



Cass County

Early Middle College

Information Packet **2024 – 2025**

Application Deadline: February 27, 2024
Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Early Middle College questions should be directed to your high school counselor,
Madison Walker madison.walker@hsisd.org or Erin Kucharski at
erin.kucharski@hsisd.org

Welcome and Introduction

Dear Parent/Guardian/Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Early Middle College program.

Early Middle College (EMC) is an accelerated college program designed as an opportunity for students to obtain a high school diploma, and up to a full Associate's Degree or college certification, simultaneously over the course of five years through a partnership between the ISD, Cass County High Schools and a local community college. While participating in the program, ALL tuition, books, and fees are provided at no cost to participating students and families.

The EMC program is an effective and efficient way for students to earn up to 63 college credits, tuition free, while still in high school. Thus, students will be able to save both time and money as they pursue a college degree. While in the EMC program, participating students will have an additional year of high school (13th grade/year) to complete their college experience.

EMC is structured so students gradually increase their exposure to college courses over a five-year timespan. Students enrolled in the EMC program will have a traditional high school class schedule during the 9th and 10th grade. As student's progress through the EMC program they will begin taking college courses. When students reach the "13th grade" all of their coursework and classes will be on-site at the college campus. A sample program of study is included in this packet.

Students in the EMC program will also receive support services to assist them in their transition from high school to college. Students are required to meet with early college mentors, academic advisors and guidance counselors throughout each semester to ensure success in the program.

Students who are considering the EMC program must be willing, motivated, and up for the challenge to perform successfully at the collegiate level. In addition to the college coursework, students must successfully complete all of the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum needed to receive their high school diploma.

If you are interested in the Early Middle College program please complete the submission requirements for the application detailed in this packet by **February 27, 2024. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

Nondiscrimination / Title IX Policy

Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District and Southwestern Michigan College comply with all federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the United States Department of Education and the Michigan State Department of Education. It is the policy of Heritage Southwest ISD not to discriminate in its policies and practices with respect to compensation, terms, or conditions of employment because of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, height, weight, marital status, political beliefs, genetic information, disability, or handicap which does not impair an individual's ability to perform adequately in that individual's particular position or activity.

Goals Of The EMC Program

- Provide students an opportunity to earn a high school diploma, and up to a full Associate's Degree or college certification.
- Prepare students for a successful transfer to a four-year university or workplace.
- Prepare students in the critical thinking, communication, and life-skills necessary to be successful.
- Meet the unique educational, cultural, and societal needs of each individual student.
- Provide services that assist students in learning and being satisfied with all facets of the college experience.
- Generate an atmosphere where diversity is acknowledged and encouraged.
- Encourage intellectual curiosity, promote humanitarian values, and enhance the general educational experiences necessary for persons to function as effective citizens.

Students Expectations

The EMC program is designed to prepare students for post-secondary study and highly skilled employment opportunities. This program is a comprehensive five-year high school program that blends elements of the high school and college experiences.

Students who are admitted to the Early College must meet the following expectations:

- Attend school regularly.
- Devote adequate time to studying daily.
- Keep parents/legal guardians aware of academic progress.
- Complete all high school graduation requirements.
- Behave in a professional manner that shows respect for oneself, classmates, high school and college faculty, and the college facilities and equipment.
- Follow the handbook rules and regulations of your local high school, College, and EMC.
- Attend all required meetings with EMC mentors.

Family Expectations

As the parent/guardian of an EMC student, you will be an important partner as your son/daughter strives for success during their time in this program.

Students succeed best when the school, the parent/guardian, and the students work together. Parents/guardians of those students selected to enroll in the Early Middle College should be fully aware and be prepared to:

- Support daily attendance.
- Support student's need to study.
- Review student's academic progress on a regular basis.
- Fully understand that the Early Middle College is a five year program commitment.
- Communicate any questions with EMC mentors and high school guidance counselors.

Application Checklist

Application Checklist	Deadline
<p>STEP ONE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Talk to your high school counselor about the EMC program. ● Review GPA and PSAT scores with your high school counselor. <p>Target Scores for PSAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If PSAT scores don't meet eligibility requirements proceed to STEP TWO. ● If PSAT scores do meet eligibility requirements proceed to STEP THREE. 	<p>February 20, 2024</p>
<p>STEP TWO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete college application- must be completed 24 hours prior to placement testing College Application Instructions ● Take Accuplacer- College Placement Assessment Accuplacer Testing Instructions 	<p>February 27, 2023</p>
<p>STEP THREE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete Early Middle College Application ● The following instructions list out the required information necessary to complete the electronic EMC application. EMC Online Application Instructions ● Link to electronic EMC Application 2023-24 Cass County EMC Online Application 	<p>February 27, 2023</p>
<p>STEP FOUR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Confirm the EMC Family Interview by responding to the invitation emailed to the student email provided in the EMC application. ● Interviews will be held between March 8th-20th. ● Interviews will be held at Heritage Southwest ISD; 61682 Dailey Rd, Cassopolis ● Interviews will be 30 minutes 	<p>Notifications will be sent no later than March 4, 2023</p>