

Metropolitan School District of Wabash County
NORTHFIELD and SOUTHWOOD JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS
Course Selection and Graduation Requirements 2012-2013

From the Guidance Department:

A primary purpose of the Guidance Department is to help individual students plan realistically by understanding themselves and their potential. Students receive assistance in reviewing their abilities and goals through use of test results, questionnaires, teacher evaluations, health records, and other personal data from various sources. Individual program planning with each student is provided by the counseling staff. Counselors work with teachers, setting up consultation among students, faculty, and parents to discuss the student's progress in scholastic areas. Information for career planning, including occupations, college entrance, financial aid, and vocational trade schools is available through the guidance office. Parents are encouraged to contact the Guidance Department when questions or concerns arise relative to their child's needs and academic program.

Students will work with their parents and guidance counselors to create a career plan beginning in grade 6. The plan will direct the student toward achievement of life goals beyond high school. By defining requirements for success in future education and work, the Indiana Core 40 guides this planning process. Core 40 is the standard expected diploma for Indiana students.*

The successful completion of Core 40 classes is required for admission to Indiana public four-year colleges. These same courses are strongly suggested for admission to two-year public colleges. Requirements may differ depending on the type of diploma the student chooses to earn.

*For students unable to meet these requirements, there is an opt-out process which requires parental consent. See the Guidance Department for more details.

Important information when planning:

College Credit: Students have opportunities to earn dual credit (both college and high school credit) through IPFW, Ivy Tech and Indiana University within classes taught at Southwood or Northfield. Our ability to offer these courses is dependent on each college approving which teachers meet their credentialing requirements. Tuition costs vary; however, students on free & reduced lunches do not have to pay tuition for dual credit courses.

Online Learning: Students may register to take classes via the Internet through Indiana Online Academy. (Charges apply; fees may be reduced or exempted for summer session) <http://indianaonlineacademy.org/> Summer 2012: students pay only \$50 per course

Heartland Career Center: In some cases, English credits may be earned through courses taught at the Heartland Career Center. Contact your high school counselor for more information. Dual or Articulated College Credit is available through many of the programs offered at Heartland Career Center. Contact a HCC administrator for more information or for a tour.

Prerequisites: Some courses have prerequisites. This means that a certain course or grade average must be obtained before a student can enroll in a subsequent course. Prerequisites are listed after course descriptions when applicable.

Course Load Minimum: It is recommended that students take a full schedule to take advantage of the many courses offered. (limit of one study hall, at the most). Vocational school counts as three periods with all students required to take two classes at their home high school. (All students must pass a minimum of five classes to maintain athletics eligibility.) Seven class periods may be scheduled by parent and student request.

College information: MINIMUM requirements at most 4 year colleges are 4 years of English, 3 years of mathematics, 2 years of science, and 2 years of social studies. Two years of a world language are also desirable. COLLEGE MAJOR AREAS AND SPECIFIC COLLEGE CHOICE WILL DICTATE FURTHER COURSE PREPARATION DURING HIGH SCHOOL. Obviously, more competitive colleges have more extensive the requirements.

College admission offices, college web sites, and the high school guidance office should be consulted for information regarding specific colleges. Juniors and seniors are allowed two college visitation days each year which are excused when arranged with the proper form received through the guidance office. Failure to follow these guidelines may prevent your admission to the college of your choice! Plan early; waiting may cause schedule problems.

Special Education: Special Education courses are available to students placed in the learning disabilities program, mildly mentally handicapped program, or the emotionally handicapped program. The specific courses taught through the special education program are determined by the individual education plan developed by the Annual Case Conference Committee.

Schedule Change Policy: All student or parent requests for schedule changes must be submitted in writing. **NOTE: BOOK CHARGES may occur.** (Parents are responsible for books already ordered specifically for the student.)

June 1: Last date to request schedule change for 1st semester. No refunds past this date.

Prior to Thanksgiving break: Last date to request schedule change for 2nd semester.

All other requests to add or drop core area classes/non-elective will need to be petitioned to the teacher, guidance counselor, and administrator (with parent signature) based on valid academic reasons. (Forms in the guidance office) On a rare occasion that a request is made, the petition should occur within the first week of the semester. Electives will be changed at the semester and should not be part of the petition process.

These procedures and time lines are necessary to follow as we order materials, technology, and or textbooks and create master schedules based on the requests for the classes. The master schedule determines the number of teachers and sections that are needed. REMINDER: Changing a schedule can result in non-refunded textbook fees.

Parental Assistance: All parents or guardians are asked to familiarize themselves as much as possible with course offerings and assist their son or daughter in determining his/her course preferences. Every attempt will be made to honor all student course requests. Certain course requests cannot be honored because of insufficient enrollment or because two or more course requests have the same meeting time.

GRADE WEIGHTING

Northfield and Southwood use a 12 point grading system (A=11, B=8, C=5, D=2, F=0). MOST classes are computed equally when figuring grade point average. Advanced Placement (AP) courses, due to their rigorous college-level content, are weighted up one letter grade (3) points when a semester average grade of C or higher is obtained. The actual grade appears on the report card but the GPA reflects the change (see chart below):

Actual AP Sem. Grade	Normal Point Equivalent	Weighted Equivalent
A	11	14
A-	10	13
B+	9	12
B	8	11
B-	7	10
C+	6	9
C	5	8

General Diploma

(This is only for **students who opt out of the regular CORE 40 diploma** described on the previous page; it requires parent signature)

Graduation requirements: Total of 40 credits, including these specific course requirements (grades 9 through 12):

<p>English: 4 years 8 credits 9-12 Math: 2 years 4 credits 9-10 (2 of these credits from Algebra) Science: 2 years 4 credits 9-10 (Biology plus one other area required) Social Studies: 2 years 4 credits 11-12 (U.S. History and Government/Economics) Physical Ed.: 2 semesters 2 credits Health: 1 semester 1 credit 9-10</p>	<p><u>GRADE CLASSIFICATION:</u> 2 semesters – Sophomore 4 semesters - Junior 26 credits, 6 semesters – Senior</p>
--	---