

Freshman Seminar is a new class added at Shaker High School in the 2024-25 school year to help all incoming freshmen with their transition from middle school. It is intended to help students not only navigate a very large building that is new to them, but also to help them connect with teachers and counselors, discover clubs and sports and build friendships with one another. For these reasons, we thought a video to introduce the course would be beneficial, not only to incoming freshmen, but to their parents as well as any other underclassmen who will eventually make their way to the high school. This video interviews the two teachers of the course (Mrs. Hope Dils and Mrs. Kim Murray) about what the course offers, how it can help students and why they decided to transition from their careers as English teachers to help launch the class this year. We also included interviews with students who speak about the benefits of taking the course as newcomers to the high school. In addition to students and parents, we are hopeful that this video reaches residents of the district to see some of the new programs in the district. This video was primarily used in the High School Course Catalog, which last year transitioned from a physical program into digital form on our website. Instead of just making the course description available on the internet, we wanted to also give students a visual look inside the class and allow them to hear from real people about their experiences in taking it. Nowadays, the attention span of the younger generation is shorter and we know that a visual medium is a much more effective way to capture their attention. Despite being four minutes in length, the goal was to keep soundbites brief and keep the video moving at a quicker pace so as not to lose the interest of our audience. While the video is very much intended to be informational, it also evokes some emotions with how the interviews are strung together and with the addition of music to accompany the mood of the video. This video was shown at "8th Grade Parent Night," when eighth graders and their families come to the high school to learn about the classes they will take as ninth graders. It was also included in our quarterly district newsletter which goes out to all residents in the district and posted to our district YouTube channel. Moving forward, we plan for this video to serve as a tool for our eighth grade teachers and counselors to show their students who are getting ready to head to the high school. We also hope it brings some comfort and familiarity to students who may be a little nervous about their transition to high school and to let

them know that they will be supported along the way.