

# Diploma Options & 4-Year Plan

# 4-Year Plan

- The “4-year plan” is created during a student’s 8th grade year. With help from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor, students will consider the different diploma options offered and generate a course selection plan for their high school years.
- The plan is to be considered a ***rough draft or a general guideline.***
- At this time during the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, a student’s 4-year plan does not have to be accurate or complete.
- The plan is updated every year with the grade level counselor.

# 4-Year Plan

- The goal of the 4-year plan is to have students think about the courses that they want to have completed by the time they are a senior.
- Neither the JH nor HS uses the 4-year plan to select a student's courses from year to year.
- Each spring, students will receive a course selection sheet to select the specific courses for the next school year.

# Diploma Options

- MBS offers 3 college preparatory diplomas: Advanced with Honors, Advanced and Standard.
- There is no indication on a student's transcript as to which diploma the student has earned.
- Colleges receive a high school transcript that lists all courses taken, with 1<sup>st</sup> semester and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester grades earned in those courses.
- The transcript also reports grade point average (GPA).

# Advanced Diploma with Honors

COURSE GROUP (Units Required for Graduation)	COURSE TITLE	COURSE UNIT VALUE
English (4)	English (9-12)	1 unit/course 4 units total
Mathematics (4 of the following)*	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II with Trig, Probability and Statistics or Pre-calculus or Calculus	1 unit/course 4 units total
Science (4)	4 Courses from Group 1 (Biology and either Chemistry or Physics are required.)	1 unit/course 4 units total
Social Studies (4)	World History, U.S. History to 1877, U.S. History 1877 to the Present, Government & Economics	1 unit/course, 4 units total
Foreign Language (3)*	French, Latin, Spanish	1 unit/course 3 units total (same language)
Physical Education/Life (MBHS)(1)**	Physical Education/Life (MBHS)	1 unit/course
Health Education (0.5)	Health with online experience	0.5 units total
Fine Arts (0.5)	Any Fine Arts offering	0.5 units total
Electives (3)	Various selections	3 units total
Technology Proficiency	Demonstrated through passing of Technology Test or by taking Computer Applications* or Business Technology	0 unit for passing test .5 unit for Comp App or Business Tech
	Total	24

# Advanced Diploma with Honors

- **English (4 credits)**
- **Math (4 credits, from the courses below)**  
Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II w/Trig, Probability and Statistics or Pre-calculus or Calculus

# Advanced Diploma with Honors

- **Science (4 credits)**

- All 4 courses must be from Group I.
- Life science and Chemistry or Physics are required.
- All 9<sup>th</sup> graders take Biology or Advanced Biology which fulfills the life science requirement.

**Group I:** Biology, Adv. Biology, AP Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Adv. Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry, Chemistry II, Adv. Chemistry, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, Physics, AP Physics B, and AP Physics C

# Advanced Diploma with Honors

- Social studies (4 credits)
- Foreign language  
(3 credits of the **same** language)
- Physical Education/Life (1 credit)
- Health (1/2 credit)
- Fine arts (1/2 credit)
- Electives (3 credits)
- Total of 24 credits

# Advanced Diploma

COURSE GROUP (Units Required for Graduation)	COURSE TITLE	COURSE UNIT VALUE
English (4)	English (9-12)	1 unit/course 4 units total
Mathematics (4)*	Algebra I-A, Algebra I-B, Geometry, and Algebra II with Trig OR Algebra I, Geometry, Algebraic Connections, and Algebra II with Trig OR Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II with Trig, Probability and Statistics or Pre-calculus or Calculus	1 unit/course 4 units total
Science (4)	3 Courses from Group I and 1 from either Group I or II (Biology and either Chemistry or Physics are required).	1 unit/course 4 units total
Social Studies (4)	World History, U.S. History to 1877, U.S. History 1877 to the Present, Government & Economics	1 unit/course 4 units total
Foreign Language (2)*	French, Latin, Spanish	1 unit/course 2 units total (same language)
Physical Education/Life (MBHS)(1)**	Physical Education/Life (MBHS)	1 unit/course
Health Education (0.5)	Health with online experience	0.5 units total
Fine Arts (0.5)	Any Fine Arts offering	0.5 units total
Electives (4)	Various selections	4 units total
Technology Proficiency	Demonstrated through passing of Technology Test or by taking Computer Applications*or Business Technology	0 unit for passing test .5 unit for Comp App or Business Tech
	Total	24

# Advanced Diploma

- **English (4 credits)**

- **Math (4 credits)**

- Algebra I-A, Algebra I-B, Geometry, and Algebra II with Trig

***OR***

- Algebra I, Geometry, Algebraic Connections, and Algebra II with Trig

***OR***

- Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II with Trig, Probability and Statistics or Pre-Calculus or Calculus

**The minimum math a student must complete is Algebra II with Trig to receive the Advanced Diploma.**

# Advanced Diploma

## Science (4 credits)

- 3 courses must be from Group I and the additional course may be selected from Group I or Group II.
- Life science and Chemistry or Physics are required.
- All 9<sup>th</sup> graders take Biology or Advanced Biology which fulfills the life science requirement.

**Group I:** Biology, Adv. Biology, AP Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Adv. Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry, Chemistry II, Adv. Chemistry, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, Physics, AP Physics B, AP Physics C

**Group II:** Environmental Science, Marine Science, Physical Science, Forensic Science, Earth and Space Science

# Advanced Diploma

- Social studies (4 credits)
- Foreign language  
(2 credits of the **same** language)
- Physical Education/Life (1 credit)
- Health (1/2 credit)
- Fine arts (1/2 credit)
- Electives (4 credits)
- Total of 24 credits

# Standard Diploma

COURSE GROUP (Units Required for Graduation)	Course Title	Course Unit Value
English (4)	English (9-12)	1 unit/course 4 units total
Mathematics (4)	Any four maths, including Algebra I and Geometry The Algebra I credit may be fulfilled by taking Algebra I-A and Algebra I-B	1 unit/course 4 units total
Science (4)	Any four sciences including Biology and Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics	1 unit/course 4 units total
Social Studies (4)	World , History to 1877, History 1877 to the Present, Government & Economics	1 unit/course 4 units total
Physical Education/Life (MBHS) (1)**	Physical Education/Life (MBHS)	1 unit/course
Health Education (0.5)	Health with online experience	0.5 units total
Fine Arts (0.5)	Any Fine Arts offering	0.5 units total
Electives (6)	Various selections	6 units total
Technology Proficiency	Demonstrated through passing of Technology Test or by taking Computer Applications * or Business Technology	0 unit for passing test .5 unit for Comp App or Business Tech
	Total	24

# Standard Diploma

- **English (4 credits)**
- **Mathematics (4 credits)**
  - Any 4 math courses, including Algebra I and Geometry, may be selected.
  - The Algebra I requirement may be fulfilled by completing Algebra I-A and Algebra I-B.
- **Science (4 credits)**
  - Any 4 sciences, including 1 life science and 1 physical science, may be selected.
  - All 9<sup>th</sup> graders take Biology or Advanced Biology which fulfills the life science requirement.

# Standard Diploma

- Social studies (4 credits)
- Physical Education/Life (1 credit)
- Health (1/2 credit)
- Fine arts (1/2 credit)
- Electives (6 credits)
- Total of 24 credits

# Differences in the 3 diplomas

- Math requirements
- Foreign language requirements
- Science requirements
- Number of electives

# Additional Diploma Information

- There is a state requirement for demonstrating proficiency in technology.
- It may be accomplished in 1 of 2 ways:
  - either in a course designed specifically to accomplish this objective,

***or***

  - through a proficiency examination prior to graduation.

# Additional Diploma Information

- There is a state requirement for “online experience” that is met through our health course.
- Our health course is *Health-OLE*.
- There are specific technological objectives that are interspersed throughout the course.

# Additional Diploma Information

- Both grade and credit for Algebra I, Level I of a foreign language, and/or Computer Applications taken in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will appear on the student's high school transcript. These courses will count toward the 24 credits required for graduation and will be used in computing class rank and GPA.
- PE/LIFE : This course can be waived if students fulfill the course requirements through participation in school athletic teams, marching band, or selected performing vocal groups in **10<sup>th</sup> grade**.

# Additional Diploma Information

- Students may take courses at any level in order to receive any of the 3 diplomas. Students do not have to take any advanced classes or AP classes to receive the Advanced Diploma or Advanced Diploma with Honors.
- Additionally, students must pass all 5 areas of the Alabama High School Graduation Exam.
- Most students will graduate with more than the required 24 credits. This allows them to take some additional electives or courses.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## How many advanced courses should a student take?

- There is no set number and many students do not take any advanced level courses.
- A student may take as many as he/she feels capable of completing *successfully*.
- Advanced classes are geared toward above-average students who have a strong interest in that specific subject area and are highly motivated, independent learners.
- It is important to consider extra curricular activities in order to balance school demands with other activities.
- Additionally, students must meet specific criteria to be recommended for advanced placement classes. This criteria can be found in the course selection guides.

## Please explain the 4 points given for an advanced class or 8 points given for advanced placement (AP) classes.

- Advanced courses are weighted more than regular classes. There are 4 points for each advanced course and 8 points for each AP course added to semester averages in determining class rank and weighted GPA.
- Class rank is used by colleges to visualize how a student compares to the rest of the students in his/her graduating class. The rank in class is based on the weighted 100-point numerical system.
- Mainly academic courses in grades 9 through 12 are used in determining class rank.
- However, the raw, un-weighted **semester grade** will appear on the transcript that is sent to a college.
- The unweighted GPA, weighted GPA, and class rank are also listed on the transcript.

## Is it better to get a B in an advanced class or an A in a regular class?

- **This is a difficult question to answer.**
- There are many factors to consider when deciding between regular and advanced placement.
  - A strong GPA is very important for college entrance.
  - Colleges want to see that a student pushes him/herself to the best of his/her ability.
  - Students are encouraged to take the course that is more challenging and in which they can be successful.



# Typical Math Progression

<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
<b>Basic Pre-Algebra</b>	Algebra 1-A	Algebra 1-B	Geometry	Algebra 2 with Trig
<b>Pre-Algebra</b>	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2 with Trig	Precalculus
<b>Algebra 1</b>	Geometry	Algebra 2 with Trig	Precalculus	Calculus
<b>Advanced Algebra 1</b>	Advanced Geometry	Advanced Algebra 2 with Trig	Advanced Precalculus	AP Calculus

