

CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRADUATION PATHWAY OPTIONS

Recommendations for Sophomores in 2023-2024

All students must choose one of the following pathways to graduation.

- 2 credits of World Language (strongly recommended for students who plan to attend college after high school)
- Career and Technology Education (CTE) Completer program

Students must decide on a pathway no later than the Junior year in order to be able to complete all requirements. Students who meet the requirements for both pathways will be classified as dual completers at graduation.

Students planning to complete the **World Language** pathway should enroll in a Spanish, Latin, or French course during 10th grade. Both World Language credits must be in the same language to count towards graduation. If you have already completed the first course, you should enroll in level II of that same language. Additionally, students who have already completed both courses and are intending to enroll in college after high school should be aware that some colleges require students to have completed three years of the same language for admission.

Students planning to complete a Career and Technology Education (CTE) Completer program for their pathway may select from the following:

- **Business Management and Finance** is a 3-year program intended for students who are seriously considering a career in business administration and management (accounting, financial analyst, management analyst, investment banking, etc.). If you are interested in this program, please sign up to take Principles of Business Management and Entrepreneurship. If you have already completed the first course and wish to continue in the program, please sign up for the second course, Principles of Accounting and Finance.
- **Career Research and Development** is a 2-year program that consists of two in-school courses, a portfolio development project, and a work-based learning experience. Through both classroom instruction and work-based learning, Career Research and Development provides students with the academic, technical, and job skills necessary for further education and employment in a career field of their interest. Students enrolling in this program will complete their requirements in 11th and 12th grade, including the requirement to have a job during 12th grade.
- **Computer Science** is a 3-year program intended for students who are seriously considering a career in computer science (software engineer, app developer, web developer, data analyst, etc.). If you are interested in this program, please sign up to take Introduction to Computer Programming. If you have already completed the first course and wish to continue in the program, please sign up for the second course, AP Computer Science Principles.
- **Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI)** is a 2-year program available to students in 11th grade who are at least 16 years old prior to the first day of school. An application is required in 10th grade to enroll in 11th grade. Students interested in this program should have taken the required fine art and technology education courses prior to 11th grade. Students will participate in the program related to fire prevention and control and emergency medical technology. The program includes classroom instruction as well as formal training at selected local fire companies. Students are required to complete a minimum of 393 hours of work-based learning and take the seven certification exams. This CTE pathway program is designed to allow students to complete all requirements and be certified in this area as well as have opportunities to earn college credit.
- **NJROTC** is a 3-year program that instills the values of citizenship and service to the community; develops a high degree of personal honor, self-reliance, individual discipline and leadership; promotes an understanding of the basic elements and requirements for national security; promotes habits of orderliness and precision; and develops respect for constituted authority. There are weekly dress code and personal appearance standards for this program. Students who complete the program and enlist in the military may enter the service at a higher pay grade. If you are

interested in this program, please sign up to take NJROTC I. If you have already completed the first course and wish to continue in the program, please sign up for the second course, NJROTC II.

- **PLTW Biomedical Sciences** is a 4-year program that is intended for students who are seriously considering a career in the health field (medicine, research, etc.). However, students who do not enroll in 9th grade can still enter the program in 10th grade. This would just mean taking two of the program courses in 12th grade rather than one. Students entering this program must have already passed or be currently enrolled in Algebra I. If you are interested in enrolling in this program, please sign up to take Principles of the Biomedical Sciences, as well as Biology-Honors for your science course. If you have already completed the first course and wish to continue in the program, please sign up for the second course Human Body Systems.
- **PLTW Pathway to Engineering** is a 4-year program intended for students who are seriously considering a career in science, technology, or engineering. However, students who did not enroll in 9th grade can still enter the program in 10th grade. This would just mean taking two of the program courses during 11th or 12th grade rather than one. The first course in this program will meet the technology education credit requirement if you complete the entire 4-year program. You must have already passed or be currently enrolled in Algebra I. If you are interested in this program, please sign up to take Introduction to Engineering Design. Students enrolling in this program are also **encouraged** to sign up for Biology (Honors) for their science course. If you have already completed the first course and wish to continue in the program, please sign up for the second course, Principles of Engineering.
- **ProStart Food & Beverage Management** is a 2-year program that introduces students to a wide variety of careers within the restaurant, food service, and hospitality industry. If you are interested in this program, please sign up to take Foods & Nutrition Science (in the Electives section under “Family & Consumer Science”). This course is a prerequisite to begin the program. If you sign up for that course, you may also start the program by taking Becoming a Food Service Professional during 10th grade as well.
- **Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM)** is a program that prepares high school students for post-secondary education and other careers in the education profession. TAM is a 3-year, four-course program for students planning to pursue a career in education. Upon successful completion of the four TAM courses, students will receive college credits towards a Maryland post-secondary teacher education program. Additionally, students will take the Para-Pro exam in preparation for entry into the workforce in the field of education. If you are interested in this program, please sign up to take Human Growth and Development.

The following 2-year programs are offered at Stethem Educational Center starting in 11th grade. Students in these programs attend La Plata High School half the day and Stethem the other half during both 11th and 12th grade. Students must be accepted to these programs through an application process that takes place during 10th grade. They students should have taken the required technology education and fine arts courses prior to 11th grade. If you are interested in one of these programs, please be sure to speak with Mrs. Gladden about the application process and admission criteria.

- Academy of Health Professions: Pharmacy Technician
- Academy of Health Professions: Physical Rehabilitation
- Automotive Technology
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Interactive Media Production

Additional information about all of the CTE programs can be found in the Career & Technology Education Completer Programs section of the CCPS “High School Program of Studies” (Pg. 19-40) at <https://www.ccboc.com/departments/student-services/student-support/high-school-program-of-studies>.