

Manchester Essex Regional High School

Grade 9 – Program of Studies Guide



Patricia Puglisi, Principal
puglisip@mersd.org

Beverly Low, Director of School and
College Counseling
lowb@mersd.org

MERHS Graduation Requirements

A total of 110 credits are required for graduation, along with successful completion of all areas of competency examinations required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 40 hours of Community Service, SCORE, and attendance at MERHS for at least one semester.

Specific requirements include:

<u>Subject Area</u>		<u>Credits</u>
English	4 years	20
Foreign Language	2 years	10 (two years in same language)
Mathematics	4 years	20
Science	3 years	15
Social Studies	3 years	15 (Must include US History I & II)
Civics Action	.5year	2.5
Physical Education	4 years	10
Community Service	40 hours	10 hours per year
State Competency Exams (successful completion of the ELA, Math and Science exams)		

The remainder of the required 110 credits may be taken in elective areas.

Civic Action Project has been added as a graduation requirement for the Class of 2027 and beyond in accordance with Chapter 296 of the Actions of 2018, An Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement

Students who fail a required course must repeat the course the following year. Students who fail a course but have maintained an average of at least 50% during the school year may be eligible to attend summer school to make up lost credit. Prior to enrolling in a course the student must have signed approval by his or her Guidance Counselor, class room teacher and Department Chair. Students earning an average less than 50% will be required to repeat the full-year course at MERHS.

Special Programs for School Credit

Students are afforded opportunities to earn credits outside the traditional school curriculum through the following programs; all options must be pre-approved by the Guidance Department and the Principal.

1. **Teaching Assistant:** available to 11th and 12th grade students who maintain a 30 credit course load and have demonstrated mastery in a subject area who wish to work cooperatively with a teacher in lesson planning, classroom activities, individual tutoring and modeling good scholarship. Up to 5 credits will be awarded per year. All Teaching Assistant classes are taken Pass/Fail.
2. **Independent Study:** developed at the initiative of an individual student who wishes to investigate a topic independently, especially if a need cannot be met within the regular curriculum. Such a course requires consultation with a teacher who is willing to supervise the work and permission of a Guidance Counselor, the Department Chairman, and the Principal. Credit will vary and course may only be taken Pass/Fail.
3. **College Courses/Dual Enrollment:** may be taken by any student who meets the criteria established by the college. All such courses may be included on a student's transcript with the notation that high school credit was or was not granted. The school will assume no costs for tuition for any course. Dual Enrollment with state universities may offer free tuition.
4. **Semester/Yearlong Programs:** either abroad or through U.S. private schools and organizations. This option is recommended only for those students in strong academic standing who can complete all requirements for graduation (especially 4 years of English) within the framework of the program. Detailed information regarding the proposed curriculum and credentials of the program must be provided in writing in the advance stages of planning, and approval must be in writing from the Principal before the exchange begins. See the Guidance Counselor to initiate this process.
5. **Online Courses:** from an accredited institution may be taken with prior approval by department chairs and principal
6. **SCORE – Senior Choice of Related Experience:** SCORE is a five-week internship program that releases seniors from regular classes to carry out hands-on learning projects in the career fields of their choice. It is a bridge between the familiar world of school and peer group and the largely unknown world of work and adulthood. Through SCORE, seniors have an opportunity to learn by doing, to assess possible careers, acquire job skills, clarify what further training they need, and finally put to use what they have learned in their years of schooling. Students must have their proposed projects approved by a review board of teachers and administrators.

Guidelines for Post-Secondary Planning

Students planning to pursue post-secondary education should take into consider the following guidelines:

Liberal Arts College

Following are typical requirements for admittance to a four year liberal arts college.

English	4 Years
History/Social Science	3 Years
Mathematics	3 – 4 Years
Foreign Language	3 – 5 Years
Lab Science	2 – 3 Years

Massachusetts State College and University of Massachusetts

For Admittance to a Massachusetts State College or University 17 college preparatory courses distributed as follows are required. (A course is equivalent to 1 full school year of study. Courses count toward the distribution only if passed.)

English	4 Years	
Mathematics	4 Years	Algebra I & II, Geometry or Trigonometry, or comparable coursework. Enrolled in mathematics during final year of high school.
Sciences	3 Years	Must include 3 lab courses
Social Sciences	2 Years	Must include 1 course in United States history
Foreign Language	2 Years	2 Years in a single language; 3 or more years recommended
Elective Subjects	2 Years	Electives should come from the above subjects or from the Arts & Humanities or Computer Science

Four Year Science or Engineering Majors

English	4 Years	
History/Social Sciences	2 Years	
Math	4 Years	Completion through Calculus
Foreign Language	2 Years	Foreign Language at some schools may be optional, but is more desirable to have been enrolled
Lab Science	3-4 Years	Including Physics, Physics II or Physics C

Nursing Programs

Same requirements as for Liberal Arts, however students must have taken courses in Biology and Chemistry. Physics and/or Human Anatomy & Physiology are recommended.

Two Year/Community Colleges

A Manchester Essex Regional High School diploma is typically the only requirement except for specialized programs which may have specific requirements.

Technical Schools

Requirements may vary, but following are typical standards. Technical schools are occupationally oriented. Courses from the Business and Technology Department provide outstanding opportunities for students.

English	4 Years	
History/Social Sciences	1-2 Years	
Math	3-4 Years	Completion through Concepts of Algebra II
Science	2-4 Years	Completion of Chemistry

Indicators of Student Success

Each student who graduates from MERHS is prepared to go on to higher education. On average, over 90% of our graduates elect to go directly to college; others opt for an interim experience, the military or employment. Our entire curriculum, therefore, is a college preparatory program with room for individuals to work at different levels in all the core areas, according to their particular strengths and weaknesses. In the 9th and 10th grades two levels are offered: College Prep and Honors. In the 11th and 12th grades Advanced Placement courses are added, so that a total of three levels are available for the last two years of high school. Levels represent the different academic standards offered in our courses; the definitions below are those standards represented by indicators teachers have found to be useful and observable. Decisions regarding placement are made on an individual basis, using teacher recommendations, grades from prior courses, placement and standardized test scores where applicable, and input from the student, parents, and the guidance counselor. **Students and parents may use these indicators as guidelines.** Student's ability to manage classroom work as well as required written homework assignments and studying time will vary depending on the student's academic strengths and time management skills. Please take these factors into consideration.

	Advanced Placement (AP)	Honors (H)	College Preparatory (CP)
Reading and Communication Skills	<p>Reads college-level materials at independent level.</p> <p>Communicates sophisticated concepts with confidence and clarity.</p>	<p>Reads above-grade-level materials at independent and instructional levels.</p> <p>With support, communicates sophisticated concepts with clarity and confidence.</p>	<p>Reads grade-level materials at the independent and instructional levels. Read above-grade-level materials at instructional level.</p> <p>Working toward communicating sophisticated concepts with confidence and clarity.</p>
Pace of Instruction	Accelerated, college-level pace.	Rigorous pace that assumes mastery of pre-requisite content.	Challenging pace appropriate for college preparation.
Independence and Initiative	Requires high level of independence and the initiative to go beyond course requirements.	Requires high level of independence and the initiative to pursue course requirements with passion.	Student draws upon teacher support with the goal of increasing his or her level of independence.
Volume of Outside Work (actual time is dependent on student time management, course requirements and other external factors)	These times may vary and are dependent upon course requirements and student strengths		
	Expect substantial independent work for each AP course.	Expect up to 1 hour of work per night for each honors course..	Allow for up to one hour of work per night for each CP course.

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2023-2024

Please choose your courses carefully. Course offerings and the number of available sections are based on student requests for enrollment. Insufficient enrollment for a course may result in the cancellation of such course. Because of the variety of courses offered, students may occasionally have to make a choice of courses. Students should stay in contact with their guidance counselors during the course selection process to ensure students have the best possible schedule for their four year plan.

Individual Student Four Year Plan

A *suggested* four year plan is as follows: Please see detailed **Course Pathways** in the course description section of the program of studies. Alternate pathways are available to meet individual student needs.

Grade 9

Course	Credits
English 9	5
World History	5
World Language (Spanish/French)	5
Math (Algebra/Geometry)	5
Biology	5
Health/PE	2.5
Media Literacy & Civic Action	2.5
Elective (year/semester course)	5.0
Total	35

Grade 10

Course	Credits
English 10	5
American History I	5
World Language (Spanish/French)	5
Math (Geometry/Algebra II)	5
Chemistry	5
Health/PE	2.5
Elective (year/semester course)	7.5
Total	35

Grade 11

Course	Credits
English 11/AP Composition	5
American History II	5
World Language (Spanish/French)	5
Math (Algebra II/Pre-Calculus, Alternate path available)	5
Physics, Human Anatomy (Alternate path available)	5
Health/PE (Alternate path available)	2.5
Elective (year/semester course)	8.0
Total	35.5

Grade 12

Course	Credits
English 12/AP Literature	5
Social Studies Elective	5
World Language (Spanish/French)	5
Math (Pre-Calc, Calc, alternate path available)	5
Physics, Human Anatomy (alternate path available)	5
Health/PE (alternative path available)	2.5
Elective (year/semester course)	8.0
Total	35.5

Ninth Grade Course Selection

Students are required to carry the equivalent of 35 credits annually (each year long class is 5 credits).

English

- _____ English 9 (World Literature) Honors
- _____ English 9 (World Literature) College Prep

Social Studies

- _____ World History II Honors
- _____ World History II College Prep
- _____ Media Literacy and Civic Action (required semester course 2.5 credits)

Foreign Language

- _____ French II College Prep
- _____ French II Honors
- _____ Spanish I College Prep
- _____ Spanish II College Prep
- _____ Spanish II Honors

Mathematics

- _____ Algebra I College Prep
- _____ Algebra I Honors
- _____ Geometry Honors

Science

- _____ Biology College Prep
- _____ Biology Honors

Health & PE

- _____ Physical Education and Health (required semester course 2.5 credits)

Electives

- _____ Sustainability 101 (Semester) – Pre-Requisite to Green Team
- _____ Green Team Intern
- _____ Green Team Scholar (2nd Semester)
- _____ Ceramics Foundations CP/H (Semester)
- _____ Digital Photography Foundations CP/H (Semester)
- _____ Digital Photography II H (After completion Foundations-Semester 2)
- _____ Video and Graphic Design (Semester)
- _____ Art Lab Foundations I CP/H (Semester)
- _____ Studio Art H (Semester 2)
- _____ Physical Computing CP/Honors (Semester)
- _____ Piano Lab I H (Semester)
- _____ Vocal Lab 1 H (Semester)
- _____ Survey of Music H (Year)
- _____ High School Band 1 & 2 CP (Year)
- _____ Jazz Band CP/H
- _____ High School Chorus 1 & 2 (Year)
- _____ A Cappella H (Year) Audition Required in Fall
- _____ Robotics Design & Engineering CP/H (Semester)
- _____ Introduction to Coding CP/H (Semester)
- _____ CADD CP/H (Semester)
- _____ Introduction to Coding CP/H (Semester)
- _____ Evidence Based Argumentation CP/H (Year)
- _____ Creative Writing CP/H (Semester)
- _____ Diverse American Stories CP/H (Semester)