

MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS

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Middle School Course Guide

for the
2023 - 2024 School Year

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Barker Middle School

STEM Course of Studies

	Grade 7	Grade 8
Block	Literacy/Language Arts Math Science Social Studies	Literacy/Language Arts Math Science Social Studies
Related Arts (Directed Classes) Semester Class	Wellness Gateway	Wellness Gateway
Related Arts (Choice Classes) Full Year Class	<i>Choose One:</i> Band Chorus Digital Art I STEM Careers	<i>Choose One:</i> Band Chorus Digital Art II STEM Careers

Band, Chorus, Digital Art, & STEM Careers are year-long or 2 semesters. All other courses are 1 semester each.



HIGH ABILITY: Course options will be available for identified high ability students, grades 7-8, in math, literacy/language arts, and related to the magnet theme of Barker Middle School.
Limited courses available for high school credit.

Krueger Middle School

Environmental Science Course of Studies

	Grade 7	Grade 8
Block	Literacy/Language Arts Math Science Social Studies	Literacy/Language Arts Math Science Social Studies
Rotation I (Directed Rotations)	Wellness Computer Science	Wellness Computer Science
Rotation II (Choice Rotations)	<i>Choose One:</i> Band Chorus Environmental Science Digital Art	<i>Choose One:</i> Band Chorus Environmental Science Digital Art

Band & Chorus are year-long or 2 semesters. All other courses are 1 semester each



HIGH ABILITY: Course options will be available for identified high ability students, grades 7-8, in math, literacy/language arts, and related to the magnet theme of Barker Middle School.
Limited courses available for high school credit.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Literacy/Language Arts

Reading: Literature - Key ideas and textual support, structural elements and organization, and synthesis and connection of ideas of literature.

Reading: Nonfiction Literature - Key ideas and textual support, structural elements and organization, and synthesis and connection of ideas of nonfiction.

Reading: Vocabulary - Building vocabulary and vocabulary in literature and nonfiction texts.

Writing - Writing genres, the writing process, the research process, and conventions of Standard English.

Speaking and Listening - Discussion and collaboration, comprehension, and presentation of knowledge and ideas.

Media Literacy - Critical thinking about the messages received and created using various media.

Literacy/Language Arts

Grade 7 - Core Class

2 Semesters

Literacy/Language Arts, Grade 7, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English Language Arts, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading, writing, speaking and listening in interest-and age-appropriate content. Students develop advanced skills and strategies in reading fiction and nonfiction. They build on their understanding of root words to understand vocabulary in science, social studies, and mathematics. Writing focuses on narrative, persuasive and research papers and a variety of sentence structures. They deliver argumentative presentations that state their position in support of an argument or proposal. Students also self-select books and read for enjoyment. They also listen to literature read aloud and write independently.

Literacy/Language Arts

Grade 8 - Core Class

2 Semesters

Literacy/Language Arts, Grade 8, based on Indiana's Academic Standards for English Language Arts, is integrated instruction emphasizing reading, writing, speaking and listening in interest-and age-appropriate content. Students begin to compare different types of writing as well as different perspectives on similar topics or themes. They evaluate the logic of nonfiction text, and also read and respond to fiction text. Students self-select books and read for enjoyment. Students write narratives, persuasive essays, and research papers using a variety of techniques and sentence structures. They deliver a variety of presentations and respond to questions and concerns from the audience. Students also listen to literature read aloud to them and write independently for enjoyment.

Mathematics

Mathematical Process - The Process Standards demonstrate the ways in which students should develop conceptual understanding of mathematical content, and the ways in which students should synthesize and apply mathematical skills.

Number Sense

Computation

Algebra & Functions

Geometry & Measurement

Data Analysis, Statistics, & Probability

Mathematical Process

Mathematics

Grade 7 - Core Class

2 Semesters

Mathematics, Grade 7 continues the trajectory towards a more formalized understanding of mathematics that occurs at the high school level that began in Grade 6. Students extend ratio reasoning to analyze proportional relationships and solve real-world and mathematical problems; extend previous understanding of the number system and operations to perform operations using all rational numbers; apply properties of operations in the context of algebraic expressions and equations; draw, construct, describe, and analyze geometrical figures and the relationships between them; apply understandings of statistical variability and distributions by using random sampling, making inferences, and investigating chance processes and probability models. As in all mathematics courses, the Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Mathematics

Grade 8 (or **High Ability Grade 7**) - Core Class

2 Semesters

Mathematics, Grade 8 continues the trajectory towards a more formalized understanding of mathematics that occurs at the high school level that was begun in Grades 6 and 7. Students extend their understanding of rational numbers to develop an understanding of irrational numbers; connect ratio and proportional reasoning to lines and linear functions; define, evaluate, compare, and model with functions; build understanding of congruence and similarity; understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem; and extend their understanding of statistics and probability by investigating patterns of association in bivariate data. As in all mathematics courses, the Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

Algebra I

Grade 8 (**High Ability**)

2 Semesters

Algebra I continues the study of algebraic concepts including operations with real numbers and polynomials, relations and functions, creation and application of linear functions and relations, and an introduction to nonlinear functions. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to computers, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment. In order to receive high school credit, students must earn a grade of "C" or higher, receive their teacher's recommendation, and must earn either two (2) math credits or two (2) credits in physics during the student's last two years in high school.

Music

Band

Grades 7-8 - Related Arts Class

2 Semesters

Through music performance students will learn how to read, notate, and interpret music. Students will learn to listen to, analyze, and describe music of different genres and cultures. This experience will also instill a greater understanding and appreciation for music and its relationship to the other arts and to history.

Chorus

Grades 7-8 - Related Arts Class

2 Semesters

Students will develop the skills needed to become intelligent, well-rounded singers and will prepare choral performances for the public. They will also gain an appreciation of different musical styles.

Science

The study of Science in grades 7-8 includes seven (7) academic standards. The standards are as follows:

Standard 1: Learning Outcomes

Standard 2: Key Ideas and Textual Support

Standard 3: Structural Elements and Organization

Standard 4: Synthesis and Connection of Ideas

Standard 5: Writing Genres

Standard 6: The Writing Process

Standard 7: The Research Process

Science

Grade 7 - Core Class

2 Semesters

During the seventh grade year, students expand on their general knowledge of the Indiana Science Standards. Students focus on Earth Science and Physics while working with the standards. Classes are hands-on and contain multiple labs and collaborative projects. Students will expand their knowledge of the nature of science and develop better skills of technical writing through communicating lab results as well as a better understanding of nonfiction texts through the use of research projects and trade books.

Science

Grade 8 - Core Class

2 Semesters

During the eighth grade year, students continue to study the Indiana Science Standards by delving further into the topics introduced in sixth and seventh grades. The primary focus of the eighth grade curriculum is Chemistry and Life Science.

Biology I

Grade 8 - Core Class

2 Semesters

(Offered at Krueger Middle School)

Biology I provides a study of the structures and functions of living organisms and their interactions with their environment. At a minimum, this study explores the functions and processes of cells, tissues, organs, and systems within various species of living organisms and the roles and interdependencies of organisms within populations, communities, ecosystems, and the biosphere. Students have opportunities to:

- (1) gain an understanding of the history of the development of biological knowledge,
- (2) EXPLORE THE USES OF Biology in various careers, and
- (3) cope with biological questions and problems related to personal needs and social issues.

In order to receive high school credit, students must earn a grade of “C” or higher, take the ILEARN Biology Exam, and receive their teacher’s recommendation.

Social Studies

Social Studies Courses cover the following Indiana Academic Standards:

Standard 1: History

Standard 2: Civics and Government

Standard 3: Geography

Standard 4: Economics

Standard 5: Individuals, Society, and Culture

Social Studies

Grade 7 - Core Class

2 Semesters

Students in Grade 7 study the regions and nations of Africa, Asia, and the Southwest Pacific, including historical, geographical, economic, political, and cultural relationships. This study includes the following regions: Africa, Southwest and Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the Southwest Pacific (Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania).

Social Studies

Grade 8 - Core Class

2 Semesters

In Grade 8, students focus upon United States History 1754-1877, beginning with a brief review of early history, including the Revolution and founding era, and the principles of the United States and Indiana constitutions, as well as other founding documents and their applications to subsequent periods of national history and to civic and political life. Students also study national development, westward expansion, social reform movements, and the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Special Education

The following courses will be implemented in accordance with each student's Individual Education Plan. The courses will be taught in accordance with Indiana College & Career Ready Standards with a variety of methodologies and instructional strategies being utilized to assist each student to reach their full potential.

★ Only for students in the certificate track for graduation.

Learning Lab

2 Semesters

Resource is open to students at all grade levels. It is designed to assist students with assignments from the general education classroom and their goals listed on their IEP. Resource also provides the opportunity for the students to have tests read and other adaptations that require the resource setting.

Life Skills Curriculum



The Life Skills Curriculum is one that seeks to enhance a person's ability to become a vital and active participant in their home, workplace, and community. All instruction is in accordance with each student's IEP. In all classes in the Life Skills Curriculum, students work on learning to demonstrate an awareness of their own feelings as well as those of others and taking responsibility for their own behavior. The curriculum is based on the State Standards outlined on the ISTAR, state assessment. All students participating in this curriculum will participate in the ISTAR or the ISTEP state assessments.

Functional Academics



2 Semesters

Functional Academics class focuses on the necessary math and reading skills needed to live and work in the community. Students will work on skills such as money, shopping, finances, banking, budgeting, functional sight words, communication skills, telling time and temperature, current events, and scheduling.

Personal Management



2 Semesters

In Personal Management classes students are required to demonstrate, to the best of their ability, homemaking skills needed to maintain both home and budget, display problem-solving skills that are adequate for dealing with daily situations, and demonstrate the ability to develop and follow a schedule. Students improve basic grooming and hygiene skills necessary for the maintenance of personal health. They work on developing an understanding of the cycle of life and their related responsibilities. Within the community students generalize these skills in a real life environment while increasing their knowledge of community services and resources. *(This class is offered in a two-period block to allow for community interactions.)*

Recreation and Leisure



2 Semesters

Recreation and Leisure skills provide students with an opportunity to learn to interact more appropriately with their peers and others in leisure settings, both within the school environment and in the community. Students work on skills such as

following rules, taking turns, sharing, and using appropriate social etiquette, among others. Students learn to interact in more ways to be able to make use of the wide range of recreational resources within the community.

Vocational Training ★

2 Semesters

Vocational Training is a four-year course of study designed to prepare students with special needs for the world of work. Students are placed at in-school training sites to work on skills such as following directions, interactions with coworkers, accomplishment of tasks, and other related work skills. As students mature in these skills, they may be placed at job sites outside the school environment. These work sites prepare students to be active, vital participants in the community. (This class is offered in a two-period block to allow for community interactions.)

Wellness

Wellness is a combination of physical and health education. Students participating in middle school wellness classes work both in the classroom and in physical education settings. Students are taught the eight (8) health education standards and the six (6) physical education standards of:

Health Education

Standard 1: Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.

Standard 2: Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.

Standard 3: Students will demonstrate the ability to access valid information and products and services to enhance health.

Standard 4: Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid/reduce health risks.

Standard 5: Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.

Standard 6: Students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.

Standard 7: Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid/reduce health risks.

Standard 8: Students will demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, and community health.

Physical Education

Standard 1: Students demonstrate competency in motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities.

Standard 2: Students demonstrate an understanding of movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics as they apply to the learning and performance of physical activities.

Standard 3: Students participate regularly in physical activity.

Standard 4: Students achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.

Standard 5: Students exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings.

Standard 6: Students value physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenges, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

Wellness

Grade 7 - Related Arts Class

1 Semester

Required for all students.

In 7th grade Wellness, students review 6th grade curriculum and continue Indiana Physical Education and Health Education standards. There is a focus on human development and personal hygiene concepts. Students also participate in a variety of physical activities throughout the course and are evaluated on their current and past individual physical fitness levels.

Wellness

Grade 8 - Related Arts Class

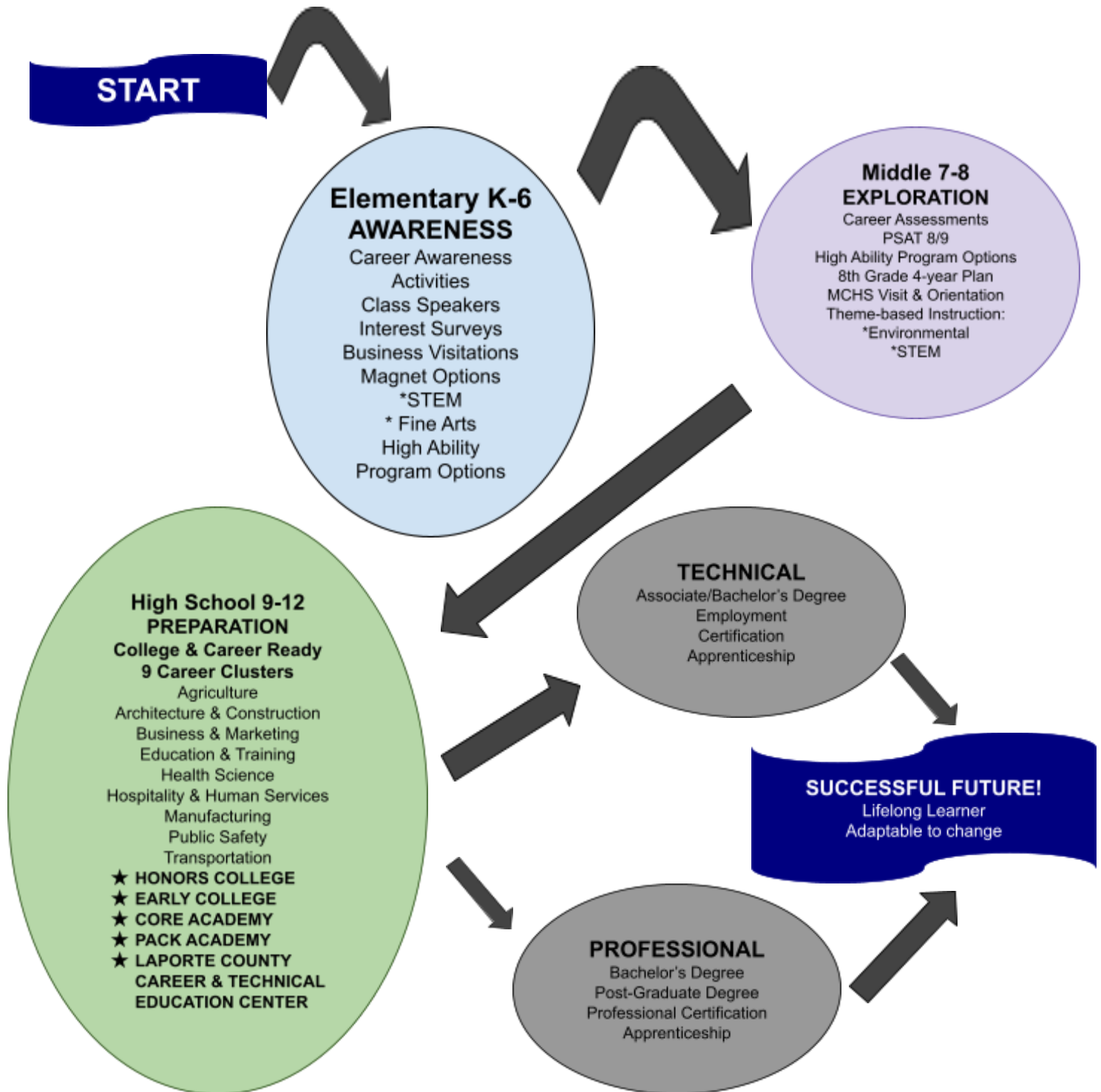
1 Semester

Required for all students.

In 8th grade Wellness, students review their knowledge and skills from 6th and 7th grade and continue Indiana Physical Education and Health Education standards. There is a focus on diseases and prevention, drug abuse, and fitness for life. Students participate in a variety of physical activities throughout the course and are evaluated on their current and past individual physical fitness levels.



CAREER EDUCATION MODEL



INDIANA CORE40

Effective beginning with students who enter high school in 2012-13 school year (class of 2016).

Course and Credit Requirements

English/ Language Arts	8 credits Including a balance of literature, composition and speech.
Mathematics	6 credits (in grades 9-12) 2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Geometry 2 credits: Algebra II <small>Or complete Integrated Math I, II, and III for 6 credits. Students must take a math or quantitative reasoning course each year in high school.</small>
Science	6 credits 2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: Chemistry I or Physics I or Integrated Chemistry-Physics 2 credits: any Core 40 science course
Social Studies	6 credits 2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: Economics 2 credits: World History/Civilization or Geography/History of the World
Directed Electives	5 credits World Languages Fine Arts Career and Technical Education
Physical Education	2 credits
Health and Wellness	1 credit
Electives*	6 credits <small>(College and Career Pathway courses recommended)</small>
40 Total State Credits Required	

Schools may have additional local graduation requirements that apply to all students

* Specifies the number of electives required by the state. High school schedules provide time for many more electives during the high school years. All students are strongly encouraged to complete a College and Career Pathway (selecting electives in a deliberate manner) to take full advantage of career and college exploration and preparation opportunities.

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CORE40 with Academic Honors (minimum 47 credits)

For the Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma, students must:

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- Earn 2 additional Core 40 math credits.
- Earn 6-8 Core 40 world language credits (6 credits in one language or 4 credits each in two languages).
- Earn 2 Core 40 fine arts credits.
- Earn a grade of a "C" or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- Have a grade point average of a "B" or better.
- Complete one of the following:
 - A. Earn 4 credits in 2 or more AP courses and take corresponding AP exams
 - B. Earn 6 verifiable transcribed college credits in dual credit courses from the approved dual credit list.
 - C. Earn two of the following:
 1. A minimum of 3 verifiable transcribed college credits from the approved dual credit list,
 2. 2 credits in AP courses and corresponding AP exams,
 3. 2 credits in IB standard level courses and corresponding IB exams.
 - D. Earn a combined score of 1750 or higher on the SAT critical reading, mathematics and writing sections and a minimum score of 530 on each
 - E. Earn an ACT composite score of 26 or higher and complete written section
 - F. Earn 4 credits in IB courses and take corresponding IB exams.

CORE40 with Technical Honors (minimum 47 credits)

For the Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma, students must:

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- Earn 6 credits in the college and career preparation courses in a state-approved College & Career Pathway and one of the following:
 1. State approved, industry recognized certification or credential, or
 2. Pathway dual credits from the approved dual credit list resulting in 6 transcribed college credits
- Earn a grade of "C" or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- Have a grade point average of a "B" or better.
- Complete one of the following,
 - A. Any one of the options (A - F) of the Core 40 with Academic Honors
 - B. Earn the following scores or higher on WorkKeys: Reading for Information – Level 6, Applied Mathematics – Level 6, and Locating Information–Level 5.
 - C. Earn the following minimum score(s) on Accuplacer: Writing 80, Reading 90, Math 75.
 - D. Earn the following minimum score(s) on Compass: Algebra 66 Writing 70, Reading 80.

CURRENT INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Indiana General High School Diploma

The completion of Core 40 is an Indiana graduation requirement. Indiana's Core 40 curriculum provides the academic foundation all students need to succeed in college and the workforce.

To graduate with less than Core 40, the following formal opt-out process must be completed:

- The student, the student's parent/guardian, and the student's counselor (or another staff member who assists students in course selection) must meet to discuss the student's progress.
- The student's Graduation Plan (including four year course plan) is reviewed.
- The student's parent/guardian determines whether the student will achieve greater educational benefits by completing the general curriculum or the Core 40 curriculum.
- If the decision is made to opt-out of Core 40, the student is required to complete the course and credit requirements for a general diploma and the career/academic sequence the student will pursue is determined.

Course and Credit Requirements (Class of 2016 & Beyond)

English/Language Arts	8 credits Credits must include literature, composition and speech
Mathematics	4 credits 2 credits: Algebra I or Integrated Mathematics I 2 credits: Any math course <i>General diploma students are required to earn 2 credits in a Math or a Quantitative Reasoning (QR) course during their junior or senior year. QR courses do not count as math credits.</i>
Science	4 credits 2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: Any science course <i>At least one credit must be from a Physical Science or Earth and Space Science course</i>
Social Studies	4 credits 2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: Any social studies course
Physical Education	2 credits
Health and Wellness	1 credit
College and Career Pathway Courses Selecting electives in a deliberate manner to take full advantage of college and career exploration and preparation opportunities	6 credits
Flex Credit	5 credits Flex Credits must come from one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional elective courses in a College and Career Pathway • Courses involving workplace learning such as Cooperative Education or Internship courses • High school/college dual credit courses • Additional courses in Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, World Languages or Fine Arts
Electives	6 credits Specifies the minimum number of electives required by the state. High school schedules provide time for many more elective credits during the high school years.
40 Total Credits Required	
Schools may have additional local graduation requirements that apply to all students	

(Updated Dec., 2011)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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