Greetings!

It is already time to begin planning for next school year as course selection for 2015-2016 is upon us. **Hightower’s online course selection window is February 19th through February 27th**. During that time, students will be able to login to Skyward Family Access to enter their course requests for next school year.

In preparation of this, counselors will be meeting with current 9th grade students in a general assembly on February 19th to review credit requirements and the online course selection process. At that time, students will receive the course selection paperwork. One of the documents the students will receive will be the HHS Course Selection Worksheet. We need students and parents to complete that worksheet, sign it and return it to the counselors’ suite by February 27th. That worksheet will be the counselors’ verification of courses the student is requesting for the 2015-2016 school year.

Additionally, we will hold an **8th/9th Grade Parent Night meeting on February 19th at 7:00 p.m.** in the HHS Auditorium. During this meeting we will review HB5, course selection information and Naviance Family Connection Four-Year Plans for those parents of current 8th grade and current 9th grade students. Students are welcome to attend as well! Organizations and departments of HHS will also be present to provide families with Hightower information.

Counselors will be meeting in the computer lab with freshman students during their non-credit classes from February 20th to February 27th. During that time in the lab, counselors will be assisting students with the online course selection process as well as working to complete the students Four-Year Plan in Naviance Family Connection along with Endorsement selection in Family Access. Additionally, please mark your calendar for March 4th as **we will send out a meeting request to parents of 9th grade students**. In that meeting request, you will be asked to sign up on SignUp Genius for an appointment on March 4th. During that parent meeting, counselors will discuss HB5 and Endorsement selection.

Regarding course selection, please note, if you wish to make any changes to a student’s course requests for the 2015-2016 school year, the student/parent must make that request in writing before March 20, 2015. We base our master schedule and teacher assignments on student course requests and thus we ask you to carefully consider the course requests as no changes will be granted after March 20, 2015. Additionally, we always request that students select/list alternate courses in the event their original selections do not fit on the student’s schedule. If no alternates are selected/listed, the student’s schedule may be filled at the discretion of the guidance counselor. To further assist students, counselors will be available in the computer lab before and after school, as well as during lunch periods during the window of February 19th to February 27th.

### Per FBISD <http://www.fortbendisd.com/Page/12392>: “Eighth and Ninth Grade Students

Current eighth and ninth grade students under the new Foundations High School Program (HB5) must declare an endorsement in Skyward in addition to selecting courses for next year. Pages 16 and 51 - 66 of the [Chart Your Course](http://www.fortbendisd.com/site/Default.aspx?PageID=984) program guide contain detailed information about endorsements. Parents of current eighth and ninth grade students must log in to Skyward Family Access to view and approve their child's endorsement selection by May 22, 2015.

In addition, students in the eighth and ninth grades must also complete their four-year graduation plan using the [Naviance Family Connection](http://www.fortbendisd.com/site/Default.aspx?PageID=808). Students are encouraged to submit their four-year plan to their counselor for approval by March 20, 2015.”

Resources:

The FBISD High School Program Guide can be found online at: [http://www.fortbendisd.com//site/Default.aspx?PageID=984](http://www.fortbendisd.com/site/Default.aspx?PageID=984). The HS Program Guide is full of information regarding graduation requirements, programs and course descriptions.

FBISD has posted helpful information and instructions for course selection via Skyward Family Access and Naviance Family Connection for Four-Year Plans here: <http://www.fortbendisd.com/Page/12392>

Regards,

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Hightower High School

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