

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation Credit Requirements

Pleasants County Schools requires 24 credits to graduate from high school.

Senior Project

High schools are encouraged to establish a practice requiring seniors to complete a senior project to add rigor and relevance to the senior year. Students taking English 12 College and Career Ready Course (English 12 CR) should not be required to take an additional senior project course or project, since this is a component of both.

High School Diploma

Pleasants County Schools shall award a high school diploma to every student who has completed the standard graduation requirements as delineated in West Virginia State Board of Education Policy 2510.

Pleasants County Schools shall provide a modified diploma to an eligible student with disabilities who has been determined by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Team to be unable even with extended learning opportunities and significant instructional modifications to meet state and county standard graduation requirements. However, an eligible student with disabilities who meets the criteria for instruction based on modified standards may pursue either a standard or modified diploma as determined through the IEP process.

Selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian

In order to be eligible for Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian, a student must be enrolled in the regular school setting and ranked #1 in their class according to their GPA. A point system would be used to break any ties among the students who are ranked #1. Each student would be awarded points for each of the classes they have completed using the following scale: A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1, U-0 for all regular classes, and A-5, B-4, C-3, D-2, U-0 for Advanced Placement (AP) and/or Dual Credit College Courses.

The student who is ranked #1 by his/her GPA and has the highest percentage of all grades attained in core classes will be named Valedictorian. The student who is ranked #1 by his/her GPA and receives the second highest percentage of all grades attained in core classes will be named the Salutatorian.

In order to be eligible for Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian a student must have attended St. Marys High School for three consecutive semesters.

Selection of Honor Graduates

Selection of the Honor Graduates will be at the end of the first semester/term of the senior year and shall be computed on the basis of all subjects taken for credit in grades 9, 10, 11 and the first semester of grade 12, and any taken prior to grade nine for which they earned graduation credit. GPA average at end of 1st semester will determine rank as follows:

4.0 and higher	Highest Honors – Gold
3.99 – 3.80	High Honors – Silver
3.79 – 3.60	Honors - Bronze

Participation in Graduation Exercises

A student will be eligible to march with their graduating class if they meet all state and county academic requirements.

Required Attendance – Full Instructional Day for Four Years

Attendance for the full school day for all four years during grades 9-12 is important so that students obtain the full benefit from the educational programs offered in the schools of West Virginia. In accordance with West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2510, all students shall be scheduled in the defined high school curriculum, college courses, career/technical programs, credit recovery, Option Pathway, experiential learning, or virtual school courses for the full instructional day for all four years.

In accordance with requirements of West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2510, Pleasants County Board of Education has approved Policy: 8-6 Attendance – Student section Attendance Exceptions (B) which defines the compelling circumstances under which students may attend school for fewer than four full years and/or may be scheduled for courses for less than the full instructional day.

Early College Admission Guidelines

The following criteria have been established to afford students who have exhausted the high school curriculum offerings to enter college during their senior year.

- In order to be classified as a full time college student, a student must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours.
- Parents must submit a written request (Form Required) requesting permission for students to enter college during the senior year. The request should be submitted following a conference with the school principal and counselor.
- Student shall have achieved a 3.5 overall average for the courses completed.
- Student must have accumulated at least 24 credits by the end of the third high school year. (Grades 9, 10 and 11)
- Student must have a letter of acceptance from the appropriate college.
- All of the preceding information must be forwarded to the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for review and approval prior to June 15th of the junior year
- Once approval has been granted, these conditions shall be in effect:
 - Satisfactory credit accumulated during the first year of college shall be applied toward credits to receive a high school diploma.
 - The diploma will be awarded to the student at the time members of the class would graduate.

Advanced Placement Courses

Any approved AP® course may substitute for a content related graduation requirement. Of the four required AP® courses to be offered annually, one must be in each of the four core areas of mathematics, English Language Arts, science, and social studies and must have a syllabus approved by the College Board. Students taking AP® courses are strongly encouraged to take the corresponding AP® examinations.

Alternate Means to Earn High School Credit

Any student who successfully completes a high school level course (one meeting the high school approved content standards and objectives and taught by a content certified teacher) prior to grade 9 shall receive full credit for that course toward graduation requirements. The student's permanent record for grades 9-12 shall indicate completion of the courses. The grade for any course taken prior to grade 9 becomes part of the student's permanent record and is

calculated in the student's grade point average (hereinafter GPA).

There are two reasons for high schools accepting college credit: (1) the student is enrolled in the high school and would profit by taking a course at the college/university which is not available at the high school or (2) the student is enrolled as a full time college student and needs to transfer credits back to the high school to complete graduation requirements. A maximum of two units of credit may be used to meet the 24 required units. (Three semester hours of college credit may be counted as ½ unit of credit).

Schools may develop tests for the purpose of accelerating students by proving proficiency through assessment.

References: West Virginia State Board of Education Policy 2510
Amended: May 24, 2016
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