

9th Grade Orientation Highlights

CREDITS

- ✓ This is a different situation from anything you have known so far and very important!!
- ✓ Everything counts and is documented. You have certain classes and a total number of credits required. If you don't pass all of the required courses and get the required numbers of credits, you do not graduate!

Graduation Requirements

- Four years of English
- Four years of Math (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and Senior Math)
- Three years of Science (Biology, 10th Science, & Chemistry or Physics)
- Three years of Social Studies (US History, World History, Economics/Government)
- Two years of a World Language (same language)
- One year PE/Health
- One year Performing, Applied or Visual Arts (Arts, Music, Technology, Industrial Arts)
- One On-line Learning Experience

You will need 22 credits to graduate.....18 required and 4 electives.

9th grade – 6 credits
10 grade – 6 credits
11th grade – 6 credits
12th grade – 6 credits
Total 24 credits

PLANNING AHEAD

- ✓ 9th and 10th Grade – National Honor Society, Honor's Diploma, Career Exploration, Scholarships
- ✓ 11th Grade – ACT tests, explore college options, Heartland's in Ionia, meeting graduation requirements
- ✓ 12th Grade – apply to college in fall

National Honor Society

- GPA of 3.3 in Sophomore/Junior year
- Complete criteria of service, character and leadership
- Faculty Council makes final decision on candidates

Honor's Diploma: stamped on Diploma

- GPA of 3.4
- Must take Chemistry, Physics, Advanced English or AP, and Pre-Calculus

Advanced Placement Classes:

- ❖ English Literature and English Language,
- ❖ US History and World History
- ❖ Statistics in fall of 2015

Dual Enroll classes:

- ❖ Courses offered through community colleges for high school and college credit.

Online Classes - See Mr. Terpstra if you are interested in online classes.

- ❖ Michigan Virtual High School
- ❖ Edgenuity (e2020)

Grading Policy

- Based 80% on SUMMATIVE Assessments and Projects
- 20% Based on Homework/Classwork

Student responsibility

- Collected, graded and documented in gradebook
- Practice (and feedback) for assessments
- Completion required to re-take any assessments

Retakes allowed on all Assessments – must meet with teacher prior to a retake, complete all homework assigned prior to the assessment and any additional requirements (teacher discretion)

- ✓ Retakes can be taken up until the last 2 weeks of each semester

Attendance Policy

Students must be in attendance 89% of scheduled class time to receive credit.

- ✓ Excused absences – written or phone verification from a parent/guardian within 24 hours following students return. Students have 1 day to complete make-up work upon return.
- ✓ Unexcused absences – cannot be excused after the 24 hour rule. May appeal after exceeding allotted time for absences.

Career and College Exploration

- Call people in your area of interest
- Visit Colleges to see what is offered
- Set up appointments with specific teachers at the colleges
- Use Career Cruising to:
- Look at other careers – use “related careers”
- Look at colleges in your field

Other Tidbits:

- Too many 9th graders don't get serious right away.
- They dig a very deep hole
- Close to 50% of our failures are 9th graders
- Many negative results
- The sad part is the vast majority has the ability, they just don't do the work
- It's a choice that they make
- Every semester counts

TARDY POLICY

A tardy is defined as the student failing to be in the classroom prior to the bell ringing. If a student arrives late to class with a note from the office or another staff member, this should not be considered a tardy. The following is the consequence of receiving a tardy.

- * 1st tardy – no consequence (one per quarter is allowed)
- * 2nd and 3rd tardy – lunch detention
- * 4th and 5th tardy will result in 1 day in ALR
- * 6th tardy (and beyond) will be considered persistent disobedience and results in 3 days in ALR and a Step

Scheduling for 2014-2015

May 23 – Seniors

May 28 – Juniors

May 30 – Sophomores

June 3 – Freshman

Early June - 7th and 8th Grade

FINAL THOUGHTS

- ❖ Make the MOST of high school, academically and otherwise!
- ❖ Don't lose sight of why you're here.
- ❖ You can work very hard in your classes and still have fun. We see kids do it every day!

Clubs and Activities:

FFA, Robotic Club, Chess Club, Sports, Student Council, PINK Out, Kindness Week, Band, Choir, Drama, attending games, Travel Club, Gaming Club, National Honor Society, Mock Rock