be taken before you enroll in another related course (for example, Art is a **prerequisite** for Ceramics).

A **Unit of Credit** is granted upon successful completion of a 2-semester course. You will receive one **credit** in Algebra, for example, if you pass the class both Fall and Spring semesters. You need 24 **credits** to graduate, which should be made up of your required **credits** and elective **credits**.

A **recovery class** is either a Saturday, Evening, or Summer school class that you take after you have failed a class.

Detention is a required after-school period that you receive for being late for first period or for being late three times for periods 2-8. Failure to serve **detention** results in a parent-teacher conference.

Service Learning is a graduation requirement – you are required to perform 40 hours (100 if you are a Medical and Health Career Academy student) of community service prior to graduating. See Ms. Bock or Ms. Hightower for information on **Service Learning** sites.