

Western Branch High School



Student Guide To High School Transition



Welcome

The following suggestions should help you better handle the academic, social, and emotional transition to the high school setting. Academically, as the course work becomes more difficult, you will need to become more focused and independent, which will require increased personal responsibility. Along with your effort and the support of administrators, teachers, and guidance counselors, you should find success in your high school experience.

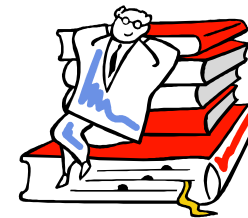


Basics

Read and re-read the newsletter sent by mail in August that includes the school calendar, graduation requirements, attendance policies, programs and courses, scheduling, extracurricular activities, eligibility requirements, school rules, and contact information. This information is vital to a smooth transition.

Personal Goals

You will experience many emotions as you begin the school year from excitement to apprehension. These feelings are normal, and our orientation should make you feel more comfortable. Your personal goals should be to establish organizational skills, to learn effective study skills, and to become an academically independent student. Take responsibility for your work and get help from teachers when you need it. Administrators, teachers, and guidance counselors are here to make sure you succeed, so meet them half way.



Organizational Skills

An organized student is a good student. Prior to starting the school year, write down an organizational plan. Purchase supplies needed for each class in a timely manner. Follow each teacher's instructions for organizing material. Use an assignment notebook daily and have phone numbers for student contacts in each class. Keep your locker and backpack neat and always organize at the end of every day for the next day.



Time-Management Skills



For the first two weeks of school, concentrate entirely on managing your school work. Allow an hour at night for each core class for homework and review. After two weeks, include other interests and activities as your work load allows. Remember to keep your academics as a priority in your schedule.



Study Skills

Efficient study skills will help you with the increased work load at the high school level. After school, take a short break to rest and to eat a snack; never try to study when you are tired or hungry. Set aside a place to study free of distraction. Read the assignments, review class notes, practice concepts, and write down questions for further clarification. These skills are important to establish quickly, so you will be able to make the most of your time.

Sports and Extracurricular Activities

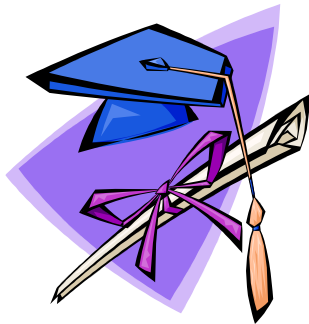
This is an important aspect of your high school experience. Become familiar with our school's various sports, clubs, and social opportunities. Sports provide an opportunity for physical fitness and clubs offer supportive peer groups. Western Branch High School offers something for everyone. Please become involved in at least one sport or activity during the 1st semester. A well-rounded graduate has more opportunities to find success.



Graduation

Notes

In just four years you will face a career, trade school, college, or the military. High school performance counts from the 9th grade through the 12th grade. Think now about your goals. Organize your course selections to meet those goals and concentrate on keeping a high GPA so those goals may be realized. Graduation from high school is not an end but a stepping stone to future learning. Make sure you will qualify for your goals at the end of four years.



Adapted from: O'Brien, Linda. *How To Get Good Grades*. Woodburn Press: Dayton OH, 2001