



The Michigan Merit Curriculum

And

Portland High School

Information for the Classes of 2011 and 2012

Key Concepts To Help You Understand the New High School Graduation Requirements

1. The curriculum of Portland Public Schools is being aligned with the Michigan Department of Education Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE's- grades K-7) and High School Course Content Expectations (HSCE's- grades 8-12).
2. The requirements apply to all students in public schools. Special Education students must satisfy these same standards to receive a high school diploma with the Individual Education Plan (IEP) determining the appropriate courses or course of study.
3. Local boards of education may add to the requirements, but cannot reduce them. Local boards determine the total number of requirements.

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4. While in very limited cases modifications (personal curriculum) can be made to some class selections; there is no “opt out” provision.

After all other options have been earnestly attempted, parents may request a **Personal Curriculum** that modifies certain standard requirements. However, Personal Curriculums have very strict guidelines, and all other options must be exhausted before a Personal Curriculum will be considered for a student.

5. There is room left in your student’s 4-year high school schedule for electives.

What You Need To Know About How Credit Is Granted

1. To graduate from Portland High School, a student must earn a minimum of 22 credits, including the State required credits in the Michigan Merit Curriculum.
2. A student is considered to have completed a credit if the student successfully completes the subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Education and implemented in Portland High School courses. Additionally, credit can be granted in other ways: successfully testing-out of a course, dual enrollment, and summer school/evening make-up classes taken for credit recovery.

What You Need To Know About How Credit Is Granted (continued)

Testing Out- Members of the Class of 2011 that desire to “test out” of a class at PHS for the 2007-2008 school year: the established “testing out” dates are:

June 8, 2007	1:00 p.m.	PHS Office
August 28, 2007	9:00 a.m.	PHS Office

3. If a student fails a required course for graduation, no credit is granted and the class must be made up. Since there is little room in a student’s schedule each year for make-up classes, the failed credit can be recovered in various ways, such as summer school, evening classes or online through the Michigan Virtual School.

What You Need To Know About The New Michigan Merit Curriculum and Graduation Requirements

MATHEMATICS

Requirement

4 credits

Specifics

Algebra I 1 credit

Geometry 1 credit

Algebra II 1 credit

1 additional credit, such as:

Functions, Statistics and Trigonometry (FST)

Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Financial Literacy

2-year Algebra II sequence

1 credit must be earned in the senior year

Mathematics (continued)

Personal Curriculum Modification

All pupils must have a minimum of 3.5 credits (including 1 credit in the senior year)

After 2.5 credits, a pupil may modify his/her Personal Curriculum IF

Successfully completed 1 semester of Algebra II **OR**

Successfully complete Algebra II over 2 years **OR**

Successfully complete the same content of 1 semester of Algebra II in a CTE course as part of a formal CTE program

Mathematics (continued)

General Notes

A mathematics course must be successfully completed in the senior year, with no exceptions. Earning four credits prior to the senior year, including 8th grade, does not satisfy the requirement of having to take a mathematics class in the senior year.

If a student takes a mathematics course through dual enrollment at a college in the 12th grade, it will satisfy the requirement for having a mathematics class in the senior year.

The 4th credit in Mathematics may be earned in a math-related course as determined by the local district.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Requirement

4 credits

Specifics

English Language Arts 9

English Language Arts 10

English Language Arts 11 OR CP English Language Arts 11

English Language Arts 12 OR CP English Language Arts 12

Advanced Placement English Language Arts may be substituted for English Language Arts 11 or 12

Portland High School requires an additional 0.5 credits of Communications for graduation

Personal Curriculum Modification

No modification allowed.

What You Need To Know About The New Michigan Merit Curriculum and Graduation Requirements

SCIENCE

Requirement

3 credits

Specifics

1 credit Earth Science

1 credit Biology

1 credit Chemistry or Physics

Personal Curriculum Modification

No modification allowed.

General Notes

Colleges strongly encourage 4 credits of science.

What You Need To Know About The New Michigan Merit Curriculum and Graduation Requirements

SOCIAL STUDIES

Requirement

3 credits

Specifics

1 credit World History and Geography

1 credit U.S. History and Geography

0.5 credit in Government/Civics

0.5 credit in Economics

Personal Curriculum Modification

After 2 credits, including Government/Civics, modification only if student takes additional credit(s) beyond the required credits in English Language Arts, Math, or Science.

General Notes

The Government/Civics credit cannot be modified.

What You Need To Know About The New Michigan Merit Curriculum and Graduation Requirements

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Requirement

1 credit

Specifics

0.5 credits Health

0.5 credits Physical Education

Personal Curriculum Modification

Modification only if the student takes additional credit(s) beyond the required credits in English Language Arts, Math, or Science.

General Notes

A Physical Education Waiver may be requested as per the Physical Education Waiver Policy. The Physical Education Waiver covers Physical Education only. Health cannot be waived under the Physical Education Waiver policy.

What You Need To Know About The New Michigan Merit Curriculum and Graduation Requirements

VISUAL, PERFORMING, OR APPLIED ARTS

Requirement

1 credit

Specifics

1 credit in any one category of the arts.

Personal Curriculum Modification

Modification only if the student takes additional credit(s) beyond the required credits in English Language Arts, Math, or Science.

General Notes

Students will have room in their schedules to take elective courses in the visual, performing and applied arts.

What You Need To Know About The New Michigan Merit Curriculum and Graduation Requirements

ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Requirement

Transcript

Notation

Specifics

“Credit” may be earned in an online course, online leaning experience, or integrated online learning in required graduation credit courses.

Personal Curriculum Modification

No modification allowed.

General Notes

Every student will have meaningful technology-enabled learning opportunities based on research and best practice that include virtual learning opportunities.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO ASSIST THEIR STUDENT?

1. Be a parent, not a “friend”. Establish set parameters for behavior and academic progress and enforce them.
2. Insure that your student gets to school, on time, every day. When your student is not in school he/she is missing valuable instruction.
3. Expect your student to work on school at home, and monitor their use of time in accomplishing that work. “Homework” is not always just written work. Reading and reviewing are an important part of the educational process.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO ASSIST THEIR STUDENT?

4. Establish an Edline account to allow yourself 24/7/365 access to your student's grade and attendance reports.
5. Communicate with your student's teachers via email, telephone, or face-to-face meetings and attend Parent-Teacher Conferences.