Mercer Island High School (MIHS) Running Start Agreement

Student and Parent/Guardian Agreement

Running Start allows eligible 11th and 12th-grade students to take college-level classes tuition-free at participating Washington State colleges. This agreement outlines key responsibilities and expectations to help ensure your success. First and foremost, students who choose to enroll in Running Start are considered adult students and must read through the following carefully.

****If you are a choice transfer student, you are not eligible to participate in Running Start at MIHS (check eligibility with registrar)****

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1. Graduation Requirements & Credit Equivalency

- College courses must meet MIHS graduation requirements to count toward your diploma.
- Work with your School Counselor to review your graduation plan each quarter.
- Students and families are responsible for making sure graduation requirements and deadlines are met. **We strongly advise against leaving graduation requirements until Spring quarter of Senior year to avoid unnecessary obstacles to graduation.**
- Not all colleges, especially out-of-state colleges, accept Running Start credits. Students must check directly with each college to understand their credit transfer rules and make sure they meet those requirements.
- Credit conversion: 5 college credits = 1 MIHS high school credit.

Sample Credit Conversion Chart

College Course Type	College Credits	MIHS Credit
English 101	5	1.0 English
College Math	5	1.0 Math
PE	2	0.4 PE
Electives	5	1.0 Elective

2. Course Load & FTE Limit

- Students are limited to a combined 1.0 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) between MIHS and the college.
- Going over 1.0 FTE may result in tuition or fee charges.
- College courses must not overlap with a student's MIHS schedule — students are expected to plan carefully to avoid conflicts. Missing class at either MIHS or the college due to a scheduling conflict is not permitted. Please note that college breaks do not align with the MIHS calendar.

3. Fees & Transportation

- Running Start covers tuition only. Students are responsible for books, fees, parking, and transportation.

4. Academic Rigor & College Expectations

- College courses require more independence and time management than high school classes.
- Students are expected to keep up with deadlines, attend all classes, and communicate with instructors.

- MIHS Counselors/staff and parents cannot monitor college progress or initiate communication with the college on the student's behalf
- Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA in their college courses to remain eligible for Running Start participation and remain off academic probation.

5. Technology & Communication

- Students must check both MIHS and college emails regularly.
- Become familiar with college learning platforms (e.g., Canvas, MyBC).
- Students enrolled in RS classes and their parents must check in regularly to stay informed about MIHS. This includes accessing district social media, email, or Schoology to stay apprised of alternate schedules, special events, college application and graduation information, etc.

6. Support Resources

- It is your responsibility to seek help if you're struggling. Use college tutoring centers, office hours, and advising services as needed.
- Students with disabilities who have a 504 or IEP are responsible to inform and provide documentation of the disability to the college if they want to seek support services.

7. Conduct Expectations

- Students are held to both MIHS and college codes of conduct.
- Misconduct may result in consequences at both institutions.

8. Dropping or Failing a Course

- College courses are part of your permanent academic record. Classes and grades are transcribed directly from the college to MIHS. If there are issues with Running Start classes on your MIHS transcript, you must contact the college to resend the correct information to us.
- If you're considering dropping a college course, notify your MIHS counselor right away.

9. MIHS Participation

- Running Start students may participate in MIHS clubs, sports, and activities if they meet eligibility requirements and maintain appropriate enrollment status.

10. Planning Ahead for Counselor Approvals

- Students must meet with Counselors each quarter/term to complete an EVF (Enrollment Verification Form) and must provide adequate time for Counselors to review and sign EVFs.
- Last-minute requests do not constitute an emergency. Counselors may take up to 3 school days to process your EVF upon receipt and are not responsible for missed college deadlines.

Signatures

Student Name: _____ Signature: _____

Grade: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Signature:_____

Date: _____