

Dear Parents of 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students:

I am writing to share some information regarding an opportunity that the state has made available for your child: Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM). Starting with the 2015-2016 school year, through CDM, your child has the option to attempt to earn credit for a course without spending a specific number of hours in the classroom. More specifically, under the new CDM option, uniquely-qualified students may “test out of,” or “bypass,” a course if they have already mastered the content.

The CDM program provides an opportunity for students to learn new content, be challenged with the next level of rigor in a subject area, and possibly pursue early graduation from high school. However, this option is not designed to replace existing accelerated pathways (such as Honors courses, Advanced Placement courses, or College and Career Promise courses). Instead, it is intended to provide students with an opportunity to “test out of,” or “bypass,” a course in which they already excel in terms of the mastery of its content. This option is available to all high school students in the Randolph County School System, as well as current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the school system, with regard to earning credit for high school level courses offered in grades 9-12.

Parents and students are encouraged at this time to consider options for the use of the CDM program, in terms of potential courses. During each semester, students will be able to apply for, and attempt to complete, CDM for courses that are offered.

To earn credit for a high school course through this process, students shall demonstrate mastery for the course through the successful completion of the following two phases:

**Phase 1: A standard examination**

- EOC Exam – Level 5
- CTE Post Assessment – 93% or better
- Non-EOC/Non-CTE Assessment – 94% or better

**Phase 2: An artifact**

- A project that demonstrates the student’s deep understanding of the content standards
- Artifacts of any type may be assigned—ranging from three-dimensional to paper-based to electronic to oral interviews

More information about the CDM process and a list of eligible courses can be accessed on the Randolph County School System’s website at <http://www.randolph.k12.nc.us/Pages/CreditbyDemonstratedMastery.aspx>. Nonetheless, it is important to note that the CDM process only can be used to earn credits in standard (non-honors level) courses. Please feel free to call your child’s school counselor, (insert counselor’s name), at (insert phone number) for more information.

Respectfully,

Principal