

CREDITS AND GRADING

CREDITS

- All students must have 20 credits to be eligible to graduate. Please see page 9 for more details.
- In most cases, a course that lasts one full school year will merit one (1) unit of credit. Courses that last for a semester will merit one-half (.5) unit of credit.
 - The primary exception to this is Physical Education. The state of Ohio has mandated that one semester of Physical Education shall merit one-quarter (.25) unit of credit; therefore two semesters of Physical Education will be required to meet the graduation requirements of .50 credit in Physical Education.

GRADES

- All high school students and teachers in the Northwest Local School District will follow the weighted grading scale below:

GRADE	SCALE	GENERAL/ ADVANCED	HONORS	AP/CCP
A	90-100	4.0	4.5	5.0
B	80-89	3.0	3.5	4.0
C	70-79	2.0	2.5	3.0
D	60-69	1.0	1.0*	1.0*
F	0-59	0.0	0.0*	0.0*

*For Honors and AP courses, no weighted values are awarded for grades below a C. College Credit Plus (CCP) courses must follow the grading scale of the university awarding the credit.

GRADING SYSTEM PROCEDURES

- Quarter and final grades are reported on a numerical basis as percentages.
- A passing numerical average of a minimum of 60% is required to pass and receive credit for a course.
- No grade lower than 40% can be reported on quarter grades, however, progress reports and midterms can show averages lower than 40%.
- Quarter grades will comprise 90% of a student's overall grade and the semester exam will comprise the additional 10% of a student's overall semester grade. All students will receive credit by the semester for semester and year-long courses.
- An incomplete (I) may be temporarily assigned to a student who, for good reason, has not completed the required work for a given grading period. After a reasonable length of time, and upon the satisfactory completion of the work, the incomplete (I) will be changed to the numerical grade earned. If the student does not complete the work successfully, the incomplete (I) becomes the numeric grade earned.
 - Parents are notified when there is a likelihood that a final incomplete (I) will be given.

- Final determination of incomplete status is at the determination of the building principal. This information is included in the student's permanent record. No makeup privileges are allowed; the student loses semester credit in that course.

COMPUTATION OF GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

- Each percent grade is changed to the appropriate letter grade.
- Each letter grade is assigned a value (either regular or weighted).
- Each value is multiplied by the amount of credit the class is worth, resulting in a number of points.
- The total number of points is divided by the total number of credits attempted, arriving at the grade point average.
- Cumulative grade point averages are calculated at the end of each semester.
- Graduation academic awards are calculated in January of the student's graduation year.

GRADUATION AWARDS DEFINED

Classes of 2021 and 2022		
<p>Summa Cum Laude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 20 credits during high school • Minimum weighted GPA of 4.40 or higher • No final semester grade below a C 	<p>Magna Cum Laude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 20 credits during high school • Minimum weighted GPA of 4.16 or higher 	<p>Cum Laude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 20 credits during high school • Minimum weighted GPA of 3.57 or higher
GPA Requirements for the Class of 2023 and beyond		
Summa 4.5	Magna - 4.25	Cum - 3.75

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (BOE policy 5460)

In order to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program, appropriate to the achievement of District goals and objectives as well as personal proficiency, the Board of Education awards a diploma to eligible students who meet state and local requirements for graduation at a graduation ceremony. Ohio law outlines the course requirements all students must complete to earn a diploma. Ohio students must earn a minimum of 20 course units in specific subject areas.

Subject	Units Required
English Language Arts	4
Health	0.5
Physical Education ¹	0.5
Mathematics ²	4
Science ³	3
Social Studies ⁴	3
Electives ⁵ *1 fine arts credit is required (7-12)	5
TOTAL	20

¹ School districts may adopt policies that would exempt students who participate in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading for two full seasons or an approved Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program for two years from the physical education requirement. Starting with the 2019-2020 school year show choir is a permissible activity as part of the PE Waiver policy. Students satisfying the physical education waiver must take another course of study of at least 60 hours of instruction (1/2 unit).

² Students must earn 4 mathematics units, which must include one unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II. Exceptions: Algebra II or advanced computer science is not a requirement for students following a career technical pathway. However, students still must have four units in mathematics. A student may choose to apply one unit of advanced computer science to satisfy one unit of algebra II/math III or equivalent. Districts also may use credit in a computer science course approved by the Department to satisfy a student's mathematics credit.

³ Science units must include one unit of physical sciences, one unit of life sciences and one unit of advanced study in one or more of the following sciences: chemistry, physics or other physical sciences; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology or other earth or space science. A student can choose to apply one credit in advanced computer science to satisfy one unit of advanced science (excluding biology or life sciences).

⁴ Students must include ½ unit of American history, ½ unit of American government, and ½ unit in world history and civilizations (for students in the classes of 2021 and beyond) in the three required social studies units.

⁵ Elective units must include one or any combination of world language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education or English language arts, mathematics, science or social studies courses not otherwise required.

Other Graduation Requirements

Students must receive instruction in economics and financial literacy (in high school). These state requirements are fulfilled through the American Government course. Students are also required to complete at least two semesters of fine arts (during grades 7-12).

Classes of 2021 and 2022 Graduation Requirements

State law introduced new, permanent graduation requirements that are available for the classes of 2021 and beyond. Students entering ninth grade between **July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2019**, have the option to meet the new requirements outlined for the class of 2023 and beyond **OR** meet the requirements of the original three pathways to graduation.

The new requirements include:

- **Demonstrating Competency** - Students will demonstrate competency in the foundational areas of English language arts and mathematics or through alternative demonstrations, which include College Credit Plus, career-focused activities or military enlistment.
- **Demonstrating Readiness** - Students will demonstrate readiness for their post-high school paths by earning two seals that allow them to demonstrate important foundational and well-rounded academic and technical knowledge, professional skills, as well as to develop key social and emotional competencies and leadership and reasoning skills.

The original three pathways to graduation include:

- **Ohio's State Tests** - Earn at least 18 points on seven end-of-course state tests. Each test score earns you up to five graduation points. You must have a minimum of four points in math, four points in English and six points across science and social studies.
- **Industry credential and workforce readiness** - Earn a minimum of 12 points by receiving a State Board of Education-approved, industry-recognized credential or group of credentials in a single career field and earn the required score on Work Keys, a work-readiness test. The state of Ohio will pay one time for you to take the Work Keys test.
- **College and career readiness tests** - Earn remediation-free scores in mathematics and English language arts on either the ACT or SAT.

Classes of 2023 and Beyond Graduation Requirements

State law introduced new, permanent graduation requirements for students in the class of 2023 and beyond. Students entering ninth grade **after July 1, 2019**, must meet the new requirements outlined in state law.

Graduation Requirements for the Classes of 2023 and Beyond

- **Demonstrating Competency** - Students will demonstrate competency in the foundational areas of English language arts and mathematics or through alternative demonstrations, which include College Credit Plus, career-focused activities or military enlistment.
- **Demonstrating Readiness** - Students will demonstrate readiness for their post-high school paths by earning two seals that allow them to demonstrate important foundational and well-rounded academic and technical knowledge, professional skills, as well as to develop key social and emotional competencies and leadership and reasoning skills.

For additional information on Ohio's Department of Education graduation requirements, including testing information, visit <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-s-Graduation-Requirements>