

LEARNING OPTIONS

Traditional, Face-To-Face Course: MPS teachers use an instructional model where students physically attend class daily. Teachers use technology tools to enhance and facilitate instruction in the brick-and-mortar classroom.

Blended Learning: MPS teachers use an instructional model in which the student learns in a hybrid of face-to-face instruction and online instruction. During the online instruction, under the guidance of the teacher, the student has control over the time, place, and pace of the curriculum to form an integrated instructional approach.

Blended Enriched Virtual Model: Students have required face-to-face learning sessions in the brick-and-mortar school with their MPS teacher of record, and then are free to complete their remaining coursework remotely based on the course syllabus requirements.

Blended courses are available as indicated in the high school course listing. Please see your counselor if you are interested in taking a blended course.

Fully Online with MPS Teacher: Online courses are classes where MPS teachers facilitate a learning environment in which the student can receive all course content in an online instructional setting. Under the guidance of the teacher, the student has control over the time, place, and pace of the curriculum. Courses available in this format are indicated as such in the high school course listing. Please see your counselor if interested in taking an online course. These courses are part of a student's GPA calculation.

Online eLearning Program: Midland Public Schools has an eLearning program to allow students to recover credits, as well as to provide opportunities beyond what is currently offered. The eLearning Program provides online courses from various vendors (primarily Edgenuity) that are mentored by our Electronic Learning Facilitators who are certified teachers facilitate. Students receive all course content in an online instructional setting. Students work at their own pace and can recover more than a semester's credit in a semester. Under the guidance of the Electronic Learning, the student has control over the time, place, and pace of the curriculum. Courses taken through eLearning are treated like all courses. They earn credit towards meeting the graduation requirements **AND are part of the student's GPA calculation.** Please see your counselor if interested in taking an online course.

Students can take up to two courses through our eLearning program. If the course is taken for credit recovery, all tests and the final exam must be taken onsite with the Electronic Learning Facilitator. If the course is taken for initial credit, the final exam must be taken onsite. Please see your counselor if interested in taking an eLearning course.

Online Summer Program: Facilitated by our Electronic Learning Facilitators, students may take a course through our online summer program for a fee. Students must attend sessions for the first week of the program to become familiar with online learning. After the first week, attendance is optional based on progress. All tests and the final exam must be taken onsite with the Electronic Learning Facilitator.

Test Out: An option for students to demonstrate a reasonable level of mastery of subject matter to meet course and program requirements and then to be placed at the next higher level. This option should be considered carefully as Test Outs may only be taken once for each course.

Test Out is available for courses required for graduation. The standard Test Out request form should be completed and submitted to the building and a copy sent to the Curriculum Office. The standard test out expectations apply. The test out will be scheduled in the summer by the Curriculum Office and Teacher (Test Supervisor). The application is due the second Friday in May.

Midland Public Schools, in compliance with the Michigan Merit Curriculum Law, will allow students to “test out” of any course or subject credit area required for graduation in the Michigan Merit Curriculum. Students who are not enrolled in a course who attain a score of 78% or higher on a course assessment identified by the district will receive credit for the course. Middle school math uses a different scoring matrix. These assessments will be a sound demonstration that a student meets or exceeds the content expectations associated with the subject credit area. Because some end-of-year tests do not serve as comprehensive measures of content and skill “mastery” as expressed in the Michigan Merit Curriculum Law, students may be required to demonstrate a reasonable degree of mastery either through a written examination, written papers, portfolios, and/or other comparable forms.

Credit for a course earned by a student through the test out process will be used to fulfill a course or course-sequence graduation requirement and will be counted toward the total required number of credits needed for graduation. It will not be calculated into the student’s grade point average (GPA). A student who tests out of a higher level course may not receive credit for a course that is in the same area and lower in the course sequence.

Test Out timeframe varies by subject area but generally are given either in mid-June or in August. For more information contact your school counselor or assistant principal.

Personal Curriculum: The intention of the Michigan Merit Curriculum and the Personal Curriculum law is to ensure that students earn as much of the MMC credits as possible. It is also understood that certain program tracks may be hindered by some of these requirements and so replacement under specific circumstances are allowed.

Application for a Personal Curriculum may be made by working through the counselors at the high schools. Specific guidelines and explanation material may be accessed on the MPS website under Curriculum.

Dual Enrollment

An option for eligible students, which provides school district payment based on state portions of the district foundation allowance. Students are responsible for their own transportation.

Students may enroll in no more than ten courses overall. Students may enroll in a maximum of two each year in 9th, 10th and 11th grades, and no more than four in the senior year.

Students who meet eligibility criteria may earn both high school and college credit; however, classes do not count toward calculation of grade point average or class rank unless the MPS subject area coordinator recommends enrollment in the course.

Note: Not all colleges/universities accept dual enrollment credit. Parents/students should check with colleges they might want to attend to determine the status of dual enrollment classes.

College Courses

This option allows a high school student to take college classes beyond the six-hour day and earn both high school and college credit. The school district does not pay for these courses.

The student earns both high school and college credit; however, classes do not count toward calculation of a grade point average.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Independent Study is designed for students who have taken all courses in a sequence, where there is no definable sequence, or where there are no other viable options for the intended area or topic of learning. It is not for maintenance or enhancement of GPA or class rank, or to solve scheduling conflicts. To be eligible for independent study, a student must have completed all graduation requirements for the area of study. A student must complete the independent study application and have approval from the content area Teacher Leader and Assistant Principal. The application process is detailed and includes a requirement for the student to "write their own curriculum." The student will collaborate with the Teacher Leader and Assistant Principal to determine learning outcomes on which a grade will be determined. The Teacher Leader will monitor student progress throughout the experience. The student will be expected to give a presentation to the Independent Study Committee as part of the final assessment. For more information, please contact your school counselor.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

International Baccalaureate Courses (Certificate and Diploma Program)

International Baccalaureate courses emphasize critical thinking as well as intercultural understanding and respect for others in the global community. Students can choose to earn a certificate in individual courses, but are encouraged to pursue the Diploma Program which is recognized internationally as a qualification for admission to university.

The Diploma Program (DP) is a two-year course of study for students in grades 11 and 12. It offers a broad and balanced curriculum in which students are encouraged to apply what they learn in the classroom to real world issues and problems. Wherever possible, subjects are taught from an international perspective. See INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA CURRICULUM for further details. There are fees associated with taking IB assessments.

Advanced Placement Courses and Exams

Advanced Placement Courses are designed to provide a rigorous curriculum that prepares students for college level course work and to take the AP Tests. Students may sign up for any advanced placement exam that they wish to take, even if they have not taken a corresponding advanced placement course. Independent work outside of school may be necessary in this case. AP exams are optional for students taking AP courses. There are fees associated with taking AP exams.

A list of the AP exams is available on the College Board website at www.collegeboard.org. MPS courses designed to support AP exams are designated AP in the course list. See your counselor for further details.

Off-Site Courses

Off-site courses are an extension of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. These specialized programs provide students the opportunity to take advanced coursework in many of the Michigan Career Pathways. Interested students should see their counselor for a program application, and keep in mind that these programs have limited openings.

Students must provide their own transportation to courses at Bay-Arenac Career Center (BACC), Delta College, and the Educational Careers program at Bullock Creek.

As part of our Consortium Agreement, in partnership with other county-wide public schools, transportation will be provided to the Agriscience program at Coleman, the Culinary Arts program at Windover, and the Greater Michigan Construction Academy (GMCA). Current offerings include:

Pathway	Courses
Engineering, Manufacturing, & Industrial Technology	Chemical Technology 1, Auto Body Repair, Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Machine Trades, Industrial Construction
Health Services	Dental Occupations, Forensic Science, Physical Therapy/ Occupational Therapy/Sports Medicine, Educational Careers, Veterinary Science
Human Services	Culinary Arts, Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice
Natural Resources/Agriculture	Agriscience

See Off-Site Career and Technical Education Courses