

Earning High School Credits in Middle School

Students can earn high school credits in middle school for the following courses:

- Algebra 1 – Math credit
- Honors Geometry – Math credit
- French 1 and Spanish 1 and 2 – Foreign Language and Program Completer credit

Credits and grades for Algebra 1, Honors Geometry, French 1, and Spanish 1 & 2 are awarded based on the following:

1. Students must pass the course each semester with an A, B, C, or D.
2. Students must pass the final examination at the end of the second semester.

****These grades earned will count towards their Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) high school grade point average (GPA). If your child is not satisfied with the grade earned, he or she should schedule to retake the course for the next year in order to improve the grade. Scheduling high school courses in middle school is an enriching and rigorous undertaking that requires serious commitment on the part of the student and parent. Therefore it is important to give careful consideration before signing up for these courses.**

A Word about Foreign Languages in Middle School:

Taking and passing 2 credits of a Foreign Language is one of several options to fulfill MCPS graduation requirements of 2 credits of a Program Completer. However, Damascus High School Counselors inform us that 4 year colleges are looking for a minimum of three years of the same Foreign Language on the transcript. The majority of four year colleges accept two years of a Foreign Language in middle school and one year in high school. However it is better for students to take two years of a Foreign Language in high school in addition to what they have taken in the middle school. Highly competitive schools such as Ivy League Universities look for Foreign Languages taken during high school because they are looking for the higher levels of Foreign Language. This should not be confused with MCPS graduation requirements of 2 credits of a program completer with foreign language being one option.