

Frequently Asked Questions—A guide for freshmen (and parents)

What do I do if my locker doesn't work?

Tell your homeroom teacher if there is a problem with your locker and he/she will submit a “pink slip” to the Guidance Office. Maintenance staff will address all locker issues in the order of which they are received. Speak with your Guidance Counselor if your locker continues to be a problem.

Can I change my locker location?

No, you cannot change your locker location. Unless you have a medical condition, or other significant reason for needing a different locker, we do not accommodate locker change requests. Your locker is located near your homeroom during your freshman year, and you will be re-assigned a locker closer to your vocational/technical placement as a sophomore.

Am I required to swim?

Yes, you are required to participate in swim class for Physical Education. Unless you have a medical and/or psychological condition that prevents you from being able to swim, you are required to get into the pool. You may request that you stay in the shallow end and you may wear a “cover-up” over your bathing suit if it makes you feel more comfortable. If you forget your swimsuit or cannot swim for personal reasons, stay after school to make-up class in the fitness center.

Should I expect to have shop week homework?

Yes, you will be expected to complete academic homework during shop week. The amount of homework varies for each teacher, but you should expect to have homework during shop week. Please refer to the class management plans for additional information, regarding homework policies.

What happens if I don't get the shop I want?

Unfortunately, we do have a small percentage of students who do not get placed into one of his/her top three choices. However small the percentage, we realize that doesn't matter to the student and we will work with you to find a vocational/technical program that is an appropriate match, and if we cannot accommodate your interests we will discuss other options at that time.

Can I make changes to my Exploratory Schedule?

The easy answer is no, however, we review this on an individual basis. You are welcome to make requests, but we cannot guarantee that every request will be granted due to shop capacity restrictions.

Can I re-explore a shop?

No, you may not re-explore a shop. Unless there is a validated medical issue, or other extenuating circumstance that constitutes an emergency, we do not allow students to re-explore shop cycles. For this reason, it is very important that you do your very best in every cycle. You will not be allowed to re-explore any vocational/technical program to improve a grade.

Why do I need to do well in the shops that don't interest me?

Every grade matters. For example, many of the programs draw a large interest, but have a small capacity, therefore it is impossible for every student to get his/her first choice. The students who get the highest grades earn the seats; however, due to the competitive nature of the exploratory program even a perfect score of 100 does not guarantee placement into a number one shop choice.

As difficult as it is to not get placed into a program, we understand it is even more disappointing to not get into your first choice after receiving a perfect score. For this reason, **we cannot and do not guarantee placement into any program, regardless of grade.** If there are 25 seats and 30 perfect scores, we refer to our tie-breaker process thus requiring us to review all exploratory grades. An average of all exploratory grades gets calculated and the highest overall average “wins” the tie-breaker placement seat, therefore, it is critical to perform your best in every shop, regardless of interest.

How do I get involved with athletics or extra-curricular activities?

Feel free to speak with your Guidance Counselor about getting involved. In addition, pay attention to the daily electronic announcements posted in the cafeteria and be observant of the bulletin boards throughout the building. Also, listen to the morning and afternoon announcements via the intercom system.

What do I do if I feel bullied?

We have a zero tolerance policy for bullying. If you experience any form of bullying notify the Dean and/or your Guidance Counselor, immediately.

What do I do if I am absent?

Attendance is taken very seriously at Shawsheen. If you miss school for an extended time your Guidance Counselor will help you collect your assignments. We encourage you to call your Guidance Counselor to request that your work be sent home. Please provide documentation to validate your absences.

If you have questions/concerns about the attendance policy, please contact Mrs. Tate at 978-671-3634.