

Passing on High School Wisdom: Advice for incoming 9th graders (August 2023)

(Given by the Hauppauge teens that have “been there, done that” - Compiled by the Hauppauge Public Library)

Something you should ALWAYS do in high school is...

- Participate in many after school activities.
- Make sure you keep track of all your work by class specifically. What worked for me was writing my individual classes and then underneath it to jot down all the work I had coming up for it.
- Be to classes on time. Try to maintain perfect attendance.
- Be organized. You will receive packets and review sheet from every class. It will be optimal to keep your stuff organized, as you don't want to get caught missing important papers.
- Be on time to class and be respectful to others.
- Get involved in everything they have to offer and explore different opportunities.
- Stay true to yourself and love yourself.
- In high school you should always dress conformable so you can focus more on your education then on what your wearing.
- Go to an orientation to find out where your classes are so you won't get lost in the hallway. Asking any upperclassmen where your classes are can be helpful as well. Teachers will be lenient of lateness on the first few days, especially freshman so don't worry too much about making it on time.

Something you should NEVER do in high school is...

- Hang out around the wrong crowd of people.
- Procrastinate on your assignments. Late work is a lot less forgiven than it was in middle school.
- Change who you are for other people.
- Go to school without a ID card. You need your ID cards when entering the building in the morning, If you don't have it you will get detention.
- Skip class and not listen to the teachers in the building.
- Carry all your books around and don't get involved in any drama.
- Poor time management. Always make time for yourself, but also make sure you make enough time for your school work.
- In high school never disrespect your teachers because if you're on their good side it will come in handy when you are your teacher's favorite student.
- You should never cheat on a test. The teachers are much more efficient at cracking down on people using phones or talking during tests. If you are caught cheating you won't be given a second chance, and you will get an automatic 0 on the test.

The best part of 9th grade for me was...

- Change of atmosphere / more independence.

- Joining different clubs and seeing what I liked such as stage crew.
- Change of atmosphere.
- Hanging out with friends after school, and learning my ways around the school.
- Spending time with friends and making new ones.
- Getting involved in clubs and extracurricular activities.
- Making so many memories with my friends.
- The best part of 9th grade for me was meeting new friends in different classes and getting to be in lunch with different grades.
- That I did sports that I liked, with kids that I liked. Joining a club or a team will give you a bond with kids before school even starts. It also gives you something to look forward to.

Something you can look forward to...

- Meeting new people.
- The school lunch because compared to middle school it is a solid step in the right direction.
- Different types of clubs and sports.
- You can look forward to an amazing and engaging year. You will be able to meet new people and make new friends.
- Meeting new teachers and new classes that you wouldn't experience in the middle school.
- The more they offer, such as honor society and college tours.
- Having a great time with friends!
- Something you can look forward to is getting involved in a school sport team or getting involved in different clubs.
- A sport or club that you enjoy at the end of the day. It makes every day easier to handle to know that you will be able to hang out with friends at the end of each day.

Something you should be prepared for...

- The amount of work teachers give.
- You should be prepared to make the most of your time in high school because although it may not seem like it, it flies by fast.
- Amount of work assigned.
- End of 9th grade will be hectic. There will be a lot of events happening in April, May and June. There will be a lot of tests crammed together. It would be wise to create reminders for yourself because you can get lost with all the testing going on.
- The hard work and assignments that you have to complete.
- Study hard and keep focused, AP classes are challenging.
- Your teachers being more relaxed. Basically, in high school teachers start to prepare you for college and so when they assign work they won't remind you constantly that something is due and so you are kind of responsible if you miss anything.
- Something you should prepare for in school is the amount of work you will have in the last 2 quarters of school. Definitely try not to procrastinate like me.

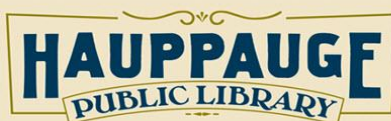
- Is the rigor of the classes compared to middle school. When compared to Middle School, High school presents much more of an academic challenge for students, especially if you take AP/Honor classes.

Something I wish I had known on my first day of 9th grade...

- Where my classes were located in the building.
- That if the workload becomes too overwhelming you can always talk with your teachers as many in the school would love to work with you.
- How to use my locker.
- I wish I had memorized all the events that transpired on my first day of school because it went by so quick.
- That there is much more work than in middle school and that assignments should not be skipped.
- My way around the building more.
- That the workload was going to get a lot heavier.
- Something I wish I had known the first day of 9th grade is it's boring filling out a whole bunch of "get to know you" sheets and class room rules. I wasn't expecting the first day to be pretty boring but it gets better once you get in the flow of things.
- That the teachers are trying to help you. No teacher wants you to not succeed even if it may seem like it. Always reach out to a teacher if you are struggling to grasp a certain concept or lesson.

Something I would change about my first year of high school...

- Covid-19
- Having to go online for Covid-19 for the last half of my year. I would've liked to stay in the building for my whole year.
- Choosing better classes.
- I remember I was overly anxious and nervous about my first day, but it went by so quick. All teachers are nice and you will blend in as the year goes on.
- Was to join more clubs and tryout new sports that seemed fun to me.
- I don't think I would change anything as everything is a learning experience.
- I wish I had been more open to change because the transition from middle school to high school is really big.
- Something I would change about my first year of high school is try not to be so shy and talk to people I wouldn't of talked to because they are all in the same boat.
- I wish that I was more focused on my social life and less focused on my academic life. While academics is important, it is just as important to develop friendships and bonds with the people that you go to school with. It's important to find a good balance between the two to maximize success.



The Heart of Hauppauge
 1373 Veterans Memorial Highway
 Hauppauge, NY 11788
 (631) 979-1600