Counselor Chat FAQ

**Are student required to volunteer?** Students are not required to volunteer for graduation from SRVUSD. That being said, being involved in the community always benefits the student and the community.

**How can parents contact teachers?** Parent can always contact teachers with questions regarding their students’ progress. The quickest way to hear from a teacher is emailing. Parents can also leave voice messages, and teachers will return their call. For a meeting with a teacher, parents and teachers arrange a time to meet.

**What are weighted grades?** When computing a GPA, A = 4 points, B = 3 points, C = 2 points, D = 1 point, and F = o points. Add up each grade and divide by the number of courses enrolled in to find their GPA for that grading period. Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses are given a weighted grades, A = 5 points, B = 4 points, C = 3 points, D = 1 point, F = 0 points (D’s and F’s are not weighted).

**When can students join clubs and how many can they join?** Each club is different. DVHS has a club fair at the beginning of each year; all of the clubs set up a table to showcase who they are and what they do. Students can join the club at the club fair.

There is not a limit to clubs, but students need to actively participate to maintain their membership in the club. Joining too many clubs could be too much of a commitment for the student, depending on their responsibilities.

Some clubs to have requirements to earn a membership, for example the academic clubs like CSF or NHS.

**AP Exams** – How can I earn college credit? <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement>

**DVHS disperses so much information – where do we go?**

1. The weekly Dougherty Digest has a wealth of information for weekly updates (emailed home).
2. Anything with academic planning can be found on the Counseling Website under the Academic Planning page <http://www.dvhigh.net/academic-planning>
3. Contact your student’s counselor if you can’t find information that you’re looking for, we can help direct you toward the information.

**How many AP’s should kids take?** AP courses are not required for high school graduation or college entrance. There is not a magic number; students should AP courses in areas of their interest. Keep in mind they are college level courses, students are expected to do college level work. When helping your student create their schedule, conversations should include responsibilities outside of school to ensure that a healthy balance is maintained.

**Exams**

**AP Exams** – taken at the end of the AP course (dates are determined by the College Board (<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/home>).

**ACT and SAT** – Both are college entrance exams. Students do not have to take both exams, one is sufficient. The Princeton Review gives a comparison of the tests (<http://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act>).

**Should my student SAT Subject tests?** While the UC does not require them, they are highly recommended if the student has the means to take them. Students should look at the college(s) they are applying to, and the major they are applying for (if applicable) to see if any subject tests are required.

**PSAT** – Any student can take the PSAT, offered in October each year. Students in their junior year should take the PSAT as they can qualify for National Merit scholarships.

**What is the PE graduation requirement and what is Athletics PE?** Two years (20 credits) of PE is required for a student to graduate from SRUVSD. All students take PE 9 their freshman year, which earn them the first 10 credits. If students pass the Fitness Gram (administered in PE in early spring each year), they do not have to take PE as a sophomore. However, they do have to take another year (10 credits) prior to high school graduation. If they don’t pass the Fitness Gram, California state law is that they have to take PE as a sophomore.

Athletics PE (APE) is for student athletes who play a DVHS sport. Students need to attend the APE meeting at the beginning of their season, and they will hear the rules of APE. If the student meets the requirements, they will earn 5 PE credits at the end of each season they participate in. Two athletic seasons will meet the second year (10 credits) of PE required to graduate.

**Advancement** – Advancement is not required for graduation or college entrance. All advancement questions can be found on the advancement tab of our counseling website. (<http://www.dvhigh.net/advancement>).

**Can my student have a 7 period day?** Juniors and seniors can have seven periods regardless of what they are enrolled in. Freshman and sophomores can have seven periods if they are enrolled in band, choir, Journalism, Special Education, AVID, or Yearbook.

**Can my students double up on courses?** Student cannot enroll in two math, science, or world language courses due to the amount of students that we serve at DVHS, unfortunately, we do not have the space. This is indicated on our school profile that we send with students’ college documents (transcript and letter of recommendation).