

Pyle CAC Whitman Pathways/Course Registration 2026-27

Answers to questions you didn't know to ask

Introductions

Erika Huck and Anne Fletcher- Pyle and Whitman Resource Counselors

Sushmitha Paidi and Nina Kutty- Pyle Counseling Advisory Committee
Co-Chairs

Michelle Harmon- Pyle Assistant Principal, Pyle Master Scheduler, Current 8th
grade administrator and Incoming 6th grade administrator

Rachel Rabin- Pyle Math Content Specialist

ON TRACK FOR GRADUATION

Class of 2029

FIRST YEAR NINTH GRADE: 2025–2026

MCPS Graduation Requirements at a Glance

THE STATE OF MARYLAND AUTHORIZES 1 DIPLOMA for all high school graduates, based upon successful fulfillment of four categories of requirements: enrollment, course credit, student service learning (SSL), and Maryland Comprehensive Assessments (MCA). Students must satisfactorily complete four years beyond Grade 8 to meet the enrollment requirement unless an alternative enrollment plan is developed and a waiver is approved as outlined in regulation ISB-RA. All other requirements are summarized in the table below. Please consult the online MCPS Course Bulletin for 2025–2026 at coursebulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Home/PlanningTools or your school counselor for further information.

COURSE CREDITS	
COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGINEERING OR TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (TE)	1 credit designated TE. Courses satisfying this requirement are designated in the course bulletin and includes the study of computers and algorithmic processes or the application of knowledge, tools, and skills to solve practical problems and extend human capabilities.
ENGLISH	4 credits of organized instruction in comprehension of literary and informational texts, writing, speaking and listening, language, and literacy, of which 1 credit shall be aligned with the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) for English.
FINE ARTS	1 credit in dance, media arts, music, theatre, or visual art, or a combination of these.
HEALTH EDUCATION	1 credit, Honors Health Education A/8
MATHEMATICS	4 credits, including instruction in algebra aligned with the MCA for algebra or 1 or more credits in subsequent mathematics courses for which Algebra 1 is a prerequisite, and 1 with the content standards for geometry. STATE REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2018 AND LATER: Students graduating in 2018 and later must be enrolled in a math course in each year of high school. This may result in students earning more than 4 credits in math for graduation.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1 credit
SCIENCE	3 Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) credits, including 1 life science credit aligned to the Life Science Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA), 1 physical science credit, and 1 credit in Earth/space science or an NGSS course with the topics of Earth/space science integrated.
SOCIAL STUDIES	3 credits, 1 U.S. History credit, 1 World History credit, and 1 National, State, and Local Government credit aligned with the MCA for government.
WORLD LANGUAGES OR PROGRAM OF STUDIES AND ELECTIVES	2 credits of the same world language which may include 2 credits of American Sign Language AND 2 credits in elective courses, OR Complete a state-approved career and technical education (CTE) program of study (POS) AND a minimum of 0.5 credit in elective courses or more depending on POS
STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)	
STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING (SSL)	75 service-learning hours The SSL requirement is prorated for students enrolling in MCPS for the first time after Grade 6.
MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT (MCA) REQUIREMENTS ^{1,2}	
These assessment requirements are subject to change by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).	
ALGEBRA 1	Course credit earned in Algebra 1 AND <ul style="list-style-type: none">Take the Algebra 1 assessment at the end of the B semester course.
ENGLISH 10	Course credit earned in English 10 or equivalent, English 10 for ELs AND <ul style="list-style-type: none">Take the English Language Arts/Literacy assessment at the end of the B semester course.
GOVERNMENT	Course credit earned in National, State, and Local Government or equivalent AND <ul style="list-style-type: none">Take the Government End of Course (EOC) assessment at the end of the B semester course. The EOC is 20% of the National, State, and Local (NSL) Government Semester B grade. AP Government students must take either the AP Government Exam or the MCAP Government EOC assessment.
SCIENCE	Course credit earned in Biology or equivalent, AND <ul style="list-style-type: none">Take the Life Science End of Course (EOC) assessment at the end of the B semester course. The EOC is 20% of the Biology Semester B grade. AP Biology students must take the Biology EOC assessment.

¹ Substitute Test: Students earning qualifying scores on substitute tests (AP/IB) will meet the MCA requirement in that content area.

² Transfer Credit: Students transferring from outside Maryland public schools may be eligible to meet some MCA content-area requirements with transfer credit.

Highlights:

- Students must take a Math and an English course all 4 years of high school, regardless of what High School Level Courses are taken in Middle School
- Program Completer/Elective requirements can be satisfied with World Language or Technology/Career pathway courses.
- Students must complete 75 SSL hours before April of their senior year in high school.
- World Language and Algebra 1 and beyond taken at Pyle are high school level courses.

Other Curriculum Pathways

- Whitman students have a choice in all disciplines each year. In core courses, they have a choice in level (on grade-level, honors or AP). They also have several elective choices.
- Whitman students often select more challenging classes in their favorite disciplines, and will spend more time doing homework in those classes. That may not be World Language or Math.
- There is no “right curriculum pathway” for everyone. Each student’s choice of classes at Whitman should reflect their passions and goals.

World Languages- Pyle

- World Language is optional in Middle School and is considered an elective.
- Pyle offers Spanish, French, and Chinese
- Students may complete 1 - 3 years of each at Pyle, depending on when they start and pace selected.
- At Pyle, level 1 Spanish and French can be split over 2 years, as long as students start the language in 6th or 7th grade.
- Regardless of pace, all WL classes are high-school courses and the grades will appear on the high school transcript.
- High school courses taken in middle school, will only be factored into the high school GPA if it helps the overall cumulative GPA

World Languages - Whitman

- Whitman offers many languages (*depending on enrollment): Spanish, French, Chinese, Japanese, Latin, American Sign Language. Highest language levels vary; students can reach the AP Level in Spanish, French, Chinese, and Japanese. Students may also take World Language classes through our Dual Enrollment program.
- 8th grade students may start Japanese 1 or Italian 1 at Whitman during first period (the languages not offered here at Pyle)
- Languages can be started at any time. However, students need at least two years of the same language to meet Maryland state graduation requirements.

World Languages - Whitman

- Some colleges suggest students take a minimum of two years of language in HS, regardless of years taken in middle school. However, students should choose what is best for their individual goals.
- Students may start with classes in one language and switch to another language in later years. However, proficiency in one language is often preferred by colleges over number of languages.
- Students intending to apply to competitive colleges are encouraged to take 3 years of language courses in high school, regardless of what was taken in middle school.

	WORLD LANGUAGES (WL) PATHWAYS						
Pathways	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
1	WL 1AB	WL 2	WL 3	WL 4	WL 5	WL AP	WL AP / Elective
2	WL 1A <i>(Full Year)</i>	WL 1B <i>(Full Year)</i>	WL 2	WL 3	WL 4	WL 5	WL AP
3	Elective	WL 1AB	WL 2	WL 3	WL 4	WL 5	WL AP
4	Elective	WL 1A <i>(Full Year)</i>	WL 1B <i>(Full Year)</i>	WL 2	WL 3	WL 4	WL 5
5	Elective	Elective	WL 1AB	WL 2	WL 3	WL 4	WL 5
6	Elective	Elective	Elective	WL 1	WL 2	WL 3	WL 4

World Language Offerings

	Pyle Only		Pyle and Whitman			Whitman Only				
Spanish	1A	1B	1	2	3	4	5	AP LC	AP Lit	
French	1A	1B	1	2	3	4	5	AP LC		
**Chinese	1AB	2AB			3^	4	5	AP LC		
**Italian			1*			2	3	AP LC		
**Japanese			1*			2	3	4	5	AP LC
**ASL						1	2	3	4	
**Latin						1	2			

- 1* -Japanese 1 and Italian 1 are offered to 8th graders 1st pd at Whitman and will be mixed with Whitman students from all grade levels.
- Chinese 1 and Chinese 2 are not always available at Whitman. If you would like to study Chinese you should start in level 1 by 7th grade, as we cannot guarantee that you will be able to start it afterwards.
- Chinese 3^ may be offered at Whitman for the 2026-2027 school year. Other years it may be offered at Whitman 1st pd or at Pyle - depending on enrollment and staffing.
- ** Please note that less commonly taught languages, including: Chinese, Italian, Japanese, ASL and Latin are contingent on enrollment and staffing and cannot be guaranteed from year to year. As a result, the exact languages and levels offered may change each year.



Math Pathways

2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030
Grade 6 Pre-Algebra	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Advanced Math
Grade 6 Pre-Algebra	Accelerated Math 7	Integrated Algebra 1	Integrated Algebra 2	Advanced Math
Accelerated Math 7	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Advanced Math
Accelerated Math 7	Math 8	Integrated Algebra 1	Integrated Algebra 2	Advanced Math
Accelerated Math 6	Accelerated Math 7	Integrated Algebra 1	Integrated Algebra 2	Advanced Math
Accelerated Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Integrated Algebra 1	Integrated Algebra 2
Math 8	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Advanced Math
Math 7	Math 8	Integrated Algebra 1	Integrated Algebra 2	Advanced Math
Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Integrated Algebra 1	Integrated Algebra 2
Math 5 or Math 5/6	Grade 6 Pre-Algebra	Integrated Algebra 1	Integrated Algebra 2	Advanced Math
Math 5 or Math 5/6	Accelerated Math 6	Accelerated Math 7	Integrated Algebra 1	Integrated Algebra 2
Math 5 or Math 5/6	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Integrated Algebra 1

Combined Middle School thru High School Math Sequence
(presented by grade when Algebra 1 is taken)
Applies to students in old pathway

7 th grade	8 th grade	9 th grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th grade
Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus	MV Calculus and/or Linear Algebra and/or AP Stat
	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus	Calculus and/or AP Stat
	Algebra 1	Geometry	2 yr Algebra 2	2 yr Algebra 2	Honors Stats or Financial Math
		Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus or Honors Stats
		Algebra	Geometry	2 Year Algebra 2	2 Year Algebra 2

Summer School/Enrichment

Whitman does **not** encourage students taking math courses to accelerate in math over the summer

Students can take Health or Tech classes in the summer

Students can start taking high school courses for original credit the summer after 8th grade

Pyle Technology Pathways- Pre-Engineering/PLTW

Pre-Engineering Pathways

Accelerated Pre-Engineering Pathways			
Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
*Electives Rotation: Design & 3D Modeling	Gateway to Technology A/B (Fully Year)	**Introduction to Engineering and Design A/B (Full Year)	Principles of Engineering A/B (Full Year)

Pre-Engineering Pathway			
Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
*Electives Rotation: Design & 3D Modeling	Gateway to Technology A (1 semester)	Gateway to Technology B (1 semester)	Introduction to Engineering and Design A/B (Full Year)

Grade 6 Electives Rotation: Students are randomly assigned to four different courses, one course per marking period. Please note: Grade 6 engineering electives are not pre-requisites for Gateway to Tech

**Students may take Intro to Engineering (IED) in 8th grade without Gateway to Tech in 7th if they have/are taking Algebra 1

Whitman Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering Pathway 3 Credits (& Prerequisites)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Engineering and Design (IED)

Offered at Pyle MS and Whitman HS

1. Principles of Engineering (POE)
2. One of the following:
 - a. Civil Engineering (CE)
 - b. Aerospace Engineering (AE)
 - c. Digital Electronics (DE)
3. Engineering Development & Design (EDD)

If IED is taken in 9th grade, students typically take DE/ AE/CE in 11th grade.

Pyle Technology- Computer Science

6th grade- Coding Game and Development (9 week electives rotation- NOT a prerequisite)

7th grade- Principles of Information Technology: Digital Systems Applied to Robotics

8th grade- Foundations of Computer Science AB (for HS Tech Ed credit)

Whitman Computer Science Pathway (3 Credits)

1. Computer Programming 1
2. AP Computer Science JAVA
3. One of the following:
 - a. Advanced Topics Computer Science (Computer Programming 3)
 - b. Dual Enrollment at Montgomery College

Note:

The Computer Science pathway courses do NOT satisfy the technology requirement for graduation.

Foundations of Computer Science, and *AP Computer Science* DO satisfy the technology requirement, but are not part of this pathway.

Whitman Child Development Pathway (4-6 Credits)

1. Child Development & Growth
2. Learning Environment for Preschoolers
3. Advanced Guided Research Education
4. Child Development Associate Portfolio Internship
5. OPTION: Advanced Intern Education

Thomas Edison HS of Technology Pathways

- Students generally begin their junior year. (Exceptions for Cosmetology)
- Certification/Licensure Opportunities
- Career Development Opportunities
- Typical Daily Schedule
 - Whitman- Periods 1-3
 - TEHS: Periods 4-8 (includes lunch)
- Interested Students can check out the [TEHS Website](#)
- Students can also take some courses as electives

- Auto Collision Repair
- Automotive Technology
- Foundations of Building Construction Technology (FBCT)
- Carpentry
- Electricity
- Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Masonry
- Plumbing
- Architecture
- Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Cosmetology
- Academy of Health Professions
- Professional Restaurant Management
- Graphic Design
- Law Enforcement and Leadership
- Network Operations
- Cybersecurity

Interventions/Resources

- Related Studies- Pyle
- Resource- Pyle
- Reading Interventions- Pyle
- Writing Center - Whitman
- Vike to Vike tutoring - Whitman
- Math Workroom-Whitman
- Resource/Connections (approval required)- Whitman

Career Pathways Program

- Multiple Career Pathway options in MCPS
- These options open up once student are at the high school level, express interest, and fit within their graduation plan
- Counselors talk to interested students about these options throughout high school
- PLTW, Child Development, Edison options available as well
- High school completer in lieu of (or in addition to) World Language

Mental Health Considerations

Balance (academics/extracurriculars/self-care) is so important to overall success and the achievement culture (eg: racing to nowhere) has a detrimental impact on our students.

Pyle CAC Book Club (date TBD)- Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic and What We Can Do About It, Jennifer Breheny Wallace

We encourage parents to view a presentation of Never Enough with author Jennifer Wallace, presented by Whitman's Stressbusters, a PTSA committee dedicated to the health and well-being of our students.

How Parents Can Help *(now and going forward)*

- Be mindful of the use of tutors and other private professionals
- Encourage your child to speak to their counselor about course registration questions and concerns
- Remind students (and yourselves) that there is a college for everyone; Students should not change to fit a college.
- Help your child create a balanced academic load. Extracurriculars, and socialization, are an important part of the high school experience.
- It's OK to say no and set limits if you think your child is overloaded.

How Parents Can Help *(now and going forward, con't)*

- Listen to your child about what they are interested in
- Remember your student is an individual with their own unique path. What's best for one student is not necessarily the best for another.
- Don't compare notes with other parents or feel like you are "missing out."
- Anticipate and welcome bumps in the road as parenting opportunities and understand this is an important part of the journey.
- Failure is valuable and inevitable. Building resilience is key

Registration Related Dates

- Google Registration Forms due for incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students by February 6th
- Incoming Whitman Freshmen registration on StudentVue is due on February 6th. Whitman counselors coming to Pyle to answer student questions on February 6th during all Math classes.

Questions/Resources

- The Pyle and Whitman websites have Registration Booklets posted with course descriptions as well as links to additional information. Navigate to the Counseling page of these sites for registration information.
- Counselors are available for students who have questions about their course registration.
- This presentation will be posted on the Pyle website for future reference.
- If we were unable to get to your question in the chat, please stay tuned for our FAQ document that will be emailed and posted.