

Dear Parents and Guardians of 8th Grade Students,

In October, 2018 the Board of Education adopted new graduation requirements which will better prepare students for college and career readiness. These changes impact students beginning with the class of 2023, our current 8th grade students. You can read the full requirements here -

<http://cdn.fairfieldschools.org/boe/policies/6000/6146%20-%20Requirements%20for%20Graduation.pdf>

One of the changes is an increase in the number of total high school credits, from 21.5 to 25, required for graduation. The policy includes this provision, “Seventh- and eighth-grade students may earn up to three (3) high school credits if they successfully complete any course, the primary focus of which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades nine to twelve.”

The following courses offered to 8th grade students meet that criteria -

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Spanish II H | French II H |
| Algebra I H  | Geometry H  |

If your child took one or more of these courses, he/she can earn high school credit for passing the course.

We will be posting these credits to your child’s transcript this summer. During their freshman year you can evaluate whether you wish to keep the credits on the transcript. By the end of the 19-20 school year, you will have the option to remove the courses in which your child earned high school credit while they were in middle school. A form indicating your decision must be sent to the Director of Pupil Services & Counseling by a specified date. If you would like the courses in which your child earned high school credit to remain on your child's transcript, there is nothing more you need to do. We will contact you next year with that form. Please note that when students apply for college or other post-graduate institutions the transcript will be part of their application. If you retain the courses on the transcript the grades they earn will be counted in their GPA.

All students, regardless of accepting the credit or not, will advance in the high school course sequence. It is also important to note that all students will have plenty of opportunity to fulfill the 25 credit requirement in grades 9 to 12. Also, all students must take a minimum of 6.5 credits per year.

Thank you,

Mike Cummings  
Chief Academic Officer