



# Holmdel High School Parents' Guide 2017-2018

Welcome Parents & Guardians of Holmdel High School Students:

This transitions guide is a resource to help parents with the questions about the High School that inevitably arise. As parents of upper classmen we have tried to remember all the areas that confused or disoriented us. We have gathered the information that we remember wondering about. Much of the information is from the Student/Parent Handbook and on the Holmdel School District website. Please go to the original sources regularly. They are rich with information. Also click on the links below to find answers. This will be a living document. As you come up with questions, let us know and we can add them to this document.

## SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

- [Who are the building administrators and how do I contact them?](#)

## IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

- [When will the extra help begin?](#)
- [When do the marking period end?](#)
- [When will the PARCC and PSAT testing happen?](#)

## STUDENT REGISTRATION

- [How do I register my student at Holmdel High School?](#)
- [Do I have to re-register every year?](#)

## COMMUNICATIONS

- [Where do parents get information about the High School?](#)

## ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

- [What time should students arrive at school?](#)
- [Where can I get bus information?](#)
- [What is the drop-off and pick-up policy?](#)
- [What if my student is absent?](#)
- [What if my student is late to school?](#)

- [What should we know about attendance policy and absences?](#)
- [What if my student forgets something and asks me to bring it...](#)

## ROTATING SCHEDULE

- [How many classes will students have each day?](#)
- [When will students get their schedules?](#)
- [How do students read their schedules?](#)
- [How do students convert an 8-period class schedule to a 6-block rotating...](#)
- [How do students remember if it is A B C D Day...](#)
- [What happens to the daily schedule during delayed opening days or early...](#)

## LOCKERS

- [How do students get locks for their lockers?](#)
- [Where do students keep their “stuff” during PE?](#)

## STUDENT HANDBOOK AND PLANNER

- [How do students obtain a student handbook and planner?](#)

## LUNCH

- [Where do students eat lunch?](#)
- [Where do students purchase food during the Unit Lunch?](#)
- [Can we find out what meals will be served online?](#)
- [How do students pay for their food?](#)
- [How much money should a student bring for lunch?](#)
- [When will Chartwells be open?](#)
- [How much time do students have for lunch?](#)

## SCIENCE LABS

- [When will Science Labs meet?](#)
- [Will there be Science Labs during delayed opening days or early closing...](#)

## EXTRA HELP

- [When is Extra Help offered?](#)
- [Where can I find the Extra Help schedule?](#)
- [Will there be Extra Help after school?](#)
- [What if my student is having difficulty keeping up in his classes...](#)

## GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

- [What does a guidance counselor do?](#)
- [Who is my student’s counselor?](#)
- [Can I contact my student’s guidance counselor?](#)

## STUDY HALL

- [What can students do during the Study Hall periods?](#)

## HOMEWORK

- [How much homework should students expect?](#)

## SPORTS

- [How do students try out for a sports team?](#)
- [What time do sports practices start?](#)
- [When do Fall sports practices begin?](#)
- [Can student-athletes go on winter and/or spring vacation during a...](#)
- [If my student is a member of Symphonic band and/or...](#)
- [What is the Powder Puff Football Game?](#)

## EXTRA CURRICULAR

- [How do students get involved with clubs and activities?](#)
- [How do I find out what clubs and activities are offered?](#)
- [When do clubs and activities meet?](#)

## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE

- [When and where are parent-teacher conferences held?](#)
- [How do parents sign up for parent-teacher conferences?](#)
- [What if I do not get a conference time slot for a...](#)

## EXAMS

- [Are there midterms and final exams?](#)
- [How much weight is given to the final exam grade?](#)
- [What is an “Open Campus”?](#)

## STANDARDIZED TESTS

- [What standardized tests do high school students take?](#)
- [Who should take the PSAT?](#)
- [What are the SAT and ACT?](#)
- [When should my student take the college admissions tests?](#)
- [What are the SAT Subject Tests?](#)
- [When should my student take SAT Subject Tests?](#)

## LEAVING SCHOOL

- [How does my student use the “late” bus?](#)

[Back to top](#)

## SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Who are the building administrators and how do I contact them?**

The building administrators and their contact information are listed in the [Holmdel High School website](#) under the “*Main Office Contacts.*”

## IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

### **When will the extra help begin?**

Extra Help will begin the first week of October (10/2).

### **When do the marking periods end?**

- 1<sup>st</sup> MP – November 8, 2017
- 2<sup>nd</sup> MP – January 24, 2018
- 3<sup>rd</sup> MP – March 29, 2018
- 4<sup>th</sup> MP – June 19, 2018

### **When will the PARCC and PSAT testing happen?**

- PSAT Administration: October 11, 2017 (for all 10th and 11th graders)
- PARCC Testing: April 25-26-27, 2018

## STUDENT REGISTRATION

### **How to register my student at Holmdel High School?**

Student registration is completed using an online registration system called InfoSnap. [New Student Registration](#) is available on the Holmdel High School main page.

Returning students, parents should log onto their [PowerSchool](#) accounts and click on “*Returning Student Registration*” icon on the left-hand menu to complete the student online registration.

If you do not have access to the internet, contact the high school Main Office at 732-946-1832 to make an appointment to use a school computer to complete the process.

### **Do I have to re-register every year?**

Yes, parents must re-register students each year to update their information. Go to *Holmdel High School website* and click on “*Returning Student Registration thru Infosnap.*” or click [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

## COMMUNICATIONS

### **Where do parents get information about the High School?**

The biggest issue that concerns parents at Holmdel High School is communication. It is difficult for parents to remember that high school students are on the way to becoming independent from parents. To help parents keep up with High School events and the demands on students, there are many means of communication.

First, parents should go to their [Parent Portal on PowerSchool](#) and click on *School Messenger* to set their preferences for how the school will communicate with them electronically. *School Messenger* is a quick alert messaging system that provides timely information on emergencies, weather-related closures/delays, attendance, general interest activities, etc. See the directions [here](#) for how to access and set preferences on *School Messenger*.

In addition to *School Messenger*, parents may receive information from a variety of sources. A list of available resources are given below:

- [Holmdel High School General Calendar](#)  
It contains pertinent dates of all high school activities.
- [Daily Announcements](#)  
This is a daily memo beginning with the “word of the day”, Rotation Day, the any other important information.
- [Holmdel School District website](#)  
The main hub of the district.
- [Holmdel High School](#)  
Holmdel High School main page.
- [Program of Studies](#)  
For long term planning, view the Program of Studies. All the courses available at the High School are listed with descriptions. High School graduation requirements are also listed.
- [Student/Parent Handbook](#)  
For the most reliable student/parent information, read the Student and Parent Handbook
- [HHS Guidance Counseling Services](#)  
Peruse the Guidance Counseling Services site to learn about the myriad of guidance-related information for students and parents.

- [Board of Education](#)  
Listen to the audio recordings of the meetings if you cannot attend the meetings in person: [Meetings and Agendas](#) (scroll down to find the audio link)
- [Curriculum and Instruction](#)  
Among other resources, parents can find **textbook information** on this page.
- [Emergency Closing Information](#) - for school closing information
- [Transportation Department](#) - use this link to find information on bus services.
- [Holmdel High School Twitter](#) You can “follow” us [@HolmdelHHS](#)

[Back to top](#)

Other ways of learning what is going on in the High School are as follows:

- Join [Parent Teacher Student Organization \(PTSO\)](#). For the 2017-2018 school year our meetings are scheduled 9/11-11/13 - 01/08 - 3/12 - 5/14 - 6/11 and are generally held the second Monday of the month; however, the dates may change due to holidays. Check the [High School Calendar](#) to confirm meeting days and times. Administrators are present at meetings and will give up-to-date insights into the school activities.
- “Like” the [Holmdel High School PTSO Facebook page](#).
- Attend [Board of Education Meetings](#), for the 2017-18 school year. The BOE will usually meet on the fourth or fifth Wednesday toward the end of the month at 8 p.m. at the W. R. Satz School library. Please see the meeting schedule for the exact dates.
- Visit [PTSO \(Parent Teacher Student Organization\) Website](#)  
The Holmdel Parents Association website is managed by parent volunteers from each of the four district schools. Parent group events and meetings are regularly announced on this site. The website has links to special interest groups that parents may join.
  - Parents of children interested in music, theater, art, and television production can support their children by joining the [Holmdel Creative Arts Association](#) (HCAA)
  - Parents interested in a support group for the families of children with special needs can join [ARISE](#).

Please visit [Parents](#) on our district website to see the various parent groups.

[Back to top](#)

## ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

### **What time should students arrive at school?**

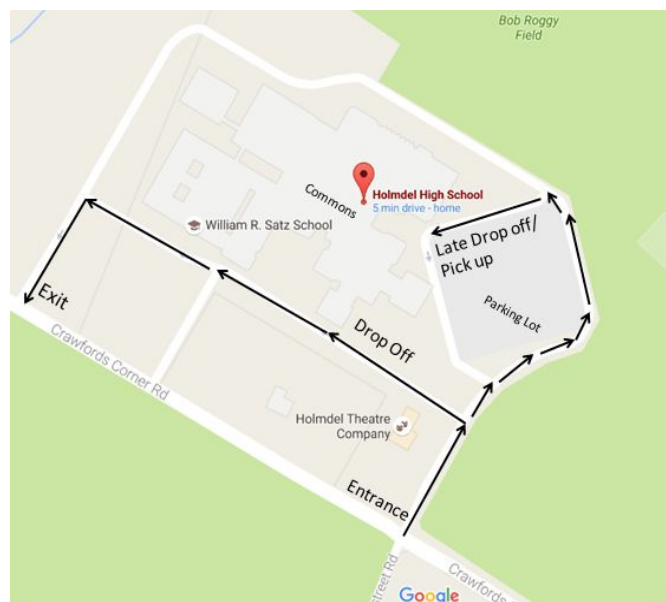
Students taking buses to school typically arrive between 7:00 am and 7:10 am. Food service is available in the Commons starting at 7:00 am. First block begins promptly at 7:21 A.M.

### **Where can I get bus information?**

The bus information will be available through the [Powerschool Parent Portal](#) only. Click the *Transportation Info* icon on the left side menu of the Parent Portal to find your student's bus information. For more questions, please contact the *Transportation Department at 732-946-1847* or visit the [Transportation Department](#).

### **What is the drop-off and pick-up policy?**

Parents making early morning student drop-offs will enter the High School Complex at the Crawfords Corner Road/Longstreet Road traffic light, make a left turn, and drop off outside the Complex Auditorium in the front of the high school (flagpole entrance). Parents will proceed to exit via Satz School.



On days when the students have a Study Hall during Block 1 (7:21 am - 8:16 am), students may come in late without penalty. Parents making late student drop-offs will enter at the Crawfords Corner Road/Longstreet Road traffic light, enter the parking lot, and drop off students at the parking lot entrance to the High School Commons (Door 1 - by the Fitness Center).

Parents making pick-ups after dismissal will wait along the curb line of the Commons entrance for their students. For early dismissal, parents are required to come into the

front office to sign their students out. All early dismissals require a note from parents to be submitted prior to the beginning of Block 1 on the early dismissal day.

*Please note that only properly registered student drivers are permitted to leave early if they have a Study Hall during Block 6 (1:15 pm - 2:10 pm).*

### **What if my student is absent?**

If your student is absent, you are expected to call *Holmdel High School* at 732-946-1832 in the morning and respond to the prompts on the message. If you do not make the call, the school will call you later to notify you that your child is absent. When you send your student back to school, you are expected to send in a note explaining about the absence.

### **What if my student is late to school?**

**Between 7:21 am and 7:25 am**– the student should report directly to his/her Block 1 class.

**After 7:25 am**– the student should report directly to the Main Office for a pass to class.

A student who is tardy five or more times in a semester will be subject to disciplinary action. Please consult *page 65* in the [Student/Parent Handbook](#) for details regarding the school's attendance policy.

### **What should we know about attendance policy and absences?**

The school uses a point system for each class per school year. Students who exceed published point thresholds may be subject to a loss of credit of the class. The attendance policy and absence procedures can be found on *pages 61-64* of the [Student/Parent Handbook](#)

### **What if my student forgets something and asks me to bring it to school?**

There will be a table located in the lobby of the building, before you buzz in, where you are to leave anything your student forgets.

[Back to top](#)

## **ROTATING SCHEDULE**

### **How many classes will my student have each day?**

Holmdel High School runs on a rotating schedule. Daily academic periods, or “blocks”, are 55 minutes, and science labs are embedded in the 55-minute unit lunch. Each day 6 blocks are scheduled, so students have 6 classes per day.



## When will students get their schedules?

Student schedules are available to view online through [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) in late August.

## How do students read their schedules?

Freshmen and New Students will receive a printed copy of schedules at the Orientation the week before school begins. All other schedules will be on the Parent Portal. The schedule includes the scheduled classes for both 1st and 2nd semesters; it includes the name of the class, the teacher, and the location - please disregard the column entitled "Section" - it means nothing to the student. Both the paper copy and the Portal provide an 8-period class schedule. Students can convert the 8-period class schedule to the 6-block rotating schedule as follows:

### Rotating Schedule

Block	Time	Day A	Day B	Day C	Day D
1	7:21-8:16	Period 1 class	Period 4 class	Period 3 class	Period 2 class
2	8:20-9:15	Period 2 class	Period 1 class	Period 4 class	Period 3 class
3	9:19-10:14	Period 3 class	Period 2 class	Period 1 class	Period 4 class
Lunch	10:18-11:13	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
4	11:17-12:12	Period 5 class	Period 8 class	Period 7 class	Period 6 class
5	12:16-1:11	Period 6 class	Period 5 class	Period 8 class	Period 7 class
6	1:15-2:10	Period 7 class	Period 6 class	Period 5 class	Period 8 class

## How do students convert an 8-period class schedule to a 6-block rotating schedule?

Students may create their block schedules manually using the table above or by using Excel or Javascript. Alternatively, they may click the link below

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cFwTiKexr9SH8jlQWftQxzFH9Fflki2QHYUebcpop\\_c/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cFwTiKexr9SH8jlQWftQxzFH9Fflki2QHYUebcpop_c/edit?usp=sharing) and select **make a copy** of the view-only file and it will load on Google Drive (go to "File" on top of the page and select "Make a copy").

After students enter their class names and room numbers in Column B, individual block schedules will be automatically generated.

## How do students remember if it is A B C D Day?

The alphabet letter of the Rotation is posted on the front door of the high school every day.

For parents to keep track of which day is which, the days are stated on the [High School General Calendar](#) on the high school website.

## What happens to the daily schedule during delayed opening days or early dismissal days?

### Bell Schedules

Block	“Full Day”	Duration	Block	“Shortened Day” NO LUNCH SERVED	Duration	Block	“Delayed Opening”	Duration
1	7:21-8:16	55	1	7:21-8:00	39	1	9:21-10:00	39
2	8:20-9:15	55	2	8:04-8:43	39	2	10:04-10:43	39
3	9:19-10:14	55	3	8:47-9:26	39	3	10:47-11:26	39
Unit Lunch	10:18-11:13	55	Break	9:26-9:46	20	Unit Lunch	11:26-12:05	39
4	11:17-12:12	55	4	9:46-10:25	39	4	12:05-12:44	39
5	12:16-1:11	55	5	10:29-11:08	39	5	12:48-1:27	39
6	1:15-2:10	55	6	11:12-11:51	39	6	1:31-2:10	39

When there is a delayed opening, students will follow the scheduled Rotation Day classes. The Unit Lunch will be 39 minutes long and science labs will meet during the Unit Lunch for a shorter time period.

During the early dismissal schedule, students will still follow the scheduled Rotation Day. Classes will be 39 minutes long, but there will be no Unit Lunch or Science Lab. There will be a 20 minute break between blocks 3 and 4. Though there will be no lunch period, Chartwells will be open with food service for students to eat during their study hall time.

If school is closed due to inclement weather, students will resume the schedule where they left off. For example, if Tuesday is scheduled for a “B Day” and school is closed due to inclement weather, Wednesday would then become a “B Day.”

[Back to top](#)

## LOCKERS

### **How do students get locks for their lockers?**

The locks the students purchased at the Satz School may be used at the high school. For students who do not have a lock from Satz, locks are available for purchase in the Main Office for \$5 each.

*NOTE: only school-issued locks may be used on school lockers; personal locks will be cut off!*

### **Where do students keep their “stuff” during PE?**

The locker rooms have plenty of lockers where students can lock up valuables, clothes, etc, but students must provide their own locks, and take their things with them when they leave. Students should be reminded to NEVER leave valuables unattended!

## STUDENT/ PARENT HANDBOOK AND PLANNER

### **How do students obtain a student/parent handbook and planner?**

The [High School Student/Parent Handbook](#) can be viewed on the High School page of the District website and is emailed to all student accounts before school starts. Student planners are on sale for \$5 in the Main Office.

[Back to top](#)

## LUNCH

### **Where do students eat lunch?**

The Unit Lunch period is held in the Commons, Lower Commons, The Hive, and gym areas; during warm weather days, students may take their lunches outside to our patio area.

*At a teacher’s discretion, students may take their lunches to the classrooms during Extra Help. No student will be permitted to go “off-campus” for Unit Lunch or to congregate in the student parking lot.*

### **Where do students purchase food during the Unit Lunch?**

Students can either go through the regular lines in the High School Commons, purchase lunch from the Satz cafeteria or visit “The Hive.”

Chartwells, the food service provider, will provide the same menus in both cafeteria areas, and offer a cafe menu at “The Hive.”

Students will be able to pre-order sandwiches online and pick them up at the Commons Outtakes; orders must be placed by 8:00 am each day and students must have a PIN number. To pre-order a sandwich goto [Holmdel Food Service](#). Then click the blue button to get to the Chartwells' sandwich pre-order form:

[Chartwell's Pre-order form](#)

### **Can we find out what meals will be served online?**

Yes, Chartwells has updated their website, which includes interactive menus and links to download an app for My Payment Plus to your phone or tablet. To access the the lunch menu, go to [Holmdel Food Service Department](#)

### **How do students pay for their food?**

Students may either bring cash or get an account with Chartwells. Student meal accounts may be replenished at [My Payment Plus](#), before school starts, but there will be a service fee for online transactions. Instead students can bring checks made out to Holmdel High School and give them to the Chartwells attendant at the lunch line.

### **How much money should a student bring for lunch?**

Our food service provider (Chartwells) has probably already set up an account with your student. For those who plan to pay with cash, you can “survive” on less than \$5 a day.

### **When will Chartwells be open?**

Chartwells' cafeterias will be open from 7:00 am - 12:00 pm.

“The Hive” is open from 7:00 am - 2:00 pm.

The students will always have an opportunity to grab a snack, if they choose, during their study hall periods.

### **How much time do students have for lunch?**

It depends. The duration of the Unit Lunch is 55 minutes (10:18 am-11:13 am).

However, on lab days, students have approximately 25 minutes for lunch.

[Back to top](#)

## **SCIENCE LABS**

### **When will Science Labs meet?**

Science labs take place when science class is during Block 3 or Block 4. When your students have Block 3 science class, they will stay in science class for 30 more minutes, then go to lunch. Students with science labs in Block 4 will go to lunch and then leave lunch after 29 minutes (upon the ringing of a bell) and go to science class

early. The Block 3 science class with lab meets from 9:19 am to 10:44 am while the Block 4 science class with lab meets from 10:47 am to 12:12 pm (85 minutes).

### **Will there be Science Labs during delayed opening days or early closing days?**

There will be labs during delayed opening day and no labs during early closing days.

[Back to top](#)

## **EXTRA HELP**

### **When is Extra Help offered?**

Extra Help is the contracted time teachers are expected to meet with students to offer help in the subject matter. Teachers will be holding two sessions a week - with at least one of them being held after school. In early October, a master list will be emailed and posted online.

### **Where can I find the Extra Help schedule?**

The 2017-18 Teacher's Extra Help schedule will be posted on the school website in the near future. The schedule will list the teachers in alphabetical order, the room number, and the Rotating Days when the teacher is available for help.

[Extra Help Schedule](#)

### **Will there be Extra Help after school?**

Teachers are required to offer 1 day a week of extra help after school. However, some teachers might be around more, on an optional basis, to assist students as necessary.

### **What if my student is having difficulty keeping up in his classes?**

Your student should be encouraged to speak directly to the teacher and go to extra help. As a parent, the most effective means of communication is through emails. Peer tutoring is available through the National Honor Society. You or your student is encouraged to talk to his guidance counselor.

[Back to top](#)

## **GUIDANCE COUNSELORS**

### **What does a guidance counselor do?**

Guidance counselors help students plan their high school schedules, offer study advice, find summer programs, help students search for colleges, fill out applications, find scholarships, handle transcript requests, and write letters of recommendations, etc. Counselors are also advocates for students' emotional and mental health. Parents are encouraged to go to the [Guidance Department page](#) on the school website to learn

more about our high school's counseling staff and services and to explore a wealth of resources on various topics.

### **Who is my student's counselor?**

Students are assigned to counselors according to their last names. The counselors will stay with their students for their entire high school career. You can also find your student's assigned counselor on [PowerSchool](#) under "*Demographic Information*".

### **Can I contact my student's guidance counselor?**

Yes. You can find the email address of your student's assigned counselor by clicking on the counselor's name on the [Guidance Department Page](#) and send him/her an email or call 732-946-1839 to make an appointment.

[Back to top](#)

## **STUDY HALL**

### **What can students do during the Study Hall periods?**

Students with a Study Hall on their schedules will report to the Commons. They will report to a Security Monitor in the center of the commons for attendance, and then may sit in either the Upper or Lower Commons. Students may purchase food, use the library, visit Guidance, finish homework, study for an upcoming test, or simply relax and forget the stress of the classes.

## **HOMEWORK**

### **How much homework should students expect?**

This will vary depending on the schedule the students are taking; plan on some form of homework most nights, averaging somewhere between 75-150 minutes. Please note that the amount of homework in high school, especially the honors classes such as Honors Biology or Honors Geometry, will be more than any course the students experienced in middle school. So, it is important for the students to develop a diligent study habit, do all the homework, go to extra help, and manage their time efficiently.

## **SPORTS**

### **How do students try out for a sports team?**

Coaches for Fall sports meet with students in June. In September students may stop by the Athletic Office to determine availability of positions in sports. Sign-ups and tryouts for Winter and Spring sports will be announced at the school. Pay attention to the Daily Announcements.

## **What time do sports practices start?**

Sports practices begin at 2:45 pm.

## **When do Fall sports practices begin?**

Fall sports practices usually start the second week of August. Coaches REALLY want to see your students there. So, plan your end-of-summer vacations accordingly.

## **Can student-athletes go on winter and/or spring vacation during a season?**

Better not. Student-athletes should plan on being at every practice and every game. Winter and spring sports (especially varsity) athletes should be aware that practices/games may be scheduled during vacation periods and parents should not plan vacation during this time. Going on vacation during the breaks may adversely affect the athlete's playing time.

## **If my student is a member of Symphonic band and/or Jazz band, is he/she required to perform at football games?**

Yes. Participation in pep band at Holmdel High School football games (usually Friday nights, and sometimes Saturday afternoons during the fall) is mandatory for Symphonic Band and Jazz Band students.

## **What is the Powder Puff Football Game?**

The Powder Puff Football game is a fun, annual tradition at Holmdel High School in which the senior girls take on the junior girls in a competitive game of flag football, and the junior and senior boys serve as cheerleading squads and perform at the halftime show. The annual game typically takes place two days before Thanksgiving at the Roggy Field. A bonfire follows the game.

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR**

### **How do students get involved with clubs and activities?**

An "Activity Fair" is held each year in late September where students will be able to get information about various clubs and activities; students can sign up at that time. Additionally, information about all upcoming meetings, etc. may be found in the [High School Daily Announcements](#) on the High School website. Parents are encouraged to check the website regularly. Students may join clubs at any time!!

### **How do I find out what clubs and activities are offered?**

A list of clubs and activities along with their advisors can be found on the High School website. Please see picture below. If you select "[Clubs & Activities](#)" from the

*High School Information* box on the high school website, a 2-page list of all clubs and activities offered will appear.

### **When do clubs and activities meet?**

Clubs and activities take place after school at 2:15 P.M.

[Back to top](#)

## **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE**

### **When and where are parent-teacher conferences held?**

Conferences are usually held in December. All conferences are held in the commons or in the immediate vicinity, so parents may schedule back-to-back conferences.

### **How do I sign up for parent-teacher conferences?**

Parents can sign up for whatever conference slots are available using an online scheduling service. Each time slot is brief, usually lasting no more than 10 minutes, and will be available on a first come, first served basis. Detailed instructions on how to sign up for a conference are typically sent out in November.

### **What if I do not get a conference time slot for a teacher?**

There are only a limited number of time slots available over the course of a couple conference days, so inevitably, some parents may find themselves getting “shut out” of a conference slot. Parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers directly throughout the year to discuss your student’s progress.

[Back to top](#)

## **EXAMS**

### **Are there midterms and final exams?**

Holmdel High School does not have midterm exams. The final exams take place during the last week of the school year. Students have two exams scheduled each day, with a break in between. The school operates an “open campus” during the exam week, meaning students only need to be present for their exams. Final exams are mandatory for all freshmen and sophomores: however, juniors and seniors do not need to take a final exam in those full-year subjects for which they already have an “A” for the year.

Final exam exemptions are also offered to those students (all grades) who take the AP exam in May and have at least a “B” overall average going into the final exam.

*Note: There are no final exams for Health and PE classes or semester-length classes.*

### **How much weight is given to the final exam grade?**



The final exam will count for 10% of the student's final grade.

### **What is an "Open Campus"?**

An "Open Campus" is one where the students are free to come and go during the day. Holmdel High School has an Open Campus policy for final exams, which means that students are free to come in late or leave early, depending on their test schedules.

Final exams typically run over the course of four days.

[Back to top](#)

## **STANDARDIZED TESTS**

### **What standardized tests do high school students take?**

There are a number of standardized tests high school students might take. Some are required and others are optional. A list of the tests and their acronyms are provided below:

- [Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers \(PARCC\)](#)
- [The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test \(PSAT/NMSQT\)](#)
- [Scholastic Aptitude Test \(SAT\)](#)
- [American College Testing \(ACT\)](#)
- [Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#)

PARCC tests are required for New Jersey high school students in Grades 9-11. They are scheduled for April 25 - 26 - 27, 2018.

SAT and ACT are important standardized tests that are traditionally required for college applicants. At Holmdel High school, AP exams are not required for students to earn credits for their AP classes, however, taking AP exams is strongly encouraged.

*Note: To receive a New Jersey State endorsed diploma from Holmdel High School, each student must earn a minimum of 120 credits and meet the minimum standard of required testing (This will include either a passing score of the PARCC assessment, or some other state-approved equivalent such as SAT.)*

### **Who should take the PSAT?**

PSAT is a standardized test administered by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). It is a test that helps students practice for the SAT. Juniors who take the PSAT automatically are entered into a competition for

prestigious scholarships, but sophomores who take PSAT are not eligible for the scholarship competition program. Almost all juniors take the test and many sophomores take it just to get the feel of the test. At Holmdel High School, the PSAT will be administered to all Sophomores and Juniors during the morning Blocks of October 11, 2017 at no cost to the students.

More information about the PSAT can be found at: [College Board](#)

### **What are the SAT and ACT?**

SAT is a scholastic aptitude test that colleges use to measure the student's knowledge of reading, writing, and math. SAT, also called SAT I, is used as an admission requirement by many colleges and universities.

ACT is an achievement test that measures students' knowledge in English, math, reading and sciences. It is also a popular admission test used by many colleges and universities.

Most colleges accept either SAT or ACT, so visit: [Holmdel Guidance Counseling Services](#) to learn more about the two tests and about how to determine which test is best for you.

### **When should my student take the college admissions tests?**

It depends on each individual and the programs the students are interested in applying. But generally speaking, many students take either SAT or ACT during their junior years and/or the beginning of their senior years.

### **What are the SAT Subject Tests?**

SAT Subject Tests are hour-long, content-based tests that measure the students' knowledge in specific subject areas. SAT Subject Tests, also called SAT II tests, may or may not be required, depending on the colleges and universities to which the students are interested in applying. Moreover, some colleges specify which subject tests to take, but others allow the students to choose to take the tests that can best showcase their achievements and interests. More information about SAT Subject Tests can be found here: [College Board](#)

### **When should my student take SAT Subject Tests?**

When to take the SAT Subject Tests is a personal decision, but in general, it is a good idea to take SAT II at the end of the corresponding Honors or AP level course when the materials are still fresh in the student's mind.

For example, some freshmen who want to take SAT II Biology take it at the end of the freshmen year, but others take it in the fall of the sophomore year, and yet others wait to take the AP Biology before taking SAT II Biology.

*Note that students who want to take subject tests should expect to prepare for the SAT II tests on his or her own as classroom teachers will be busy covering the materials that are required in the curriculum.*

[Back to top](#)

## LEAVING SCHOOL

### **How does my student use the “late” bus?**

Students who go to a club meeting or who stay after to meet with a teacher may take the 2:50 SATZ bus. A pass from the advisor or teacher is required. Students who stay even later for clubs and activities may take the 4:15 bus. No pass is required.

*Note: this is the last bus of the day*

### *Conclusion:*

*As the year progresses and new questions arise, we hope you will contact the authors at [holmdelhighschool.ptso@gmail.com](mailto:holmdelhighschool.ptso@gmail.com). As a living document we expect to be making regular changes as information becomes available. Please do not hesitate to contact us.*

Sincerely,

Jen Lee

Karen Strickland

Melissa Mohr

Elena Kuleshov

Updated on 8/30/17 - Jen Lee/Melissa Mohr