

Graduation Requirements

(Taken from the *Parent-Student Handbook for Educational Planning*)

Diploma Requirements

Students will demonstrate competency in:

1. Problem solving, critical thinking and decision-making.
2. Communication and group interaction.
3. Verbal, quantitative, scientific and technological literacy.
4. Thinking and expressing themselves creatively and responding to the creative works of others.
5. Understanding the heritage of the United States and the skills of participating in a democratic society.
6. Living successfully in a multicultural, global society.
7. Enhancing and sustaining self-esteem through personal honesty, adequate knowledge of self, dedication to the the work ethic and in maintenance of mental and physical health.
8. Self-improvement through life long learning.
9. The personal and social skills necessary to function successfully in school and in life.

These nine outcomes are the driving force for Westside High School. The purpose of establishing these outcomes in to assure that every graduate attains them. The vehicle of these outcomes is our curriculum. Practice and repetitions are necessary to assure that students have internalized what they are to know, to do and to be like. Courses offered by Westside will validate at least one of the above outcomes and will be so designated in this course handbook.

Each graduate must accumulate a minimum of 210 credit hours for the Diploma or 225 for the Diploma with Commendation, including the following course requirements and performance requirements leading to the student's choice of either the Diploma or the Diploma with Commendation. The Diploma with Commendation is in addition to Diploma requirements.

Additionally, students must complete a senior project, meet a Service Learning requirement, complete a Future Plan Portfolio, and gather information about themselves concerning their own employability skills.

Finally, competency tests in reading, writing, math and consumerism must be passed by all students as a prerequisite to becoming a diploma candidate.

Graduation Requirements (Knowledge)

KNOWLEDGE AREA	DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS	DIPLOMA WITH COMMENDATION
English	Writing & Speech: 2 semesters American Literature: 2 semesters	Advanced Writing in English: 1 semester (Composition). This course may be taken in lieu of 1 semester of literature.
Math	Algebra I: 2 semesters Geometry: 2 semesters	Advanced Algebra: 2 semesters
Social Studies	Civics/Government: 1 semester U.S. History: 2 semesters	Same
Science	Biology: 2 semesters Natural Science OR Physics: 2 semesters	Chemistry: 2 semesters
Health, Exercise & Leisure	Health Living: 1 semester Sport & Swimming Fitness: 2 semesters or Interscholastic Sports Equivalent	Same
Foreign Language	-----	4 semesters of any one language (grades 9-12)

Business	Word Processing 1 : 1 semesters	Same
Literature	4 semesters (Composition and/or Humanities can be substituted for 1 semester each of literature.)	Same
Global/Multicultural	2 semesters	2 semesters
Guidance	Group Guidance (9-10-11-12)	Same
Group 4-5 Courses	None	20 semester courses.
Credit Hours	210	225

Note: Only one Knowledge Specific Requirement can be met in any one course per semester. Eight consecutive semesters of English or Literature are required per grades 9-12.

Graduation Requirements (Performance)

Students must pass the proficiency to pass the course.

PERFORMANCE AREA	DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS	DIPLOMA WITH COMMENDATION
Problem Solving	4 authentic demonstrations at basic level	2 advanced authentic demonstrations
Writing	8 written demonstrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 from Basic Foundations & English at basic level. • 4 from other departments at basic level 	4 examples of advanced authentic demonstrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 from advanced writing in English. • 2 from other courses
Math Skills & Calculator	6 authentic demonstrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 authentic demonstrations in Math Department • 2 in other departments 	2 advanced authentic demonstrations in the Math Department
Creative/Expressive	2 authentic demonstrations	2 advanced authentic demonstrations
Word Processing	1 authentic demonstration of word processing ability	Same
Technology	None	2 authentic demonstrations

Performance in Teamwork (Group)	2 authentic demonstrations	2 advanced authentic demonstrations
Assessment of High School Career & Future Plan Portfolio	Successful completion	Same
Service Learning	80 hours	Same
Senior Project	Successful completion	Same
Competency Tests	Successful completion (math, reading, writing, composition)	Same
Grade Point Average Required	None	A cumulative 3.00 through the 1st semester of the senior year