Frequently Asked Questions  
Shadow Creek High School Grade Levels  

**Academic and Elective Course Offerings**

1. **What academic courses will be available to students?**
   Shadow Creek High School will offer the full curriculum for students within the appropriate grade levels upon opening in 2016. Course offerings will depend upon student enrollment and course requests. For course information, go to [http://www.alvinisd.net/Page/15764](http://www.alvinisd.net/Page/15764)

2. **What elective courses will be available to students?**
   In addition to Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Fine Arts courses, most of the other elective courses such as Journalism, Newspaper, Yearbook, Debate, Academic Decathlon, and AVID could be available depending upon student enrollment and course.

**Dual Credit**

3. **What are Dual Credit and Dual Degree?**
   Dual Credit allows students to enroll in college courses and earn high school credit for the course simultaneously. Students may take as many or as few college courses as they choose throughout the four years of high school (there is a two class, per semester, maximum unless additional standards are met). Students interested in earning an associate’s degree in General Studies from Alvin Community College may do so through the Dual Degree program. Students enrolled in the Dual Degree program will complete 60 hours of course work throughout the four years of high school and graduate with their associate’s degree a month prior to high school graduation.

4. **Are the classes transferrable?**
   Dual Credit Academic Core classes are guaranteed to transfer with a grade C or higher to any Texas public colleges or university. Students interested in attending private or out of state schools should contact those schools directly to discuss transferability. Technical/workforce dual credit classes are not designed to transfer to the universities but, can be applied to an Associate’s degree, and possibly later transferred through an Applied Science Bachelor’s degree.

5. **How much are these classes?**
   Currently, Dual Credit courses are offered to AISD students at a price of $25 per credit hour and a $30 registration fee for classes taken at the high school campus. Classes taken at ACC are charged the standard in-district rate and fees.

   *Tuition and fees are set by the ACC Board of Regents and are subject to change.*
6. Can any student participate in the Dual Credit and/or Dual Degree programs?  
To participate in the Dual Credit/Dual Degree program students must complete the ACC Admission Application, an Early Admission Contract and meet the state’s Texas Success Initiative standards (TSI).
*9th and 10th grade students must be college level in Reading and Writing to take any Dual Credit class; exception: Psychology 1300 -Learning Strategies and Foreign Language require college level Reading only. 11th and 12th grade students must take the TSI exam unless student meets an exemption based on SAT/ACT or qualifies for a waiver based on 10th grade STAAR or PSAT.

Clases on the high school campus need an enrollment of 15 students or more to make. Classes offered by grade level*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman</th>
<th>Sophomore</th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Senior</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-BCIS 1305-Business Information Management</td>
<td>All freshman level courses in addition to: -SPCH 1315-Communication Application -Spanish 2311/2312-Spanish 3/4 -French 2311/2312-French 1/2 -Art History 1303/1304-Fine Arts -HITT 1305-Medical Terminology (DC Tech)</td>
<td>All freshman and sophomore level courses in addition to: -US History 1301/1302-History A/B -Psychology 2301-General Psychology -Sociology 1301-Intro to Sociology -ACCT 2301/2302-Accounting 1/2</td>
<td>All freshman, sophomore and junior level courses in addition to: -English 1301/1302-English 4 A/B -Government 2305-Government -Government 2306-Elective -Economics 2301-Economics -BIOL 2401/2012-Anatomy &amp; Physiology ½ -Math 1314-College Algebra -Math 2412-Pre-Cal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Spanish 1411/1412-Spanish 1/2</td>
<td>-French 1411/1412-French 1/2</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Psychology 1300-College Transitions</td>
<td>-COMM 1307-Intro to Mass Communication</td>
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<td>-Drama 1310-Intro to Theater</td>
<td>-POFT 1329-Keyboarding</td>
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*This list represents a snapshot of our classes that traditionally make each semester; this list is not all-inclusive.

**Athletics**

7. If a campus opens up with only ninth graders, what sports will be allowed to compete on the varsity level? Per local decision, there will be no sports competing on the varsity level during the 2016-2017 school year and individual sports may participate in the 2017-2018 school year. All team sports will participate at the varsity level the 2018-2019 school year.

8. If a campus opens up with only ninth/tenth graders, what sports will be allowed to compete on the varsity level? Per local decision, only individual sports will be allowed to compete at the varsity level during the 2016-2017 school year. With the exception of Football, Varsity team sports will begin the 2017-2018 school year and Varsity Football will begin the 2018-19 school year.
9. If a campus opens up with only ninth - eleventh graders, what sports will be allowed to compete on the varsity level? Per local decision, all sports will participate at the varsity level.

10. What are the current classification number cutoffs for 4A, 5A & 6A? 6A – 2100 & above, 5A – 1060 – 2099, 4A – 465 – 1059. These numbers are subject to change per the UIL.

11. What sports will be offered at SCHS?
   Cross Country, Volleyball, Football, Basketball, Soccer, Power Lifting, Swimming/Water Polo, Softball, Baseball, Track, Tennis & Golf.

   Advanced Academics

12. What is Pre-Advanced Placement?
   Pre-AP is a set of content specific strategies designed to:
   • Build rigorous curricula
   • Promote access to AP for all students
   • Introduce skills, concepts and assessment methods to prepare students for success in the Advanced Placement program
   • Strengthen curriculum and increase the academic challenge for all students
   • Provide an inclusive program for encouraging more students to access higher learning

13. What is Advanced Placement?
   The Advanced Placement Program is a collaborative effort between motivated students, dedicated teachers, and committed high schools, colleges, and universities. Since its inception in 1955, the AP Program has allowed millions of students to take college-level courses and exams in order to earn college credit or placement while still in high school.

   AP courses are available in a wide variety of subject areas. Each course is developed by a committee of college faculty and AP teachers and covers the breadth of information, skills, and assignments found in the corresponding college course.

   Each AP course has a corresponding exam that participating schools nationwide administer. Based on their performance on the AP exam, students have the opportunity to earn credit or placement at most of the nation’s colleges and universities.

14. Why should you enroll in Pre-AP/AP courses?
   Taking Pre-AP/AP courses provides an exciting learning environment with rigorous curriculum using higher-level critical-thinking strategies. It also sends a powerful message to colleges that the student is ready to succeed in college.

   Students can earn college credit and the chance to skip course work they’ve already completed. In addition, the official exam scores provide admission officers with information they can use to evaluate how well the student mastered college-level course work.
Some scholarships may be rewarded depending on AP exam scores.

15. How does a student earn college credit?
In May students take AP exams at their high school campus. The final exam score is reported on a scale of 1–5 and shows how well the student mastered the content of the course. Most colleges and universities in the United States and institutions in more than 60 other countries grant credit or placement for qualifying AP exam scores. Students can find a college’s AP policy using the AP Credit Policy Info search; however, be sure to review the policy on the college’s website for the most up-to-date information.

16. Is there a fee to take an AP class?
There is no charge to take the class but there is a cost for the test. Students pay a small fee and the district covers the remaining portion. Students with significant financial need may obtain a fee waiver from their campus counselor.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

17. What CTE programs will be offered at SCHS?
We will be offering the following career clusters at SCHS: Agriculture Science, Arts & AV Technology, Business Management & Administration, Marketing, Education & Training, Finance, Human Service, Information Technology, Hospitality & Tourism, Manufacturing, Architecture & Construction, Criminal Justice, Transportation Distribution & Logistics, STEM, and Health Science. Admission to these programs is based on interest and aptitude, age appropriateness, and available class space.

18. If my child is already in a career pathway at Manvel HS and they transfer to SCHS for 11th or 12th grade will they have the same advanced CTE courses options as students at MHS?
Yes, the majority of CTE classes that are currently offered at MHS will be offered at SCHS. Students will also have the option of taking advanced CTE courses that require specialized labs at the district CTE Center.

19. If my child shows animals in FFA, will there be an Ag farm located at SCHS?
No, currently there are no plans to build an Ag facility at SCHS. They will continue to use the Booth’s agriculture farm located in Manvel.

CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES
20. Will this campus participate in the USDA National School Lunch and Breakfast programs?  
Yes. This cafeteria facility was designed to offer both of these federally subsidized meal programs.

21. Will the meal offerings be compromised if we open this campus with fewer grade levels?  
Our staffing is funded by the number of meals served on a campus. With fewer meals purchased due to a smaller campus population, we may not be able to offer the variety of options found at a larger campus. However, we are committed to offering the most popular items available to our customers.

FINE ARTS

22. What Fine Arts courses/activities will be offered?  
SCHS will offer all fine arts courses/activities which include: Art, Band, Choir, Dance/Dance Team, Theatre Arts, Orchestra and Cheerleading.

23. Will the UIL groups compete at varsity or non-varsity level?  
SCHS Band, Choir and Orchestra will have the option of competing at the non-varsity or varsity level. Typically when opening a new campus the groups compete non-varsity until receiving a division 1 rating.

Master Schedule Opportunities and Limitations

24. What is a Master Schedule?  
The Master Schedule consists of course/extracurricular offerings, teacher assignments, and student course selections; organized in an efficient manner to balance classes while reducing student scheduling conflicts.

25. Why is the Master Schedule important to students and parents?  
The goal for schools is to develop a Master Schedule allowing each student to take the courses he/she selects in order to fulfill graduation requirements. When there are Master Scheduling conflicts, students and/or parents must make some hard decisions about course selections. For example, a student signs up for Varsity Football and Yearbook but they are offered during the same class period. As a result, the student must choose which course they want to take and select another course.

Note: The goal of campus administration is to eliminate or decrease these types of scheduling conflicts.

26. When are there typically conflicts?  
Schools encounter challenges when courses are offered one time (aka singletons). When a student chooses courses offered multiple times (ie, Algebra 1, English III), the school has the flexibility to effectively complete a student’s schedule. On the flip side, when a student chooses “singleton” courses, the school loses flexibility in fulfilling a student’s schedule requests (ie AP
Calculus, Varsity Men’s Choir). It is important to note that students might not be able to take every advanced course they are interested in due to low student interest, lack of teaching staff, or scheduling conflicts.

27. How does this impact a new school?
New schools usually open with lower enrollment than established comprehensive high schools. Staffing ratios (ie # of teachers) are based on student enrollment.
Lower student enrollment per grade level = less # of sections = less # of teachers = more opportunities for “singletons”/course conflicts and/or fewer opportunities for certain courses to be offered.
Higher student enrollment per grade level = higher # of sections = higher # of teachers = lesser opportunities for “singletons”/course conflicts and/or more opportunities for certain courses to be offered.

Ex- MHS opened in 2006 with 640 kids and 40 teachers. Today, MHS has 2,800 students and 180 teachers. In 2006, MHS ran 9 Algebra 1 sections. Today, MHS runs 20 Algebra I sections. Because of this, MHS has more flexibility to accommodate student course requests.

28. Are there master schedule advantages/limitations with opening grades 9, 9-10, 9-11, 9-12?
Anytime you open a grade level with a low number of students you have the possibility of conflicts. For example, opening 9-11 with 1,100 students would create more Master Scheduling difficulties than opening 9-11 with 1,400 students.

29. Will there be limitations at SCHS?
Yes, there is an increased chance courses will not “make” at SCHS. Typically, 15 students are needed to “make” a course. Smaller enrollment per grade level makes it difficult to run courses.

Ex- Upper level courses such as Dual Credit US History, AP Calculus, AP Physics have a harder time “making” with lower enrollment. These courses are more likely to “make” with 400 juniors than with 200 juniors.

30. How many courses are offered at the high school level?
There are 332 courses offered in the AISD High School Course Guide. Not all of the courses are taught each year but are available based on student interests.