

A Fresh Start

A Quick Guide For Freshman CLASS OF 2015 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

22 Total Credits are required to graduate with the following be required:	5 hours of community service
4.0 credits English	Pass the constitution test – taken in Civics
0.25 credit speech	Take the PSAE exam
3.0 credits math (alg. & geom.)	Counselors will meet with each freshman to discuss their individual four-year plan as well as post-secondary plans. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to make sure the courses they are taking each year will work with their future plans.
2.0 credits science	Counselors will work with each student to plan for the future.
1.0 credit West. Civilization	
1.0 credit U.S. History	
3.5 credit physical education	
0.25 credit driver's education	
0.5 credit health	
0.5 credit consumer education	
0.25 credit keyboarding	

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Four-year universities have their own requirements for admissions. Most colleges will look at the courses the student has taken all four years as well as class rank and ACT score. You will use your grade point average and class rank at the end of your junior year when you apply to colleges. Generally, most colleges require:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of math (4 is recommended)
- 3 years of science
- 3 years of social studies
- 2 years of foreign language (fine arts and art may work for some universities)

ELECTIVES

Many parents want to know what classes to take for college. The core courses listed are important, however,

you will need more than the core courses to graduate. It does not matter to colleges what electives are selected. Choose electives that seem interesting or may develop skills for life after high school. Whether you go to college or to work, electives may give you the tools you can use!

It is in your best interest to look at each college individually to determine if you meet their requirements. Many colleges have a sliding scale; if you are in the top half of your class – you need a specific ACT score. If you fall below the top half – you need a higher ACT score.

College websites:

www.petersons.com

www.collegeview.com

Required Courses Freshman Year

- English 1.0 credit
- Speech 0.25 credit
- Math 1.0 credit
- Earth Systems 1.0 credit
- Keyboarding 0.25 credit
- PE 1.0 credit and drivers Ed .25 credit or 0.5 credit PE and Health 0.5 credit
- Electives

Required Courses for Sophomore Year

- English 1.0 credit
- Math 1.0 credit (usually geometry or applied geometry)
- Science 1.0 credit (Life Science or Biology)
- PE 1.0 credit /Drivers Ed 0.25 credit or PE .5 credit/Health .5 credit if drivers ed was taken as a freshman
- 1.0 Western Civilization
- Electives

If you did not take or pass the required classes listed – you must make sure they are on your schedule for the following year.

Driver's ed classroom is tied with a quarter study hall. Some students take the class during the summer based on their birthdate.

Behind the wheel does not show up on a student's schedule. After they pass the drivers ed class, most students take BTW during PE or their study hall. Some are scheduled before or after school based on birthday order. Many students will take BTW during the summer.

MCHS Website:

www.morrishs.org

I want to play college sports

If you are interested in pursuing athletics while in college, you must do well in school as well in athletics. College athletes will need to fulfill requirement through the NCAA clearinghouse. There are required core courses that need to be taken as well as a certain core grade point average compared to the score you receive on the ACT exam that you will take junior year.

You will register through the clearinghouse at the end of your junior year but you can view the requirements on the NCAA Clearinghouse website at www.eligibilitycenter.org

It is extremely important to realize that although athletics are important, you must do well in school to stay eligible to play each week.

How do Grades work?

For the first time in your education, your grades become permanent. Semester grades are kept on a transcript that you can send to employers and colleges.

You are in class for fifty minutes for seven periods a day.

You can access your grades by logging on to the PowerSchool website.

<http://morrishs.powerschool.com>

More information will be sent home soon.

The school wide grading scale is as follows:

100-92 A	73-65 D
91-83 B	64-0 F
82-74 C	

What should I be when I grow up?

Focus on good study habits, obtaining good grades, participation in extra-curricular activities including out of school clubs or sports, and take a set of courses that are challenging for you in order to be well prepared for life after high school. In addition, continue to identify areas that are interesting to you, and explore potential career fields.

You will take the PLAN test as a sophomore that is a pre-ACT. There is an interest inventory that will identify possible careers. The ACT taken junior year also has an interest inventory. Examine the results to see if you are interested in the listed careers.

Talk to your parents, friends and relatives about what they do as a career and what they like and don't like about their job.

This website may be useful for career exploration:

Career Cruising Website

www.careercruising.com

username: Morris

password: Careers

On Nov. 2, all freshman will take the EXPLORE test. This is the first step in testing to help prepare for the ACT their junior year.

Counselors

A-F Mr. Williamson
jwilliamson@morrishs.org

G-O Mrs. Burkhart
sburkhart@morrishs.org

P-Z Mrs. Voitik
tvoitik@morrishs.org

Study Habits

Since your grades are very important in high school, developing good study habits are equally important. Some simple helpful hints are as follows:

Attendance is important, you need to be in class to learn the material.

Don't forget to ask your teacher for any make up work missed if you are absent.

Use your planner to write down when your assignments are due and cross it off after you complete it.

Take good notes, write down information the teacher puts on the board or when they say, "Now this is important".

Don't forget to ask for help. Talk to your teacher when you don't understand.

Hand in your assignments on time. Many teachers won't accept late work. Turn it in, even if you won't get full credit. A few points are better than a zero.

Websites:

www.how-to-study.com

www.adprima.com/studyout.htm

Work Permit

Any Student under the age of 16 must have a work permit in order to hold the job. To get a work permit you must:

- Secure the job.
- Obtain a letter from your employer stating the hours you will be working and what you will be doing.
- Get a copy of your birth certificate.
- Get a copy of your social security card.
- Get a copy of your physical (you can use your high school physical).

Bring those items to the Regional Education Office at the Grundy County Administration Building at 1320 Union Street (across from Shabbona School). The hours are Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.