

Frequently Asked Questions about SHS

1. Where are details on course offerings & academic/other policies?

This information and much more can be found in the [Course Catalog](#) and [Student Handbook](#) found at the “School Information” tab at www.scarsdaleschools.org/shs .

2. What are free periods? Are teachers available to meet with students during these free periods?

Free periods are periods during which a student has no scheduled class. The school encourages students to use these periods for completion of schoolwork or to meet with teachers with whom they have a common free. Teacher schedules are posted on their office doors, and teachers explain their availability to their classes.

3. What are school hours? Can my child leave campus during school?

School is from 8:05 am to 2:55 pm, except on Fridays when students end their day at 2:01pm. There are seven periods in the typical school day. If a student has first and second periods free, they do not have to report to school until Home Room at 9:53 am (between 2nd & 3rd periods). Once 9th & 10th graders have arrived at school, they may not leave campus until their classes are over for the day. SHS’ open campus policy allows 11th & 12th graders to leave campus during their free periods. Parents must call the attendance office at 721-2510 if their child is absent, late or leaving early from school. Students must also go to the Attendance Office to sign in if they are late, or sign out if they are leaving early.

4. Where can information be found on student clubs and activities?

There are three informational activity fairs (each organized by mission/purpose) during 5th period (lunch) in September. During these fairs, students can get information, talk to club officers or representatives of local organizations, and sign up for the many clubs and volunteer opportunities at SHS and in the local community.

Clubs are run by students with a faculty advisor. Many student clubs communicate online, through Facebook, etc. Students who volunteer outside SHS with a local community organization, communicate directly with a representative at that organization. For more details see the [Volunteer Service Organizations and Clubs](#) and the [In-School Service](#) menu options on the SHS PTA homepage at www.scarsdaleschools.org/shspta.

5. What about athletics?

A detailed description of the many athletic programs, including team information, game schedules and more at SHS can be found at [Athletics](#) under the “Departments” tab on the SHS website.

To participate in interscholastic sports all students must have a Gold Card. Copies of the gold card form are mailed to incoming 9th graders and are available outside the nurse's office year round.. Parents need to pay particular attention to the process details for obtaining a gold card. Make sure you use the correct form for the physical, sign the gold card questionnaire no more than two weeks before your child starts the sport, and encourage your child not to procrastinate with getting his or her interview with the nurse. Schedules for these nurse interviews are on the website, e-mailed and posted at school. Also, parents should be aware that sports practices often start before the school year begins.

6. What about school supplies?

Students should have the school supplies that best support the way they organize their studies. Teachers may request that students purchase specific supplies. The school gives an assignment book to each student at the beginning of the school year. A copy of the student handbook is included in the assignment book.

7. What about standardized testing, including the Biology Subject Test taken by some freshman?

Standardized testing information and time schedules appear on page 11 of the Course Catalog. Other standardized testing information is placed under the "School Information" tab of the SHS website, as appropriate. For specific questions, please contact your child's dean. The Counseling Department and your child's dean offer programs and information on all aspects of college admission.

With respect to the Biology SAT II subject test, students who are performing well in Biology 513 may be good candidates to take this exam. Each decision on whether to take this test is individual. Students or parents may choose to consult their teacher or dean about this decision. Biology teachers regularly address questions on the examination in their classes. Materials for registration for the test are available in the Counseling Center or online at <http://www.collegeboard.com/>.

8. What about getting to and from school?

The district busses students living more than 1.5 miles from SHS. Bus Schedules are found on the SHS website under "District Information" and then "Transportation". Students living less than 1.5 miles from SHS are encouraged to walk to school.

Parents, be aware that if your child is involved in activities that meet before or after school, there may be considerable variation in your child's arrival and departure times at SHS during the week.

The SHS campus speed limit is 15 mph. Please drive safely at all times. When dropping off/picking your child at school, use the lower or upper circles, and pull up as far as possible. Dropping students off or picking them up by the Board of Education Offices is absolutely forbidden. Seniors with a parking permit may park east of the track, in the Harcourt lot and in designated spaces in the gravel lot.

9. Where can my child get extra help?

SHS has many resources available to students. Academic help is available from teachers. The Math and the World Language Departments offer extra help at departmental centers. Student tutors are available through Signifer (SHS' Honor Society). Interested students should talk to their dean. Signifer also runs a homework help center.

Resources for non-academic support are also plentiful at SHS. These include the Counseling Center, school psychologists and youth outreach workers. Special programs providing support for freshman include [Freshman Transition](#), Civ Ed and Freshman Seminar.

10. My child is in a class where many of the students have tutors. Should I hire a tutor?

The decision to employ a tutor is a personal one. Working with the teacher is the most effective way to succeed in classes.

11. Whom does my 9th grader need to see to make a change to his/her schedule? Until what point can students drop down to a lower level class or withdraw from a class?

Students should carefully plan their course of study and consult with their counselor, teachers and parents. Schedule changes are greatly reduced by good planning. However, when necessary, a student should consult with his or her Dean. Parental permission is required for any schedule change.

The policy for changing levels in classes or withdrawing from a course varies by course and department. Students and parents should contact their dean to discuss specific situations.

12. My 9th grader wants to take the Honors English Placement Exam. When is it held and how should my 9th grader prepare?

The Honors Qualifying Examination is administered in January. The exam tests writing proficiency and critical analysis. Because the objective of the examination is to determine readiness for accelerated study in English, the English Department does not recommend any special preparation or the use of a tutor for the exam.

13. What happens between the end of classes and the beginning of finals?

Students prepare for final examinations according to a published schedule immediately following the end of classes. During this period, students are not required to attend classes except for the periods during which examinations are scheduled.

