Sophomore Parent Night

Graduation Requirements, CAPT, Smarter Balance, PSAT, ASVAB, College Career Pathways
### Credit Requirements for Graduation

Students are expected to schedule and earn sufficient credits each year, in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 in order to meet graduation requirements. 29 credits are required for graduation and must include courses from the following content areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology Program</th>
<th>9 credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cluster Trade Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theory Integrated Within Trade</td>
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| Exploratory Program (freshmen only) | 3 credits |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Studies (includes Civics)</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics (includes Algebra 1)</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career Development</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
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In order to earn credit the student must achieve a grade of 60 or above.
Promotion Requirements

- To achieve 10th grade status a student must accumulate 7.0 credits and receive a 60 or higher in phase III of exploratory and a combined grade of 60 or higher for phase I, II and III of exploratory.

- To achieve 11th grade status a student must accumulate 14.5 credits and receive a 60 or higher in trade/technology.

- To achieve 12th grade status a student must accumulate 22.5 credits and receive a 60 or higher in trade/technology.

- Seniors must earn a minimum of 6.5 credits and must participate in the senior summative assessment or an equivalent assessment if required in their technology.

- If a student does not meet the requirements to be promoted to the next grade, he/she may opt to repeat their grade if space permits or return to their local district.
Basic Skills Requirement for Graduation

Science Performance Standard

Students shall demonstrate the ability to use scientific inquiry skills to explore world life problems using the content of biology, physics, chemistry and earth science; evaluate the information for validity and reliability; and use that information to support a position on a contemporary scientific issue.

Options

Students have multiple opportunities over the course of their junior and senior year to complete the performance standard. Students satisfy the district performance standards for basic skills in science if they have:

1. Achieved a score in either band three (Proficient), four (Goal) or five (Advanced) on the 3rd generation of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test in science, or

2. Passed one of the following courses with a 70 or higher: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Honors Physics, AP Physics, or a senior science electives course; or passed the final two District Wide Trimester Assessments (DWTAs) in one of these courses with a 70 or higher in the 11th grade; or completed an independent study project in science with a 70 or higher in 12th grade to be designed and assessed by the school science department.
Basic Skills Requirement for Graduation

Technology Performance Standard

- Students shall demonstrate the set of skills and competencies required to enter the field, be accepted in apprenticeships or pursue post-secondary technical studies as evidenced by their trade/technology portfolio. Students have multiple opportunities over the course of their junior and senior year to complete a trade/technology portfolio. The trade/technology portfolio contains documentation including a resume, academic and trade accomplishments, certification, awards, written responses, and reflections.

- Career Cruising
WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CAPT
Connecticut Academic Performance Test

THE TESTS

- There are 2 CAPT tests administered this year for Sophomores.
- The dates will be March 4th-March 5th. Topics tested include Science 1 and 2. Each Test will take 50 minutes.
- All tests are secure and testing procedures are very rigid.
- Make-up tests are completed each day after the regular live test.
- The teachers have prepared the students…you do not have to make them study for the next test.
- Make sure they get a good nights sleep…tired students do not perform up to their ability level.
- A breakfast will be provided for every student testing each day.
WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT

THE TESTS

• The Smarter Balanced Assessment is the new testing that will be in place of the CAPT.
• This year, Sophomore (and Junior) students will participate in the pilot English and Mathematics assessments at the end of April.
• Smarter Balanced will provide parents, students, and teachers a clearer window on whether students are on track to graduate high school, ready for college and the workplace.
• Parents and students will receive the results of these assessments from their school system in a readable and easy-to-understand format, most likely online. And parents can use this information to better communicate with teachers and school administrators about their child’s success.
• The Smarter Balanced Tests will be reviewed in the classrooms.
• Students will also participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment in their Junior year.
PSAT Testing – October 2014

- The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a program cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).
- It’s a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT®.
- It also gives students a chance to enter NMSC scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools.
- The PSAT/NMSQT measures:
  - Critical reading skills
  - Math problem-solving skills
  - Writing skills
- The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are to:
  - Receive feedback on strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. Students can then focus their preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.
  - See how performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college.
  - Help prepare for the SAT. Students can become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions they will see on the SAT.
“Not So” Optional Testing


• ASVAB is a career interest inventory which shows a student's abilities & skills and matches them with areas that they enjoy

• Facts:
  • It is the most widely used aptitude test in American schools today
  • It is offered FREE of charge
  • There are NO military obligations of any kind connected with taking the test
  • It is not a “pass/fail” test
  • It is designed to measure potential for success in careers that require formal courses of instruction or on-the-job-training
  • It can predict what a person could accomplish with training or further education
  • It can increase self-understanding & establish a foundation for making career choices
College Career Pathways

- Earn College Credit for Junior & Senior Level Courses and Technology Courses
- All Trades are Eligible to Participate
- Eligibility based on GPA of 3.0 (85) or higher
- Affiliated with Gateway Community College
- Upon completion of the program, students can complete their studies at Gateway Community College or transfer credits toward a degree at another institution.
- Allows students to earn up to 14 college credits while in high school- no cost
Work Based Learning (WBL)

- Mr. Marrone- WBL Coordinator
- Earn school credit while you learn- Students are released during school hours (during shop cycle) to work. Open to Juniors and Seniors.
- Students can be released up to 25 hours as juniors and 38 hours as seniors during a 9 day shop cycle.

Requirements:
- Recommended by shop department head
- Must be 16 or older and have parent/guardian permission
- No Failures – 70 average or better in all classes including shop
- In good standing both academically and behaviorally
- Compliance with attendance policy
Ring Dance/Class Dues

- Ms. McCabe and Mrs. Ford - Class Advisors

- **Ring Dance** - Villa Bianca
  - March 27th
  - Tickets = $25

- **Class Dues** - $60/ year
  - If you did not pay last year the total = $120
  - Students cannot attend the ring dance if class dues are not paid
  - You can pay in installments
  - Checks are to be made out to EOB. You can pay in the main office. Save your receipts!