

1 Joint School District No. 2, Meridian

2
3 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

4
5 Series 600

6
7 Policy Title High School Credits & Graduation

Code No. 603.20

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9 **CREDIT REGULATIONS**

10 One (1) unit of credit shall be granted for successful course work completion for each
11 semester. One (1) semester equals one-half (1/2) year.

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13 If a student drops a subject after having been enrolled in class six (6) days, (block or
14 hybrid schools – 4 A days or 4 B days), the subject will be recorded on the record with
15 an automatic “F” grade for the semester with no credit (exceptions: staff approved
16 changes for more appropriate student placement).

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18 Credit will be accepted with the following provisions:

- 19 1. Credit will only be accepted for high school courses completed in an accredited
20 high school.
- 21 2. Up to twelve (12) correspondence, and/or online credits from regionally
22 accredited schools will be evaluated for acceptance upon receipt of an official
23 transcript. The Director of Student Achievement must approve petitions for
24 acceptance of correspondence or online credit outside the scope of the
25 accredited program. Courses that do not meet standards may be accepted for
26 elective credit. Online class credits from Joint School District No. 2 or from the
27 Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) have received prior approval so
28 additional review is not required and no maximum credit limit will be imposed
29 upon these courses. The final grade must be posted no later than graduation
30 practice. Students exceeding the twelve-credit maximum, and who have
31 completed all other graduation requirements, will be eligible to receive a diploma
32 from Joint School District No. 2, but will not be eligible to participate in building
33 commencement ceremonies.
- 34 3. Students may receive dual/concurrent credit for approved college/university
35 classes. District-level administrators shall work with institutions of higher
36 education to determine appropriate classes, comparative curriculum, credit
37 conversion, and specific processes for approval. A current list of available
38 dual/concurrent credit options shall be maintained in the high school counselors’
39 office and at the curriculum office. Building requests for concurrent credit
40 courses will be submitted to the Director of Student Achievement for
41 consideration.
- 42 4. A maximum of six (6) credits, (math-2, English-2, earth science-2, from a non-
43 regionally accredited public, private, parochial or home school, may be accepted
44 for the ninth (9) grade only based on demonstrated competency as a result of a
45 district approved and administered test(s) in the area(s) listed above. Building
46 counselors have competency test procedures/information for students and
47 parents.

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1. Placement: the school counselor will tentatively place the entering student in the appropriate courses and grade level with consideration to:
 - a) Available documentation: transcripts, report card, test scores, work samples, etc.
 - b) The student /parent/guardian's assessment of his/her knowledge and abilities as well as courses believed to be successfully completed
 - c) Instructional materials with which the student has had experience
 - d) The student's age
 - e) ISAT requirements for the grade-level/year
 - f) The school counselor will determine final placement after competency tests have been completed. Appeals can be made to the Director of Student Achievement. The Director's decision is final
2. Allowable Freshman Competency Credits (6):
 - a) English I= one (1) credit (1 exam and writing portfolio)
 - b) English II= one (1) credit (1 exam and writing portfolio)
 - c) Earth Science= two (2) credits (1 exam)
 - d) Math:
 - 1) Algebra I (first semester) = one (1) credit (1 exam); both semesters= two (2) credits (1 exam)
 - 2) Geometry (first semester)= one (1) credit (1 exam); both semesters= two (2) credits (1 exam)

ACCELERATED CLASS CREDIT

All accelerated classes offered below grade nine (9), but of high school difficulty, will be recorded on the high school transcript as having been completed but with no high school credit earned. Seventh and/or eighth grade students, who complete high school level coursework while in attendance at an accredited high school or at the Treasure Valley Math and Science Center, will receive high school credit for those courses.

PROFICIENCY TESTING

Students may petition to take proficiency tests for placement only. Upon successful completion of the adopted proficiency test for an individual course, the student will be granted a waiver from that course and may take an advanced course in its place. No credit will be granted for proficiency testing.

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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Joint School District No. 2 high schools are accredited by both the State of Idaho and by the Northwest Accreditation Association.

Graduation requirements are as follows:

1) Required classes for the graduating class of 2009:

Traditional Schedule High School		High Schools on AB Block	
English	8 credits/RPR	English	8 credits/RPR
Speech/Debate	1 credit	Speech/Debate	1 credit
Math	4 credits/MPR	Math	4 credits/MPR
Earth Science	2 lab credits	Earth Science	2 lab credits
Biology	2 lab credits	Biology	2 lab credits
Global Perspectives	1 credit	Global Perspectives	1 credit
U.S. History	4 credits	U.S. History	4 credits
American Govt.	2 credits	American Govt.	2 credits
Economics	1 credit	Economics	1 credit
Physical Education	2 credits	Physical Education	2 credits
Health	1 credit	Health	1 credit
Technology	1 credit/TPT	Technology	1 credit/TPT
Humanities	2 credits	Humanities	2 credits
Electives	10-12 credits	Electives	18-20 credits
Total	42 credits*	Total	50 credits*

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2) Required classes for the graduating class of 2010:

Traditional Schedule High School		High Schools on AB Block	
English	8 credits/RPR	English	8 credits/RPR
Speech/Debate	1 credit	Speech/Debate	1 credit
Math	6 credits/MPR	Math	6 credits/MPR
Earth Science	2 lab credits	Earth Science	2 lab credits
Biology	2 lab credits	Biology	2 lab credits
Global Perspectives	1 credit	Global Perspectives	1 credit
U.S. History	4 credits	U.S. History	4 credits
American Govt.	2 credits	American Govt.	2 credits
Economics	1 credit	Economics	1 credit
Physical Education	2 credits	Physical Education	2 credits
Health	1 credit	Health	1 credit
Technology	1 credit/TPT	Technology	1 credit/TPT
Humanities	2 credits	Humanities	2 credits
Electives	8-10 credits	Electives	16-18 credits
Total	44 credits*	Total	50 credits*

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109 3) Required classes for the graduating class of 2011:
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Traditional Schedule High School		High Schools on AB Block	
English	8 credits/RPR	English	8 credits/RPR
Speech/Debate	1 credit	Speech/Debate	1 credit
Math	6 credits/MPR	Math	6 credits/MPR
Earth Science	2 lab credits	Earth Science	2 lab credits
Biology	2 lab credits	Biology	2 lab credits
Lab Science	2 lab credits	Lab Science	2 lab credits
Global Perspectives	1 credit	Global Perspectives	1 credit
U.S. History	4 credits	U.S. History	4 credits
American Govt.	2 credits	American Govt.	2 credits
Economics	1 credit	Economics	1 credit
Physical Education	2 credits	Physical Education	2 credits
Health	1 credit	Health	1 credit
Technology	1 credit/TPT	Technology	1 credit/TPT
Humanities	2 credits	Humanities	2 credits
Electives	10+ credits	Electives	16+ credits
Total	46 credits*	Total	50 credits*

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4) Required classes for the graduating class of 2012:

Traditional Schedule High School		High Schools on AB Block	
English	8 credits/RPR	English	8 credits/RPR
Speech/Debate	1 credit	Speech/Debate	1 credit
Math	8 credits/MPR	Math	8 credits/MPR
Science *	6 lab credits	Science*	6 lab credits
Global Perspectives	1 credit	Global Perspectives	1 credit
U.S. History	4 credits	U.S. History	4 credits
American Govt.	2 credits	American Govt.	2 credits
Economics	1 credit	Economics	1 credit
Physical Education	2 credits	Physical Education	2 credits
Health	1 credit	Health	1 credit
Technology	1 credit/TPT	Technology	1 credit/TPT
Humanities	2 credits	Humanities	2 credits
Electives	8+ credits	Electives	14+ credits
Total	46 credits**	Total	50 credits**

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Hybrid Schedule High School	
English	8 credits/RPR
Speech/Debate	1 credit
Math	8 credits/MPR
Science *	6 lab credits
Global Perspectives	1 credit
U.S. History	4 credits
American Govt.	2 credits
Economics	1 credit
Physical Education	2 credits
Health	1 credit
Technology	1 credit/TPT
Humanities	2 credits
Electives	10+ credits
Total	48 credits**

115 RPR = Reading Proficiency Requirement (See lines 138-142)
116 MPR = Math Proficiency Requirement (See lines 148-156)
117 TPT = Technology Proficiency Test (See lines 157-159)

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119 *Shall include instruction in Biology; Physical Science or Chemistry; Earth, Space, Environmental, or
120 approved applied science.

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122 **Total Credits may change beginning for the graduating class of 2009 depending upon changes to the
123 district calendar/ and master schedule changes.

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125 **EXPLANATION OF REQUIREMENTS (ALL GRADUATING CLASSES):**

- 126 1. Humanities credits may be taken in any interdisciplinary course, visual or
127 performing arts, or foreign language course that meets the Idaho State Content
128 Humanities Standards. Courses that meet this requirement shall be selected
129 from those offered by the Joint School District No. 2. These courses are identified
130 as “humanities” courses in the Course Description Handbook. Credits earned
131 from other institutions must meet the above requirements.
- 132 2. Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in Language, Reading, and
133 Mathematics by achieving a passing score on each section of the ISAT 10 and
134 other measures required by the State Board of Education. *Commencing with the*
135 *Class of 2012, students are also required to demonstrate proficiency in Science*
136 *by achieving a passing score on each section of the ISAT 10 and other measures*
137 *required by the State Board of Education.*
- 138 3. Students planning to graduate in the spring semester of their senior year will take
139 English 8 and American Government 2 simultaneously in the spring semester
140 due to the interdisciplinary requirements of the senior project. Students, who
141 choose to take senior English courses and American Government 2 earlier than
142 spring semester, must either complete these courses simultaneously in a
143 combination of night school/day school *or* in the Joint School District No. 2
144 summer school. For students planning to graduate in January, these two
145 courses must be taken during the previous summer or in night school. English 8
146 and American Government 2 cannot be taken through other options, such as
147 correspondence.
- 148 4. Reading/Language/Math/Technology Proficiency Requirements:
- 149 a. Students who do not meet the district’s standard of proficiency on the
150 spring grade 8 ISAT in reading must successfully complete a one (1)
151 credit semester course in reading. The credit for this course shall come
152 from the student’s elective credits.
- 153 b. Students in grade 11 and 12 who fail to meet the ISAT10 proficiency in
154 language and/or reading must successfully complete the Language Arts
155 Lab intervention class. The class will be taken concurrently with the
156 student’s regular English class, and the credit for this course shall come
157 from the student’s elective credits.
- 158 c. Students, who do not meet the district’s standard of proficiency on the
159 spring grade 8 ISAT in mathematics, must successfully complete a one
160 (1) credit/semester course in mathematics. Credits for this course shall
161 come from the student’s elective credits. This course shall not meet the
162 mathematics credit requirement for graduation.
- 163 d. Students who have passed Algebra I but fail to meet the tenth grade ISAT
164 10 proficiency in mathematics must be enrolled continually in a district
165 math course until proficiency level is obtained or met through an
166 alternative option.

- 167 e. Students may challenge the technology credit requirement by
168 demonstrating proficiency on the Joint School District Technology
169 Proficiency Test.
- 170 5. Students who plan to take either Competitive Speech or Debate to fulfill their
171 graduation speech requirement must take the course for the full year and take
172 the speech end-of-course examination (EOC).
- 173 6. Students who plan to take Orientation to Health Professions/Sports Medicine I
174 must take the course for the full year and take the Health end of course
175 examination.
- 176 7. The physical education requirement may be met by successful completion of:
177 a. Two (2) semesters of physical education classes or Lifetime sports or
178 b. Two (2) credits of Multi-Sport Fitness or Dance Class or by
179 c. Any Combination of the aforementioned options
- 180 8. *Commencing with the class of 2008*, students are required to demonstrate
181 achievement and proficiency in basic standards in science, social studies, health,
182 and humanities.
- 183 9. *Commencing with the class of 2008*, to graduate, students are required to
184 demonstrate proficiency on the district's senior project that includes the technical
185 paper, the PowerPoint, and oral presentation.
- 186 10. *Commencing with the class of 2008*, to graduate, students must meet the
187 district's mathematics proficiency requirements. This proficiency shall include
188 successful completion of two (2) semesters of Algebra or Hands-on Algebra.
- 189 11. *Commencing with the class of 2012*, to graduate, students must successfully
190 demonstrate proficiency in geometry.

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192 **ATTENDANCE**

193 Joint School District No. 2 students must attend six (6) periods per day on traditional
194 schedules or four (4) periods in a block schedule during a regular school day. With
195 approval of the superintendent or designee, a student may be released for the following:
196 1. One (1) period for religious instruction or other approved program in grades 9-11
197 2. Up to three (3) periods for equivalent enrollment at an accredited
198 college/university
199 3. Up to two periods for seniors on traditional schedules, one period per day for
200 seniors in the block or hybrid; for seniors to be eligible, they must have sufficient
201 credits (thirty-four (34) minimum on traditional schedule, forty (40) on block
202 schedule) completed at the end of the eleventh grade, have successfully
203 complete all ninth (9th) through eleventh (11th) grade required credits, and have
204 successfully completed or enrolled in two credits of physical education; 1 credit of
205 speech; 1 credit of technology (or passed the Meridian Technology Achievement
206 Test); and 1 credit of reading (or met the ISAT reading proficiency expectation).
207 Commencing with the class of 2006, seniors must demonstrate proficiency on the
208 ISAT 10. (Policy 501.9)

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210 **EARLY GRADUATION**

211 Students may apply to graduate early providing they have completed the required
212 courses and have met the necessary credit and proficiency requirements in fewer than
213 eight (8) semesters but in not less than six (6) semesters. Two (2) weeks before
214 graduation ceremonies, the graduate must notify school officials that they wish to
215 participate.

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217 **GRADUATION EXERCISE PARTICIPATION**

218 Those students who have completed the required courses and who have met the
219 necessary credit and proficiency requirements as stated are eligible to participate in
220 graduation exercises. Those students who have not fulfilled all graduation requirements
221 as stated may not participate in the graduation exercise. Students who drop out of their
222 home high school and complete the second semester of their senior year via night
223 school, summer school, correspondence courses, or online courses will be eligible to
224 receive a diploma from Meridian Joint School District No. 2, but will not be eligible to
225 participate in the graduation exercise.

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227 **CLASS RANKING**

228 Class ranking for graduating seniors will be determined using the following formula: Un-weighted
229 GPA + # of AP classes x .02

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231 **RECOGNITION OF HONOR STUDENTS**

232 As of 2009, honor students will be those who meet the following GPA requirements on
233 their transcripts for any class for which high school credits were earned:

234	Highest Honors	4.1-5.0	both high school colors
235	High Honors	3.77-4.099	both cords Silver CHS, EHS, & MVHS, Gold 236 for MHS and RMHS.
237	Honors	3.5-3.7699	both cords Maroon for CHS, Green for EHS, 238 Blue for MHS & MVHS, Purple for RMHS.

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240 **SELECTION OF VALEDICTORIANS**

241 Commencing with the graduating class of 2009, no valedictorians will be chosen;
242 students will be honored with highest honors, high honors and honors.

243 For 2009 and beyond, two (2) students from the top ten percent (10%) of the graduating
244 class will be asked to deliver addresses during the graduation exercise. The graduating
245 class will select the two representatives by vote with administrative approval.

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266 Date of Revision:

267 12/11/2007

Legal Reference: Idaho Code