

## **Graduation Requirements**

Students must satisfactorily complete four years beyond grade 8. This requirement may be waived only in certain circumstances, usually for students who are early admission into an approved college, vocational, technical, or other postsecondary program. Guidance from counselors is critical and should begin far in advance of expected graduation.

## **Maryland Diploma Requirements**

Students must pass high school assessments (HSA) in the following areas or earn a combined score of 1602

Algebra 1  
English 10  
Biology  
National, State, and Local Government

Must complete 22 credit hours

Must complete Student Service Learning hours (75 minimum)

## **Criteria for Enrollment in Honors & Advanced Placement Courses**

- 1. Mastery of course prerequisites (Grade of A,B, or C)
- 2. Parent/Guardian recommendations
- 3. Standardized test scores, as appropriate
- 4. Willingness to complete challenging assignments
- 5. Student interest or motivation
- 6. Teacher/Counselor recommendations
- 7. Work sample portfolios

## **Credit Requirements**

Students must earn a minimum of 22 credits in grades 9-12. At least 4 of these credits must be earned after completion of grade 11 unless a pre-approved MCPS alternative is satisfied.

## **Course Credit Requirements**

4-English

4-Math (including Algebra and Geometry)

3-Science (including Biology and Physical Science)

3-Social Studies (US History, National State and Local Government, and World History)

1-Fine Arts

1-Physical Education

1-Technology Education

.5-Health Education

2-Foreign Language OR  
2-Advanced Tech Ed OR  
3-9 Career Development Program

### **Attendance**

Attendance is VERY important in HS. Attendance is directly related to credits which are directly related to your HS diploma. 3 unexcused absences in one class...you receive an LC or loss of credit (this goes on your transcript and you fail the class), 5 tardies= 1 unexcused absence.

### **4-Year High School Plan**

Electives: You will have many to choose from. Choose something that is interesting to YOU. As you look at your 4-year plan, do not be persuaded by your friends (you don't have to do what your friends are doing, you don't have to do what your siblings did).

### **PE/Health**

2 Semesters of PE

1 Semester of Health

Strong recommendation: Take PE in 9th grade, take Health in 10th grade

### **English**

You have the choice of on Grade Level OR Honors, you must take 4 years of English. You may take AP in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **History**

You must take at least 3 years of History (which includes US History, NSL Government and Modern World History). You have the choice of On Grade Level OR Honors. You can take an AP history course in 10th grade: this is the first opportunity you will have to take an AP course (unless you are in APEX)

### **Mathematics**

You must take 4 year of Math. If you are taking Pre-Algebra in 8th grade, you will take Algebra 1 in 9th grade. If you are taking Algebra 1 in 8th grade, you will take Honors Geometry in 9th grade. If you are taking Honors Geometry in 8th grade, you will take Algebra 2 with Analysis in 9th grade.

### **Science**

You need 3 years of Science. We encourage 4 Science classes if you are college bound. One course must be Biology, one course must be a physical science, and the other course

is an elective. If you are going to take Honors Geometry in 9th grade, you will most likely go into Honors Biology in 9th grade.

### **Foreign Language**

You must take 2 years of a foreign language in HS. However, most colleges want to see 4 years. If you are taking Spanish 1B or French 1B this year, you will go into Spanish 2AB or French 2AB next year. If you are taking Spanish or French 2AB this year, you will take 3AB or honors 3AB next year. Many feel that level 3 is the hardest level of a language. Native Spanish and French speakers may take classes offered for native speakers in HS, if this applies to you, please contact WJ in the spring about the placement test.

Please contact Ms. Lynn Jarosi or Mrs. Cindy Drucker for any questions. Please visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/coursebulletin/> to access the 4 year plan worksheet online.