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Early College School Choice Compact

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools & Carolinas College of Health Sciences

Purpose

This Early College program is a partnership between Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS), Hawthorne Academy of Health Sciences (HAHS), Carolinas College of Health Sciences (CCHS), and Atrium Health that allows students to earn a CMS high school diploma while completing college coursework and, when eligible, an associate degree, career credential, or transferable college credit.

By signing this compact, students and parents/guardians acknowledge their understanding of the academic, attendance, behavioral, and personal responsibilities required for success in the Early College program.

I. Program Overview & School Commitments

Hawthorne Academy students participate in both a high school and college environment. As members of CMS and CCHS, students must follow the policies, procedures, calendars, grading practices, and expectations of both institutions.

CMS and the Early College school will provide:

- Access to tuition-free CCHS coursework as permitted through the program.
- High school and college academic advising and course planning.
- Required instructional materials for approved CCHS courses.
- Access to tutoring, intervention, and college readiness supports.
- Technology (CMS Chromebook) and transportation (CMS Magnet Express stops).
- Opportunities for summer internships through Atrium (must meet eligibility requirements)

*Early College classes are located on both Hawthorne and Carolinas College campuses. Students are expected to navigate both environments. CMS will provide transportation to Carolinas College from Hawthorne during the designated times.

II. Student and Family Commitments

Students and families agree to actively participate in and support the Early College experience:

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Enrollment and Participation

- Attend required information sessions and orientation activities.
- Complete all enrollment, registration, and program documents by established deadlines.
- Commit to participation in the Early College program for four years (early graduation after three years is not permitted).

Communication

- Regularly monitor school and college communications, including email.
- Maintain communication with teachers, instructors, counselors, advisors, and administrators.
- Seek assistance promptly when academic or personal concerns arise.

Academic Responsibility

- Acknowledge that coursework is accelerated and high school classes are generally Honors level.
- Acknowledge that CCHS courses follow college grading, attendance, and integrity policies.
- Maintain the academic standards required by CMS and CCHS.
- Complete assignments independently and on time.
- Monitor academic progress in both high school and college courses.
- Participate in required tutoring, intervention, or support programs when assigned.
- Meet course prerequisites, registration requirements, and program deadlines.
- Follow all CMS and CCHS academic integrity expectations.

Attendance and Behavior

- Attend all classes regularly and on time.
- Follow CMS and CCHS attendance policies.
- Follow the CMS and CCHS Codes of Conduct.
- Demonstrate mature, respectful, and professional behavior in all settings.
- *Understand that students accumulating excessive absences or demonstrating ongoing conduct concerns may result in probation, continuation review, or removal from the program.*

Family Partnership

- Families agree to support student attendance, communication, and academic progress.
- Participate in orientation, conferences, meetings, and school engagement opportunities as needed.
- Encourage students to take increasing responsibility for their education and college success.

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III. Characteristics of Successful Early College Students

Students who are most successful in Early College typically:

- Have demonstrated successful completion of previous EOG-tested courses, generally earning at least a Level 3, and are prepared for rigorous Honors and college-level coursework.
- Demonstrate strong attendance and positive behavior.
- Manage time effectively and meet deadlines independently.
- Communicate proactively with instructors and advisors, and advocate for themselves.
- Demonstrate maturity, flexibility, and personal accountability.

IV. Hawthorne Early College Course Progression

- **Grade 9:** Students primarily complete Honors-level high school coursework while developing the academic and organizational skills necessary for college success, including some college preparation courses and the opportunity to enroll in college courses with CCHS.
- **Grade 10:** Most students begin taking **one to two CCHS courses per semester** while continuing to complete approximately **two to three high school courses per semester**.
- **Grade 11:** Most students take fewer high school courses, typically **one to two, while completing most** of their coursework through CCHS. Additionally, eligible juniors can apply for internships within the program during the summer.
- **Grade 12:** Students typically complete the remaining CMS graduation requirements while continuing to take CCHS coursework aligned with their individual four-year plan and associate degree, transfer, or credential goals.
- **Grade 13 – Optional Year:** Eligible students may have the opportunity to participate in an optional **Grade 13 year** to complete:
    - Transferable college credits;
    - Career or industry certifications;
    - Associate degree requirements; and/or
    - Other approved college coursework.

All CMS high school graduation requirements must be completed by the end of Grade 12 to qualify for Grade 13. Students participating in Grade 13 must continue to meet CCHS and Early College academic progress requirements.

V. Admission and Continuation Requirements

Admission

Students seeking admission must:

- Apply through the CMS School Choice Lottery
- Complete all required application materials
- Meet CMS and CCHS eligibility requirements
- Submit all requested documentation by deadlines

Students should review the current Hawthorne Academy application requirements provided by CMS and Carolinas College of Health Sciences. Admission through the School Choice Lottery does not guarantee continued enrollment. Students must meet the academic, attendance, behavioral, and program requirements to remain in the Early College.

Continuation

Students must maintain satisfactory academic performance, attendance, behavior, and progress toward program requirements.

- **HAHS Expectations**
  - Students must maintain a weighted 2.5 GPA to remain in the program for grades 9-11. GPA is evaluated in December and May of the 9th grade school year. If a student's weighted GPA is below 2.5, the student may be recommended to return to the home high school for the 2nd semester of the current school year or for the following school year.
  - Prospective students whose GPA drops below the requirement after the School Choice Lottery may be subject to the district Magnet Continuation Review process and reassigned to the student's neighborhood home school.
  - Students must pass all required Health Science-related CTE courses on the first attempt.
- **CCHS Expectations**
  - Meet CPCC Standards of Academic Progress.
  - Maintain eligibility for college coursework.
  - Generally maintain a minimum 2.0 CCHS GPA, subject to current CCHS requirements.
  - Students in Grade 12 who do not have a Fall CCHS GPA of at least 2.0 may be placed on an Early College academic contract for the Spring semester.
  - Students in Grade 12 who do not earn a CCHS GPA of at least 2.0 for the Spring semester are not eligible for the optional Grade 13 year.
  - Students in Grade 12 who meet the Fall CCHS GPA requirement but do not earn at least a 2.0 CCHS GPA in the Spring semester may be placed on an academic contract as a condition of participating in Grade 13.

- Grade 13 students who do not earn a Fall CCHS GPA of at least 2.0 may be required to participate in mid-year graduation, as determined by the program and applicable requirements.

Academic Probation and Required Support for Failed College Courses

- Students who fail a college course during the previous semester or fall below the 2.0 GPA requirement outlined by the college may be placed on academic probation during the current semester.
- Students on academic probation are required to follow the academic support plan outlined by the college.
- Required academic support may include supervised study sessions, progress monitoring, grade checks, tutoring, academic planning, and communication with Early College staff regarding college course expectations.
- Students must consistently attend required academic support sessions and participate in assigned check-ins as outlined by the college. Failure to consistently attend and participate in required support may jeopardize the student's continuation in the Early College program and may result in additional administrative review, academic contract requirements, Magnet Continuation Review, or recommendation for reassignment.

VI. Transfer or Exit from the Program

Students choosing to leave the Early College program must:

- Notify school administration.
- Complete any required exit procedures.
- Follow CMS transfer requirements.
- Return to their designated CMS home high school.

Students who do not meet program expectations may be subject to continuation review or reassignment consistent with CMS and CCHS policies.

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VII. Acknowledgment and Agreement

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have read and understand the Hawthorne Academy Early College School Choice Compact. We acknowledge that participation in the Early College program requires:

- Strong academic effort
- Consistent attendance
- Appropriate behavior
- Effective communication
- Personal responsibility
- Compliance with CMS and CCHS expectations

We acknowledge that continued enrollment depends on meeting applicable academic, attendance, behavioral, and program requirements, and that CMS and CCHS policies may be updated during a student's participation in the program.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____