

Policy Type: Ends**Graduation Requirements**

In pursuit of its Mission and for the attainment of the ends policy on academic achievement, the Board has established the following graduation requirements. The required courses at the high school level establish the framework to determine the educational programs to be carried on in the schools of the District PK-12.

Units of Credit Needed

A total of 25 credits, earned during grades nine through twelve are required for graduation. (Some eighth-grade courses count toward high school credit.) A credit is defined as the amount of credit given for the successful completion of a course which meets one period per day, every day for the school year. Successful completion means that the student obtains a passing grade for the course.

Credit from Other Institutions, Home-Based Programs, and Re-entering Students

All students entering from outside the District must meet the District graduation requirements. The principal shall determine whether credit toward graduation requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside the District. Students who are currently enrolled in the District and wish to obtain credit from outside institutions, or through "on-line" programs, must have prior approval from the principal. If a student is concurrently enrolled in the District and taking homeschool coursework, the limit for credit for correspondence courses (two credits) shall apply to the home-based courses.

The District shall accept the transcripts from a home-based educational program. In order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with District requirements and District academic standards, the District shall require submission of the student's work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward graduation is sought.

Any student who has failed to complete the required graduation credits and "dropped-out" of school may re-enter and complete the necessary credits for graduation. The graduation requirements that were in effect when the student entered as a freshman or from outside the District shall be the ones in effect. The student must complete the requirements no later than during the academic year he/she turns 21 years of age.

Class Rankings and Grade Point Averages

Graduating seniors shall be ranked within the graduating class for each high school upon the basis of grade point averages for the four-year program, including the last semester of the senior year.

After a course has been passed, no future grade earned in the same course shall be used in determining class rank or grade point average.

All students with a GPA of 4.0 or above would be co-valedictorians. There would be no salutatorian. The student with the highest GPA would give the valedictory address at graduation. In the event no students have a 4.0 GPA, the highest GPA would qualify as valedictorian.

When transcripts of transfer students show grades such as pass or satisfactory, such grades shall not be counted in determining class rank or grade point average. Students entering from home-based education programs must submit student work or other proof of academic performance for each course for which credit toward class ranking or grade point average is sought. If a student transfers credits from a home-based educational program, a minimum of three semesters of full-time credit (six classes per semester) would need to be completed to determine class ranking or GPA.

Independent Study/Correspondence Courses

Independent study, approved in advance by the principal may be taken for high school credit. Students must submit a request for approval on the school form that includes a summary of the educational objectives to be achieved and monitored by a faculty member. There is a limit of three credits of independent study which can be used toward graduation credit during a student's high school career in at least two academic departments (as identified in curriculum guide). Correspondence courses or "on-line" programs can be taken for credit, with a limit of two credits which would be counted toward graduation. The total for independent study and correspondence courses cannot exceed five credits toward graduation, unless approval is granted by the parent, counselor, and principal.

Student Course Load

The course load for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors shall be a minimum of six credits per school year. Students who wish to take fewer credits in any given school year must obtain advance permission from the principal.

Required Credits

The majority of the courses earn credit at the rate of one-half credit a semester; thus a year-long course, having two semesters, would total one (1) credit.

Completion of MPHS's Exit Plan is the requirement for graduation. This plan includes these five parts:

1. Completion of 25 credits in the following areas:

Language Arts	3.5 credits
Mathematics	3.0 credits
Social Studies	2.5 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Physical Education	2.0 credits
Health	0.5 credits
Computer/Technology	1.0 credits
Required General Electives	2.5 credits

(Credits must be earned in three of the following: Consumer and Family Studies, Art, Music, Foreign Languages, Industrial Technologies, Business, SPORTS MEDICINE)

General Education Electives	<u>7.0 credits</u>
Total Credits	25.0 credits

2. Completion of the Career and Academic Notebook;
3. Completion of 40 hours of Community Involvement during their high school career;
4. Completion of a Community Presentation during their JUNIOR OR Senior year; and
5. Completion of the Senior Action Plan.

Specific course requirements are listed in the Middle Park High School Curriculum Guide.

Early Graduation

The Board believes that most students benefit from four years of high school experience and are encouraged not to graduate early. However, in some cases students need the challenge provided by post secondary education or other opportunities at an earlier age. Therefore, the principal may grant permission to students wishing to graduate early, provided the student has met all District graduation requirements.

A student who becomes eligible to graduate prior to the completion of eight semesters must:

1. Complete and turn in the notification form to the Counseling Office by November 1 of the final semester of their final year.
2. Schedule a meeting with the counselor to discuss the final credit check to determine the needs of the student. The counselor will notify the principal of all requests. Although the principal may approve the request, issuance of the diploma is contingent upon successful completion of the requirements of graduation.

If the graduate intends to participate in the graduation ceremonies, s/he must notify the principal's office prior to leaving and must attend required rehearsals for graduation ceremonies.

Diplomas will not be issued prior to scheduled graduation ceremonies.

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (*home-based education law*)

Adopted: August 20, 2002

Revised: January 6, 2004 and September 20, 2005

Monitoring Method:

Board self-assessment

Monitoring Frequency:

Annually in March