PRESERVING STUDENT CHOICE

Off-Campus Courses and Continued Connection to MIHS

A balanced approach to course selection and enrollment allows students to access an approved, accredited off-campus course when it meaningfully supports their learning, while remaining enrolled in six MIHS courses each semester. This preserves flexibility for individual students and protects the resources that support the entire MIHS community.

Why Off-Campus Course Options Matter

Students learn in different ways and may need different conditions to thrive. Feedback from students and families highlighted several benefits of approved, accredited off-campus options:

- Smaller classes and more individualized attention
- Flexible pacing, including time to build mastery before moving forward
- Direct instruction, opportunities to ask questions, reteaching, and timely feedback
- A learning environment that can reduce anxiety and rebuild confidence
- The ability to address a specific need in a subject while continuing to participate in MIHS academics, activities, arts, athletics, and community life

For many families, this blended approach is not an either/or choice. It is a way for a student to remain connected to MIHS while receiving targeted support or a different instructional setting in a particular course.

Why Six MIHS Courses Matter

State funding is tied to student enrollment. To receive full state funding, the District needs MIHS students enrolled in six MIHS courses each semester. That funding helps sustain staffing, counseling, academic support, course offerings, arts, athletics, activities, custodians, bus drivers, other opportunities available to students, and to support learning across the school.

How the Combined Approach Meets Both Needs

Continuing approved off-campus access while maintaining six-course enrollment at MIHS provides a thoughtful middle path:

- Students retain access to accredited learning options that may meet an individual academic or social-emotional need.
- Students may fulfill graduation requirements in the same content area over more than one year.
- MIHS maintains the enrollment needed to receive full state funding and sustain strong programs and services for all students.
- Families preserve meaningful choice, while students remain rooted in the MIHS community and connected to their counselor and graduation plan.

Planning matters. Students and families need to work with their MIHS counselor and receive approval using the MIHS Off-Campus Course Request Form (available in the MIHS Counseling Center) before enrolling in an off-campus course to confirm provider approval, accreditation, credit eligibility, scheduling, and alignment with graduation and postsecondary goals.