

# **Martin County High School**

*“A Tradition of Excellence”*



## ***Freshman Orientation Class of 2012***

*Ms. Joan G. Hunt, Principal*

# People You'll Want to Know

## **Joan Hunt, Principal**

**School Advisory Council Chair** – Sam Whittle

**Volunteer Coordinator** – Karen Cotler

**Guidance Counselors**- Cory Carter, Betsy Walson, Elizabeth Froehling, Tom McSoley, Mindy Soich

**Freshman Sponsors** – Jessica Kolibas

**Student Activities** – Connie Neff

### **Team Leaders/ Coordinators**

Career Technical Education – Josh Moberg

Exceptional Student Education – Kathie Bielicki

Language Arts – Becky Erban

Mathematics – Michelle Haubert

Science – Pam Bittenbender

Social Studies – Susie Fogarty

Ninth Grade Center Team Leader – Ken Weir

Testing Coordinator (Verbal) – Marge Wilson

Testing Coordinator (Math) – Wayne Parrish

### **Administrators and Areas of Responsibility**

David Hall – Curriculum, Science, Social Studies, Fine/Performing Arts, ESOL, Guidance

Greg Hendricks, Athletic Director –Health, Athletics, ROTC, Facilities

Virginia Skinner - Staff Development, School Improvement, English, and Math

Jack Valerio - Security and Discipline, Foreign Languages, Career Technical Education,  
Exceptional Student Education

**Dean** - Marty Bielicki

**School Resource Officer** – Sgt. Steve Mochen

# Martin County High School

To: The Parents of Ninth Graders  
From: Martin County High School Guidance Department

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Martin County High School. This information is intended to help you and your student make as smooth a transition to high school as possible. Being informed on school policies and graduation requirements will help to ensure that your student's four years at Martin County will be as enjoyable and successful as possible.

## **1. Guidance Office**

If your child needs assistance in any of the following areas he/she may come to the guidance office. Students can go to guidance before school, after school, or during their lunch to speak with a counselor or arrange for an appointment. We can help with:

- a) Academic Concerns
- b) Personal Concerns
- c) Career Awareness
- d) Selection of College or Vocational Schools
- e) Coping with teachers or peers

## **2. Graduation Requirements**

### **a) Required Credits**

English	4
Math	4
Science	3
Social Studies	3 (World History, US History, Amer. Gov't. ½, Economics ½)
Fine Art	1
Physical Ed. with Health	1
<b>Total Required =</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Elective Credit =</b>	<b>10</b> (4 in a Major Area of Interest, 6 electives)
	<b>26 Total credits needed for graduation.</b>

- b) Students must maintain a 2.0 unweighted grade point average on a 4.0 scale in order to receive a standard diploma.
- c) Students must pass the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT Reading & Math) and FCAT Writes in order to receive a standard diploma.
- d) Florida's Bright Future Scholarships are based on a minimum 3.0 weighted academic GPA.  
**Please visit [www.facts.org](http://www.facts.org) to monitor your student's Bright Futures Scholarship status and Personal Education Planner (ePEP).**

## **3. Repeat/Forgiveness Policy**

Any course in which a student receives a grade of D or F can be repeated. The lower grade will be removed from the grade point average and replaced with the new (hopefully higher) grade.

#### **4. Helpful Hints**

- a) **Block Scheduling:** Most classes last from August to January or January to June. Therefore every 9 weeks students can earn a ½ credit and a final semester grade (based on the 9 weeks grade and exam grade) for each course. These final semester grades appear on the high school transcript and are used to calculate grade point average. EVERY 9 weeks grade is important!
- b) Be aware of interim report and report card dates. Keep a close eye on Pinnacle.
- c) Attend parent conferences. Parent conferences are held in the evenings from 5:00 – 8:00pm one evening during the week following the issuance of interims and report cards. Check the School Board calendar for specific dates.
- d) Keep record of any failures or grades of D's earned as you will want to retake them to increase your GPA.

#### **5. Pinnacle/Grades**

- Pinnacle is an online electronic grade book that parents can use to closely monitor the progress of their student. On Pinnacle you can see individual grades for homework, quizzes, tests and the current overall grade. Pinnacle can be accessed from the school board's web site [www.sbm.org](http://www.sbm.org).
- Interim reports are distributed 4 ½ weeks into each marking period. Report cards are issued each nine weeks (four times a year) and include the 9 week grade and exam grades. The final grade (two grades per course) equals (80%) of the 9 week grade + (20%) exam grade as per school board policy.

#### **6. Bright Futures Scholarship**

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program includes three lottery-funded scholarships for Florida high school graduates who demonstrate high academic achievement and enroll in eligible Florida public or private postsecondary institutions. There are three award levels for which high school seniors may qualify. The scholarship may be used for either full-time or part-time enrollment and is renewable. All initial applicants must meet the general requirements for participation in this program and specific requirements for the individual award.

Remember, high school students can check their progress toward each of these scholarships with the High School Academic Evaluations on [FACTS.org](http://FACTS.org)!

#### **7. Major Areas of Interest**

Starting with last year's ninth grade class, all students in the state of Florida will declare a Major Area of Interest. This serves to help focus course selection for each student in order to provide a more continuous education while in high school. This selection will be reviewed each year and may be changed as each student's interests change. Unlike a college major, students are not required to complete all courses in the major area of interest to graduate, but must be enrolled in a major area of interest course each year.

#### **8. University Entrance Requirements**

Although each college has slightly different admission requirements, all require proficiency in academics. Florida universities require at least two consecutive years of a foreign language and four years of math above Algebra 1. In addition, students intending to apply to college in the Florida university system will have to complete at least 18 credits in the following 5 core academic areas: English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language. Most current graduates have found that over 20 academic credits is the minimum number to gain acceptance to a Florida University.

## 2007 Fall Admissions Averages

**College admissions personnel consider the following:**

- a) grades in academic subjects
- b) academic depth of courses taken
- c) academic courses taken in the senior year
- d) rank in class
- e) SAT/ACT scores
- f) Extracurricular activities
- g) Counselor/teacher recommendation

FAMU GPA 2.9-3.0 SAT 900-999 ACT 17-20	FAU GPA 3.0-3.6 SAT 980-1130 ACT 19-23	FAU-Honors GPA 3.6-4.3 SAT 1130-1300 ACT 26-30	FGCU GPA 3.0-3.7 SAT 970-1110 ACT 20-24
FIU GPA 3.4-4.2 SAT 1100-1240 ACT 23-26	FSU GPA 3.5-4.1 SAT 1160-1300 ACT 25-29	NCF GPA 3.72-4.26 SAT 1260-1410 ACT 27-31	UCF GPA 3.4-4.1 SAT 1140-1280 ACT 24-28
UF GPA 4.0-4.4 SAT 1210-1400 ACT 26-31	UNF GPA 3.24-3.92 SAT 1090-1250 ACT 21-23	USF GPA 3.5-4.1 SAT 1080-1250 ACT 23-28	UWF GPA 3.1-4.1 SAT 1000-1190 ACT 21-26

### **Community Colleges**

Community colleges (like IRCC) offer the first two years of college which can be transferred to any state university in Florida if other requirements are met. Students wishing to eventually transfer to a university should obtain as much academic background as possible in high school. Community colleges also offer short-term degrees and training programs in various fields. To be accepted to a community college a student must have obtained a high school diploma or GED.

### **9. Types of Classes**

Classes offered to Martin County High School students at many different skill-based levels. Placement is based on test scores along with teacher recommendations. Each type of course is designed to offer an appropriate challenge to properly placed students.

**On-level/College Prep** courses are designed to meet the general education requirements needed to enter the working world right after graduating from high school, or for someone continuing on to college. Homework is assigned in each academic class and is expected to be complete when the student returns to class the next day.

**Honors level/ Pre- AP®** courses are designed to be more challenging for students who are planning to go on to a college or university following graduation. These courses generally require students to work as independent learners, especially on homework assignments. These courses may also have additional project requirements.

**Dual Enrollment** courses are offered by Indian River Community College. These courses allow students to earn college and high school credits at the same time. IRCC offers specialized courses (for example Cosmetology) which are designed for high school juniors and seniors.

**Advanced Placement (AP®)** courses are college courses taught during the high school day preparing students for national examinations given each May. Colleges and universities may grant college credits if students score well enough on these exams. It is important that students develop good working and thinking skills to be ready for these rigorous college level courses. Over 20 AP courses are available to highly motivated MCHS students each year. Preparation for these courses begins in Honors/Pre-AP courses in the freshman and sophomore years.

**Career preparation** programs are available in a variety of areas, and teach students the job skills required to step immediately into the workforce in a high paying job. Career preparation programs at MCHS include Auto Body Refinishing, Auto Service Technology (Mechanics), Culinary, Drafting, Photography, Marketing Management, Information Technology, Medical Science, Digital Design, and TV Production. During your freshman year you will have the opportunity to learn more about these programs and decide if they are for you.

**Exceptional Student Education** classes are designed to meet specific, targeted needs of students who have academic challenges to overcome. Students take their courses with regular education students and receive supportive services to help them be successful. There are alternative diploma tracks available to ESE students who are unable to meet the regular diploma criteria.

## 10. What does a typical schedule look like?

The phrase “typical schedule” is misleading in many ways, due to all the options available to students. However, there are some common features.

- Most of your core classes will be taken in the two story building near the gym and the bus loop to save the long “commute” across campus.
- Teachers in the Freshman Center specifically chose to work with our entering freshmen. They each have the dedication and skill required to help students adapt to the high school setting.
- Each class (block) is 100 minutes long! Teachers keep this in mind and change class activities frequently each block so that you never feel bored.
- Lunch is 40 minutes long, and there is enough time to get food from one of the serving lines and still have time to enjoy the meal.

Sample schedules for freshman students:

<b>Fall (Aug-Jan)</b>	<b>Spring (Jan-June)</b>
Block 1 - Spanish I (100 min)	Block 1 – Algebra I Honors-Pre AP (100 Min)
Block 2 – Geography (100 min)	Block 2 – Spanish II (100 min)
Block 3 – Biology (100 min)	Block 3 – Physical Education/ Health (100 min)
Block 4 – Drama I (100 min)	Block 4 – English I (100 min)
1 <sup>st</sup> 9 wks 4 classes x 0.5(credits) + 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 wks 4 classes x 0.5 (credits)	1 <sup>st</sup> 9 wks 4 classes x 0.5(credits) + 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 wks 4 classes x 0.5 (credits)
Total Credits earned = 4.0	Total Credits earned = 4.0

**Total 9<sup>th</sup> grade credits earned = 8.0**

<b>Fall (Aug-Jan)</b>	<b>Spring (Jan-June)</b>
Block 1 – Integrated Math I (100 min)	Block 1 – Chorus (100 Min)
Block 2 – Physical Education/ Health (100 min)	Block 2 – Biology I Honors – Pre AP (100 min)
Block 3 – English I Honors – Pre AP (100 min)	Block 3 – Integrated Math II (100 min)
Block 4 – Aerospace I – ROTC (100 min)	Block 4 – Geography (100 min)
1 <sup>st</sup> 9 wks 4 classes x 0.5(credits) + 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 wks 4 classes x 0.5 (credits)	1 <sup>st</sup> 9 wks 4 classes x 0.5(credits) + 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 wks 4 classes x 0.5 (credits)
Total Credits earned = 4.0	Total Credits earned = 4.0

**Total 9<sup>th</sup> grade credits earned = 8.0**

Note that both schedules contain a mixture of Honors and on-level courses. This is a common situation; it allows you to challenge yourself in some areas while not overloading yourself. Some of the courses have “Pre-AP” after them, indicating that they are designed to build your skills so that you may be successful in the most challenging courses available here at MCHS. Please remember choice of teachers, blocks, and lunches are not an option and course request for a specific semester cannot be guaranteed. Also a course may close or change without notice; all course selections must be finalized by **June 1, 2008**.

### **STAY INVOLVED AND INFORMED**

As parents of a high school student it is very important that you stay informed and involved in your child’s education. Make sure you are aware of the courses your student selects and that they are appropriate for the goals and plans you have in mind for your child. Guidance counselors will meet with each freshman to develop a four year plan. Each year all students will meet with their guidance counselors to discuss curriculum choices and career goals, as well as to modify their Major Area of Interest if needed.

**At any time you feel there may be a problem, please call the teacher or guidance counselor.** Don’t wait to be contacted by the school. You may also contact teachers by email. Our email addresses are the first six letters of our last name, our first initial, then conclude with @martin.k12.fl.us.

