

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Education desires that its standards for graduation meet the minimum standards of the Ohio Department of Education, as well as those of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and that our high school will compare favorably with high schools recognized for excellence in the state.

The minimum requirements for graduation from high school are as follows:

	<u>For 2013 graduates</u>	<u>For 2014 graduates and beyond</u>
English	4 units of credit	4 units of credit
Social Studies	3 units of credit	3 units of credit
Science	3 units of credit	3 units of credit
Mathematics	3 units of credit	4 units of credit
Health	½ unit of credit	½ unit of credit
Physical Education	½ unit of credit	½ unit of credit
Pathways to Your Future	½ unit of credit	½ unit of credit
Electives*	6 ½ units of credit	5 units of credit
Total:	21 units	20 ½ units

For the graduating classes of 2012 and 2013, as determined by the Fairfield City School District, electives must include one unit or two half-units of Business/Technology, Fine Arts, or Foreign Language. Social Studies must include one unit in American Studies, one unit in World Studies, and one unit in American Government. Science must include one unit in Physical Science and one unit in Biological Science.

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July, 1, 2010, Amended Substitute Senate Bill 310 requires for graduation from every public high school in relationship to above list:

- One unit of Algebra II or the equivalent of Algebra II;
- Science units which reflect inquiry-based laboratory experience that engage students and including one unit of Physical Science, one unit of Biology, and advanced study in one or more of the following sciences:
 - Chemistry, Physics, or other Physical Science;
 - Advanced Biology or other Life Science;
 - Physical Geology or other Earth or Space Science.
- One-half unit of American History and one-half unit of American Government; (Fairfield City School District will continue to require one unit in American Studies, one unit in World Studies, and one unit in American Government.)
- The integration of economic and financial literacy academic content standards in social studies or other courses; and
- One sequence of any combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education.

Summer school credits will be accepted toward graduation, provided that counselor approval has been given prior to registration for the course.

Credits obtained through the successful completion of a credit flexibility plan approved by the Fairfield City School District will be accepted toward graduation.

****Since the 2009-2010 school year, students in the Fairfield City School District in grades 9, 10, and 11 who successfully complete two full seasons of interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading may be excused from the high school physical education requirement. The “two full season” requirement may be completed within a single school year. The “two full season” requirement must be completed by the end of the student’s junior year to eliminate the possibility of seniors being caught in a position of lacking physical education requirements and failing to graduate. *A single exception was made to this expectation for seniors during the 2009/2010 school year as the district transitioned to the new policy.**

Under the ORC, the board of education may NOT provide for partial completion of the high school physical education requirement. The one-half unit requirement cannot be partially exempted. For example, it is not possible to combine one quarter of physical education and one successful season to meet the physical education requirement.

Those students excused from the high school physical education requirement are required to complete one-half unit, consisting of at least 60 hours of instruction, in another course of study, as determined by the student.

Those students excused from the high school physical education requirement are still required to earn the listed number of credits for graduation from the Fairfield City School District

In addition, all students must meet the state standardized test requirements unless exempted by an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students will be required to pass all of the Ohio Graduation Tests in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies to graduate from high school. Students will have up to seven opportunities, including summer school, to retake failed sections of the OGT.

The Board assumes that at the time of graduation each student will have fulfilled all academic and financial obligations. A good school record, scholastically and otherwise, is the best recommendation an applicant can offer either for college admission or for a job. A record of good personal behavior and cooperation will be expected.

Students must attend through seven terms. A term is 18 weeks in length. Seniors may graduate early at the end of the seventh term if they have met all graduation requirements and submit the appropriate paperwork. Counselors have information about early graduation procedures.

RECOMMENDED CURRICULUM FOR COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS

(All courses must be College Preparatory)

- 4 credits of English
- 4 credits of Math (minimum of Algebra I, II and Geometry)
- 4 credits of Social Studies (World Studies, American Studies, American Government)
- 4 credits of Science (minimum of Biology, Chemistry and one other science class with lab)
- 3 credits of Foreign Language (minimum of 3 years of the same language or 2 each of 2 languages)
- 1 credit of Fine Arts
- 1/2 credit of Health
- 1/2 credit of Physical Education

STATE OF OHIO DIPLOMA WITH HONORS

All courses must be College Preparatory.

Students need to fulfill only 7 of the following 8 criteria.

- 4 credits of English
- 4 credits of Math (including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or equivalent and another higher level course or a four-year sequence of courses that contain equivalent content)
- 4 credits of Science (including Physics and Chemistry)
- 4 credits of Social Studies
- 3 credits of Foreign Language (or 2 units in 2 different languages)
- 1 credit of Fine Arts
- Maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Obtain a composite score of 27 on the ACT, or 1210 combined score on the SAT

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETES

Academic eligibility requires that high school students (grades 9-12) must pass a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. PE does not count toward the Academic Eligibility requirement due to the fact that it counts only as .25 credits. To determine credit equivalency, multiply full-year courses by a factor of 1; semester courses by a factor of 2; twelve-week courses by a factor of 3; and nine-week courses by a factor of 4.

A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed *a minimum of five of all* those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.

A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled in school the

immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in *a minimum of five* of those subjects in which the student received grades.

It should be noted that dropping a class may result in losing your academic eligibility. It is always best to check with your counselor or an athletic director to make sure that you remain eligible before you make any changes in your schedule. Athletes are allowed only one Early release period as a senior.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

PSAT/NMSQT www.collegeboard.com
(Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

This is a practice test for the SAT which is also used to determine National Merit semi-finalists. It is given once each year in October, primarily to Juniors, but is open to any college bound student. The testing will occur on Saturday, October 20, 2012. The test is administered at the high school.

SAT Reasoning Test www.collegeboard.com
(Scholastic Assessment Test)

The SAT is generally taken during the Junior and/or Senior year. Students receive a Verbal, Math and Writing score. This test is open to any college bound student. The test is offered approximately six times during the academic school year.

SAT Subject Tests www.collegeboard.com
(Scholastic Assessment Test: Subject Tests)

These are one hour tests which measure a student's knowledge of specific subjects and his/her ability to apply that knowledge. Certain colleges require this test. Check with the college you plan to attend. The test is offered several times during the academic school year. Students can take up to 3 tests at one sitting.

ACT www.actstudent.org
(American College Test)

The ACT is generally taken during the Junior and/or Senior year. Students receive scores in English, Reading, Math, Science and Writing as well as a Composite score. This test is open to any college bound student. The test is offered approximately six times during the academic school year.

