

Important Information Regarding High School Credit Classes Taken in Middle School

As part of the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) Middle School Reform process, Julius West will be offering several high school credit classes in the 2011-12 school year.

Credit and grades for middle school students taking a high school course are awarded based on the following:

- Students must pass the course each semester.
- Students must pass the final examination at the end of the second semester.

Students who meet these criteria, by earning an A, B, C, or D, will receive high school credit and will have these grades count towards their MCPS high school grade point average (GPA), with the exception of Advanced English 8 (see below). If your child is not satisfied with the grade earned in a HS credit class, he or she may retake the course in Grade 7, Grade 8 or high school, if it is available.

Course	Grade/s	Comments
Chinese, French, Spanish (1A, 1B, 1A/1B, 2A/2B)	6, 7, 8	
Algebra	7, 8	
Honors Geometry	8	
Advanced English 8	8	All 8 th graders will have access to this class. In order to earn HS credit, students must also earn a final grade of A or B in each semester.
Earth Space Systems	8	All 8 th graders will have access to this class. This class fulfills the Physical Science credit requirement for a Maryland High School Diploma
Computer Arts Fundamentals	7	In order to earn a high school Fine Arts credit, students must successfully complete both of these courses. Each class may also be taken individually, but no HS credit will be awarded
Foundations of Art	8	

All high school courses taken in middle school will be recorded automatically on the high school transcript, once a student has entered high school. Students receive the first copy of their high school transcript in March of their Grade 9 year and receive updates throughout high school. College admissions offices receive copies of student transcripts when students apply to colleges in their senior year. The transcript shows credits students have earned in high school courses, their cumulative MCPS GPA, and a weighted MCPS GPA. MCPS GPAs are calculated on a four-point scale, awarding four points for an A, three points for a B, two points for a C, 1 point for a D, and 0 points for an E, using the final semester grade for each course. A quality, or extra point, is awarded for honors, Advanced Placement, and advanced-level classes for some final grades. Grades of A, B, and C in honors high school courses earn a quality point toward a student's weighted MCPS GPA. **It is important to note that many competitive universities do not use the MCPS calculated GPAs.** Instead, they use their own calculations based on the profile of students they are seeking.

If you have further questions about high school credit classes taken in middle school, please contact your child's counselor at 301-279-3993.