



High School can be hard to maneuver through as a freshman. The DHS Counselors have provided some tips and tricks on how to survive your first year at high school!

- Have your child advocate for himself/herself! High School is the perfect time for your child to learn to speak for themselves because when they get to college, FERPA rules apply. If your child is having a difficult time with an assignment, have missing work due to absences, or need tutoring/reassessments, have your child approach the teacher to get the answers they need.
- Teachers provide tutorials for students a minimum of three times a week either before or after school. The individual teacher provides a schedule for their students. Please have your child contact the teacher to inquire about tutorial times. Teachers have an open door policy for ALL students, including those they may not teach during the school day. If a student's teacher is not available to tutor, they are welcome to visit another teacher in the department for tutorials.
- Students have one class day per excused absence day to complete make-up assignments. Students who will be absent for 3 or more calendar days may request assignments through the counseling center. Generally, teachers will need 24 hours to submit assignments to the counseling center. Students who fail to complete make-up work within these guidelines will receive a grade of zero (0). It is the student's responsibility to find out what assignments were missed during his/her absence. Students should not expect the teacher to seek out the student to remind them of missed work.
- GET INVOLVED!!! Dawson has numerous clubs that your child can get involved in! Take a look at the list of clubs available on the back of this sheet! If your child is interested in a particular club, encourage them to visit the sponsor for the club to see when the next meeting is.
- Community Service: Community Service is not mandatory through the school, but we do highly encourage your child to get involved with the community. Colleges are looking for students that are involved and invested not only in their academics, but also in their community. Some ideas for this may be to volunteer at places such as the Houston Food Bank, Pearland Neighborhood Center, Churches, etc.
- Soft Skills are very important!! Soft Skills refer to a broad set of skills, competencies, behaviors, attitudes, and personal qualities that enable people to effectively navigate their environment, work well with others, perform well, and achieve their goals. Employers have found that students are lacking the soft skills needed to foster a productive work environment. At the high school level, this might include: positive attitude, organizational skills, time management, good communication skills, problem solving, and leadership skills.

#### STAY CONNECTED:

Website: <http://www.pearlandisd.org/dawson>

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