

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade High School Credit Options

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students automatically receive high school credit when they earn an A or B in their classes at Central Academy. This is the start of their high school GPA. High school credit is **NOT** automatically given for grades of C or below to protect a student's GPA.

However, parents may elect for their child to receive credit or (not) regardless of the student's grade. For example, if you want your child **to** receive credit for a class with a C or **no** credit for a class with a B, please notify

[sandra.cloe@dmschools.org](mailto:sandra.cloe@dmschools.org) in writing by **January 29, 2016**. Or call 515.242.8543 to discuss options.

Why would a student with a "B" NOT WANT high school credit?	Why would a student with a "C" WANT high school credit?
<p>Some students want to have a high school GPA of 4.0+. But there are some potential consequences for this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three years of high school math credit are required for graduation. If 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Algebra earn "B"s and do NOT take the high school credit, then they are committing themselves to Pre-Calculus (Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus <i>instead of</i> Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)</li> <li>• Government is required for graduation. If 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Gov't earn "B"s and do NOT take high school credit, then they are committing themselves to retaking Gov't in high school or taking AP Government. Gov't credit is issued 2<sup>nd</sup> semester at Academy.</li> </ul> <p>Also consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earning "A"s in weighted classes taken in 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> grades, will offset "B"s earned in regular classes. Any class offered for college credit is considered 'Weighted' in DMPS. Many Academy students graduate with GPA's over 4.0 for this reason.</li> <li>• Universities are much more interested in the difficulty of high school course load than GPA. So a student with a 3.7 but taking AP and IB courses has an advantage over students with 4.0 but few AP or IB courses. So taking courses in 8<sup>th</sup> grade for high school credit gives a student 5 years to earn high school credits and generate a GPA. Therefore, one "B" has a smaller impact by the end of a 5 year HS career than a 4 year HS career.</li> </ul>	<p>Taking an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Academy class for credit when you earn a "C" give you a lower GPA at the start of High School. There are some consequences for this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GPA's in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades are sometimes used as filters for selecting students for particular honors such as National Council on Youth Leadership.</li> <li>• Three years of high school math credit are required for graduation. If 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Algebra earn "B"s and do NOT take the high school credit, then they are committing themselves to Pre-Calculus (Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus <i>instead of</i> Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)</li> <li>• Government is required for graduation. If 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Gov't earn "B"s and do NOT take high school credit, then they are committing themselves to retaking Gov't in high school or taking AP Government. Gov't credit is issued 2<sup>nd</sup> semester at Academy.</li> </ul> <p>Also consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earning "A"s and "B"s in weighted classes taken in 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> grades, will offset lower grades earned in regular classes. Any class offered for college credit is considered 'Weighted' in DMPS. Many Academy students graduate with GPA's over 4.0 for this reason.</li> <li>• Some students are late bloomers. As they ramp up their skills in first semester 8<sup>th</sup> grade Academy, even if they have a "C", they can develop into "A" students if they keep putting in the effort. Universities are more interested in the difficulty of the courses on the high school transcript than they are with GPA. So taking courses in 8<sup>th</sup> grade for high school credit gives a student 5 years to earn high school credits and generate a GPA. Therefore, one low score has a smaller impact by the end of the HS career.</li> </ul>