

EARLY GRADUATION INFORMATION

Congratulations on nearing completion of your high school career! Historically in District 155, over 95% of our students will complete graduate requirements after four years. Others will decide to finish their requirements early and take the option we call *Early Graduation*. Which option is right for you is really a personal decision that you should make after discussing the idea with your counselor and your parent(s)/guardian(s). The following are some things to consider as you weigh all of your options.

Please read the list of items below and ask your parent(s) or guardian(s) to do the same. Then, thoughtfully consider whether early graduation is the best option for you.

1. Early graduates *are* eligible for, and encouraged to, participate in the graduation ceremony in May. There is no other graduation ceremony.
2. Early graduates *are* still considered a member of their graduating class and can have their senior year pictures taken for the yearbook. Three-year graduates, however, are opting to *skip* their senior year, and your picture will still be with the juniors.
3. Early graduates *do* have to take all of their final exams at the end of first semester (only 8th semester seniors can be exempt from final exams). Three-year grads must also take their 6th semester final exams, and you must arrange with your teachers to complete those final exams by the Tuesday before graduation.
4. Early graduates enrolled in the fourth year of a world language *will not* be able to finish the final year. It is important to know that four years of a world language in high school will, in some cases, make a student exempt from the world language requirement at the college level.
5. Early graduates enrolled in Advanced Placement classes *may not* be able to take the AP test which is given at the end of the course in May. It's important to know that students who earn a score of 3, 4, or 5 on AP tests are awarded either advanced standing, college credit, or both at most colleges and universities.
6. Some seniors decide to graduate in December so that they can start their college career by enrolling at MCC for the spring semester. However, there is another option to consider: seniors may be released during the school day in order to attend classes at MCC. In this way a student could finish their senior year and get started on their college courses at the same time.
7. Early graduates *cannot* participate in athletics or any other extra curricular activities after they have graduated.
8. Early graduates *are* eligible to *attend* extracurricular activities such as athletic events and prom. Early graduates are still subject to disciplinary consequences in the event of misbehavior at such activities. Disciplinary consequences may include not being allowed to participate in the school graduation ceremony in May.
9. Students *do* have to meet all of the graduation requirements including four years of English. Early graduates have to take physical education only during the semesters that they are in attendance.

With any important decision, such as the early graduation option, one must weigh the positives and negatives of the possible choices. Please reflect upon all that you have experienced and learned over the past three years as you make this decision, prepare for graduation, and plan for your future beyond high school.