

MCHS Academic Dictionary for Parents

Heavy emphasis is placed on academic performance in regards to high school graduation and college admission. When trying to monitor and support their student's academic performance, parents can often be confused by the academic "lingo" used at the high school level. Here are the basics:

Graduation requirements: The courses a student MUST complete to receive a diploma. Students must earn a total of 27 credits, where each class is worth 1 credit.

Breakdown of Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2012 and beyond

- 4 Units of English
- 4 Units of Science
- 4 Units of Mathematics
- 4 Units of Social Studies
- 3 Units (at least) required from: Foreign Language* **and/or** Career Technical and Agricultural Education **and/or** Fine Arts for all students
- 1 Unit of Health/Physical Education
- 7 (at least) electives or other courses

*Students planning to enter or transfer into a University System of Georgia Institution must complete two units of the same foreign language.

Georgia High School Graduation Tests: All students must pass Georgia High School Graduation Tests in 5 content areas: Writing, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. These tests begin Junior year of high school. Students will not receive a diploma if they do not pass all 5 tests.

MCHS Grading Scale:

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 F = 69 or below

GPA: Grade Point Average. Final course grades are calculated as GPA. There is a cumulative GPA which counts every class taken during high school and HOPE GPA which counts only academic courses (all English, math, social studies, science and foreign language classes). To receive the HOPE Scholarship, students must have a 3.0 average upon graduation.

Continuous grading: Grades are calculated on a continuous grading cycle. Grades do not end and begin again (i.e. first semester grades are not averaged with second semester grades OR you do not start over with a clean slate in January). All grades are important, even the grades taken during the first days of school. As it gets later in the year, students have a harder time raising lower grades.

Enrichment: Enrichment is very similar to a study hall. Enrichment is built into the schedule and meets on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Students have the opportunity to do homework, retake tests, make up missing assignments, or get clarification on the information that was discussed in class earlier that day. Enrichment is a very valuable time for students, if used appropriately.

Transcript: A transcript is a student's academic record. Every class a student takes is recorded along with their final grade in the course. Transcripts are sent to colleges as part of the application process and can either help or hurt a student's chances for admission.