

What I wish I knew as a 9th grader



The Unofficial Guide to High School



Graduation Requirements

- All students must earn 26 credits to graduate.
- Classification

0-5.5	Freshman
6-11.5	Sophomore
12-18.5	Junior
19+	Senior
- 9th graders will not have a rank/GPA until their 9th grade year is complete.



Credits

- ★ Students will have the opportunity to earn 8 credits per year.
- ★ Students are given the opportunity to earn a total of 32 credits.
- ★ Students **MUST** earn 26 credits to graduate!!!



Academic Planning

I. ACADEMIC PLANNING - GRADUATION PLANS

GRADUATION PLANS

Foundation Plan w/Endorsement		Distinguished Level of Achievement		Foundation Plan	
English	4	English	4	English	4
Math	4	Math (w/Alg 2)	4	Math	3
Social Studies	3	Social Studies	3	Social Studies	3
Science	4	Science	4	Science	3
Languages (LOTE)	2	Languages (LOTE)	2	Languages (LOTE)	2
Physical Education	1	Physical Education	1	Physical Education	1
Speech	.5	Speech	.5	Speech	.5
Health	.5	Health	.5	Health	.5
Fine Arts	1	Fine Arts	1	Fine Arts	1
Endorsement Credits	4	Endorsement Credits	4	Electives	8
Electives	2	Electives	2		
TOTAL:	26	TOTAL:	26	TOTAL:	26

Possible Graduation Plans



You have **BRAINS** in your **HEAD**.
You have **FEET** in your **SHOES**.
You can **STEER** yourself any
DIRECTION you **CHOOSE**.
~ Dr. Seuss

Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA)

All MISD students begin on the DLA Graduation plan.

~Provides most opportunity for post secondary options

~Eligibility for “Top 10% Automatic Admission” to colleges and universities

~ Advanced Algebra II or Algebra II required



Personal Graduation Plan (PGP)

- This is a road map for your high school career.
- Each student will meet with their counselor to review progress on their four year plan.
- Counselors meet with students each year during the registration process to help keep them on track.



STAAR testing

→ 5 STAAR tests for graduation

- ◆ English I (9th)
- ◆ Algebra I (9th)
- ◆ Biology (9th)
- ◆ English II (10th)
- ◆ US History (11th)



Grading/Grade Point Average (GPA)

- ❑ All high school credits calculate in GPA, even credits from middle school.
- ❑ A failed grade **NEVER** disappears from the transcript and is **ALWAYS** part of your GPA calculation.
- ❑ Courses taken virtual, credit by exam, or by correspondence also count in GPA.
- ❑ Advanced, AP and Dual Credit classes will earn an extra 10 points in that calculation.
- ❑ **EVERYTHING COUNTS!!!!**



Class Rank

Beginning with the class of 2023, class rank for the purposes of graduation honors will be determined by calculating grades earned in high school credit courses in the following categories:

- English/Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Languages Other than English (LOTE)

For purposes of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate a cumulative class rank to include all courses taken [See EIC(Local)].



Attendance

- Students are allowed 4 absences (excused or unexcused) per class per semester. Parents must call or send a signed note when the student returns to school for it to be excused.
- 5 or more absences (excused or unexcused) in the same class will result in an absence failure.
- Students are responsible for clearing absence failures with their **ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**.
- Students will have to attend evening or Saturday school sessions in order to regain credit.



Get Involved!!!!



Clubs

- High school will provide an opportunity for involvement in many clubs and organizations.
- We highly encourage participation in extracurricular activities.
- Studies show that students who are involved in extracurricular activities make better grades and are better prepared for life during and after high school.



Extracurricular Activities

- ❑ Athletics - If you are interested in any sport, you must contact the head coach of that sport.
- ❑ Cheerleading and Drill Team - determined by try-outs in the spring.
- ❑ Other activities include class officers, club officers, One Act Play, UIL Band and Choir contests, Academic UIL, ROTC, Student Council, theater production/stage crew, Key Club, NHS, FCA, HOSA, etc



Study Skills/Tips

- Get organized
- Discover your learning style to maximize success
- Manage your time wisely
- Have a comfortable, quiet place to study
- Don't procrastinate!!!!
- Actively participate in class
- Work on managing stress as not to get overwhelmed



Choosing Classes



- ✓ Starts with: 8th grade Career Pathways course and a Four-Year Plan
- ✓ Review the 9th grade courses in Xello with your student.
- ✓ Classes are formally selected by submitting your course plan in Xello and approval from high school counselor visit in fall/spring.
- ✓ Choose alternates - first choices may not be available during scheduling.



Requesting Changes

- If you change your mind about the courses requested, you will have the opportunity to make changes until **April 21st**.
- Instructions will be emailed to you on April 14th indicating information about your course requests.
- A link to the **Change Form** will be included in the email.



- Course requests drive course offerings and the amount of sections we offer. Having accurate numbers helps with overcrowding and course offerings.
- The deadline is enforced so that MISD can complete personnel adjustment and Master Scheduling in a timely manner.



Counselors

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