First Semester Overview
Freshman Focus

**September**
Overview of course
High school (Building and Staff) orientation
   *Scavenger hunt, Freshman focus fun facts
Welcome to HHS resource services
   *Meet resource teachers, learning lab procedures, assistive technology lab, homework lab day/board, progress reports, supportive teachers
Introduction to extracurricular activities
   *Student representatives panel, club overview from The Longboat, ongoing assignment
IEP preview/discussion
Team building/Get-to-know-you activities
   *Get-to-know you bag, character biopoems
Discussion of hopes and dreams
   *Box project, October Sky, The Story of Krissann
Test-taking strategies
Confidential student profile forms
   *Teacher meetings
Fish Philosophy Video
   *Small fish again article
Mentor journal
Hooray for You
Differences between middle school and high school

**October**
Success stories project-famous people who have overcome obstacles and found success
   *www.schwablearning.com, Women Scientists With Disabilities Video
Active Listening/Participant strategies
Mid-term individual meetings
   *GPA goal/objectives, GPA mountain
Introduce self-determination/self-advocacy
   *Rudy, definition of self-determination (Knowing yourself well enough so you can ask for what you need to get what you want), take pretest
LD self-advocacy manual (www.ldinfo.com)
   *Becoming an expert project
I Knew You Could, Salt in His Shoes
Asset building packet
End of first term  
  *self-evaluations  
Freshman Focus graduates panel  
  *Quotes

**November**  
Career/Vocational assessments  
  *Complete packets, schedule assessments  
Career interview project  
IISD Career Center overview  
IEP discussion  
  *Review paperwork, discuss student involvement to this point  
Strengths/weaknesses exploration  
Teacher feedback forms  
School success checklists  
I’m Gonna Like Me  
Organizational Strategies

**December**  
Introduce student-led IEP concept  
  *Five whys  
Begin student-led IEP PowerPoint presentations  
**It’s Okay to be Different**  
**Patch Adams**  
Reading Strategies

**January**  
Through Our Eyes video (HHS-student made)  
Complete student-led IEP PowerPoint presentations  
Complete IEP paperwork  
  *PLEP examples  
Schedule IEP’s  
Send out teacher feedback emails  
End of first semester discussion  
  *Transcript discussion, GPA mountain review, new goal/objectives  
**Giraffes Can’t Dance**  
Final exam project  
  *CD cover  
General education final exam expectation sheets  
Acknowledging myself activity  
  *Graduation Day speech