

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

How are grades reported?

InformationNOW Parent Portal, Web Portal, Progress Reports, and Report Cards

Is there a specific supply list?

The individual teacher will provide a list of materials needed in addition to the routine school supplies on the first day of class.

What classes are typically offered in Summer School?

Summer School is mainly for credit recovery and not credit advancement; however, Computer Applications (cohorts 2014-2016), Health and Driver's Ed are also offered. Registration for Summer School will be posted on website and through NotifyMe.

How do I know which courses are considered a Physical Science?

Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics all meet the requirements.

What courses meet the Health graduation requirement?

Health and Foundations of Health Science both meet the state requirement.

What courses meet the L.I.F.E. PE graduation requirement?

L.I.F.E. PE, Athletic L.I.F.E. PE, Color Guard, Marching Band, Percussion Marching Band, Percussion Indoor Drum Line, and AFJROTC courses all satisfy the L.I.F.E. PE state requirement.

What is the difference in the Biomedical program and the Health Science program?

Both are the same in that through the completion of the courses, a student will have 1 regular weighted credit and three honors weighted credits. Also, both are high interest programs and both provide wonderful experiences for students interested in any health related field. However, the biomed courses must be entered in either the 9th or 10th grade years and are more focused on theory and research. Health Science may be entered as late as the junior or senior year and is focused more on diagnosis and treatment.

What Advanced Placement courses are appropriate for 9th and 10th grade students?

AP World History is now offered at the 9th grade level for students who want to begin AP coursework. AP World History, AP US History and AP Human Geography are good courses for 10th grade students. AP Chemistry, AP Biology, and AP European History are available at the 10th grade level as well.

How do I know if I could be successful in an Advanced Placement course?

We are currently using EXPLORE, PLAN and PSAT student data to identify and inform students of academic areas for which they have demonstrated the ability to be successful in AP coursework. Also, other factors such as previous grades, study habits, personal work ethic, and interest all play a part in student success.

Do I have to take all Advanced Placement courses?

We encourage a student to push themselves to the highest academic rigor possible. It is recommended for any student going to college to take at least one AP course in their area of academic strength, personal interest and/or relevance to a planned career path. AP courses mirror the rigor of college level classes.

Do I have to take Honors, PreAP or AP courses in order to earn an Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement?

A student can meet the requirements of an Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement without taking Honors, PreAP or AP courses.

Who is eligible for Valedictorian and Salutatorian?

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian are selected according to rank at the end of the senior year. To be eligible for Valedictorian and Salutatorian, a student must enroll prior to the end of the first 9 week term of his/her

senior year.

What determines my grade level?

Grade level assignment at the senior high level is determined the number of years a student has attended at any senior high school. For example, a student in their second year of high school will be labeled as a sophomore. Students that have not meet the requirements for graduation at the end of their fourth year of high school (senior year) will continue to be labeled as seniors in subsequent school years until graduation requirements are obtained or the student is no longer enrolled.

Why is it so difficult to change my class schedule? What's the big deal?

Administrators and counselors spend an incredible amount of time building class schedules that reflect the student's goals and interests, fairly distributing students among similar classes, and placing courses at times in the day when the most students can take requested classes. Once classes are balanced and sections are established, it is most difficult to make a change without affecting the overall balance of teachers and class counts. Teachers are hired and textbooks are purchased based on the course enrollment as projected in the spring thereby limiting availability of classes and textbooks.

What happens if I fail a class?

For students who are not successful during the regular school year and must repeat a class, summer school may be a necessity. You may also have the option of participation in the Credit Recovery program or reenroll the following semester.

What is Renaissance?

Renaissance seeks to promote a positive climate where every student can qualify for rewards and recognition in a variety of programs: A/B Honor Roll, P.R.I.D.E., Patriot Pass Status, or Team GPA.

Graduation COHORTS 2014-2016

What is the difference between an Alabama High School Diploma and an Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement?

The State of Alabama offers an advanced academic endorsement to the regular high school diploma for those students who complete additional and more rigorous course work. The specific differences are spelled out in the check list for graduation requirements contained in this guide. An advanced academic endorsement is not required for admission to any university, although many colleges do require various combinations of courses for admission that are associated with the advanced academic endorsement. All students are automatically placed on the Advanced Academic Endorsement track.

What courses meet the Fine Arts graduation requirement?

Any course under "The Arts" will meet the fine arts requirement.

How do I know which sciences qualify for the "Additional Advanced Sciences" for the Advanced Academic Endorsement?

It is designated in the course descriptions.

May students receive credit toward graduation for courses in the 8th grade?

Yes. Students may bring up one credit of a math, one credit of a Foreign Language and a .5 credit of Computer Applications to the 9th grade (high school) transcript.

What is the Madison City Seal of Academic Distinction for Graduation Cohorts 2014-2016?

In addition to earning the Alabama Advanced Academic Endorsement, a student may gain the Madison City Seal of Academic Distinction by earning Advanced Placement credits as outlined below based upon graduation year.

Graduation Cohort 2014 (the Rising Senior Class): One AP Course Credit

Graduation Cohort 2015 (the Rising Junior Class): Two AP Course Credits

Graduation Cohort 2016 (the Rising Sophomore Class): Three AP Course Credits