

Frequently Asked Questions for Incoming Students

School Logistics

- **Question: What time does school start and end?**

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, first period begins at 8:15am. Wednesdays are late start and school begins at 9:36am. School ends every day at 3:16pm.

- **Question: How many classes can a student take?**

The vast majority of students take six classes. There are opportunities to take seven classes by taking a Period AM class that begins at 7:12AM. Not all classes are offered during this time.

***Available ONLY if a student has an impacted schedule.**

PE/ ISPE

- **Question: Do students have uniforms for PE? Cost?**

There are Samohi uniforms available, but students are not required to purchase them. Students may wear their middle school PE clothes or dark blue athletic shorts and a gray or white t-shirt. Proper tennis shoes must be worn at all times. You may purchase PE clothes through our student store (the Vike's Inn).

- **Question: Do students need a locker for PE?**

Yes. Students need to store their belongings in a locker during PE. Combination locks need to be placed on the PE locker. Combination locks can be purchased in the student store.

- **Question: Can a student take Independent PE (ISPE)?**

Yes. Students have to apply and submit an ISPE application. The application is currently being revised and will be posted on <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/1115> when available. ISPE application should be released around mid-March, between March 12-19 with a deadline of April 16th.

- **Question: Do all 9th grade students have to take PE?**

9th grade students have the option of 9th Grade PE, a sport, Marching Band or ISPE. A student needs two years of PE/Sport/Marching Band to fulfill the graduation requirement.

School Policies

- **Question: Can students use their cell phone at school?**

Students can only use their cell phone or electronic devices before school, lunch time, and after school. Please refer to the Samohi's school policies link: <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/989>

- **Question: Is there a Dress Code?**

Yes, there is. Please refer to the Samohi's website for a detailed description: <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/988>

Requests

- **Question: How does a student request a particular teacher?**

Samohi does not allow students to request teachers.

- **Question: Can a student choose the House that their friends are in?**

No. A student can only request to be in the same House as their sibling.

- **Question: How can a student request a sibling's House?**

On their 9th grade request form, there is a section that can be completed to request to be in the same House as their sibling. Requests can also be emailed to Ms. Caroline Springer at cspringer@smmusd.org.

Tryouts

- **Question: When can students try out for sports?**

The tryout schedule is available online at: <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/4225> (We will do our best to post tryout information starting in March and hopefully have most sports posted before we leave for spring break- all depends on the in-person relaunch of athletics)

- **Question: When can students audition for the music programs?**

Music tryout schedule is available online at: <https://www.smmusd.org/domain/2998>

Lunch

- **Question: Who can go off campus for lunch?**

Only 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students can leave campus for lunch. Parents/guardians must sign a permission form at school in person (either during registration or in the House office) every year in order for their student to leave campus to leave for lunch.

- **What are the options for buying lunch on campus?**

Cafeteria, Outdoor BBQ (burgers and hot dogs), Vike's Café (salads, chicken tenders, etc.), Vike's Inn (Instant Noodles, chips, other snacks), and carts in the quad (bagels, snacks, pizza, burritos)

College Prep, Honors, and AP Courses

- **Question: What is a College Prep Course?**

A College Prep course is designated by a "P" (e.g., English 9 P) and it is a non-honors college preparatory course.

- **Question: What is an Honors Course?**

An Honors course is designated by an "HP" (e.g., English 9 HP) and it is an honors college preparatory course. These courses often offer the same curriculum as the non-honors course, covering some additional topics or some topics more in depth.

- **Question: What is an Advanced Placement Course?**

An Advanced Placement course is designated by an "AP" (e.g., English 11 AP) and it is a college level course. These courses cover the breadth of information, skills and assignments found in corresponding college courses. 9th grade students are not eligible to take AP courses.

- **Question: Is a college level course weighted or unweighted?**

When applying to colleges each campus will calculate the weighted GPA based on their own criteria.

- **Question: How is a college level course calculated into my SAMOHI GPA?**

College classes that are 3 units or more are given 10 high school credits. Therefore, the class is counted twice in your high school GPA as it is equivalent to a 2-semester course at SAMO.

- **Question: Do I have to take an AP Exam if I take a college course.**

No, there is no AP exam required for college courses. The classes are actual college courses and you will earn college credit upon completion of the course.

- **Question: Can I decide which college courses I took to go onto my SAMOHI transcript?**

If a college course transcript is submitted to SAMOHI, all classes taken at that college are added to your SAMOHI transcript, including fails or withdrawals.

- **Question: What Honors level courses can 9th grade students take?**

Students can take Honors courses in English, Math, or Biology in the 9th grade.

Repeat Courses

- **Question: Which high school courses, if failed, will a student have to repeat for high school graduation? For a 4-year university?**

When a student receives a Fail in a class, they will have to repeat the class for high school graduation, if it is a required class for graduation. Students will have to repeat classes in which they received a D or F for classes required for four-year college eligibility.

Absences

- **Question: If a student is absent what do parents and students need to do?**

The parent needs to write a note, send an email, or telephone the House Office to provide the following information:

- Student Name
- Student ID
- Date
- Dates of absence(s) and periods
- Reason for absence
- Parent/guardian signature
- Parent/guardian contact number

The student needs to bring the note **before 1st period** to the House office.

Leaving Early

- **Question: If a student needs to leave early what do parents and students need to do?**

Students must bring the note to their House Office in the morning, before 1st period. The parent needs to write a note with:

- Student Name
- Student ID
- Date
- Parent/guardian contact number where they can be reached in the morning
- Reason for absence
- Parent/guardian signature
- Time the student needs to be released

The school will call the parent to confirm the request to leave early. The student will not be released without confirmation. The student will receive a readmit with the time of release as their pass to leave campus.

First Day Procedures

- **Question: Where do I go on the first day of school? How do I get my schedule?**

There will be posters all over campus listing name and/or ID number and first period classroom. Students will go to that class and will be given their schedule. Students will be given directions on the first day of school about what to do if they have an issue with their schedule.

Frequently Asked Questions for Incoming 9th graders

For more information, visit the Samohi website at:

www.samohi.smmusd.org