

Freshman Orientation  
August 13, 2020

Now that you are entering high school, the rules are going to change a little bit. Of course, you must still do well in your classes, but there are differences. The following will be valuable information to remember as you make the transition into ninth grade.

**There are 3 sets of requirements to earn a diploma**

**1.) Credits**

All courses required for graduation must be completed with a passing grade in order to earn credit. If you do not pass Freshman English, you will repeat it, even if you pass all your other 9<sup>th</sup> grade courses. If you do not pass Physical Science, you will not go on to the next Science course. You will repeat Physical Science. Therefore, it makes the most sense to try to pass your classes the first time. No one wants to have to sit through the same class twice or take summer school. Students who do say they regret not working harder the first time. It is important to note the importance of the grades that you earn for the entire year as an average. Your final percentage grade determines whether or not credit is earned for term of the course. A 65% final grade is needed to earn credit. Minimum number of credits to graduate is 21.

Additionally, we are offering 12 courses for students to earn college credits here at Houston, in partnership with Edison State Community College, through the College Credit Plus (CCP) program. These courses are available starting Freshman year, with the majority offered in Junior and Senior year. Students interested in participating in CCP must attend a required meeting, with a parent, in January. More details on that will be forthcoming.

**2.) Graduation Testing Requirement**

Students must meet assessment requirements set by the State of Ohio. These include getting minimum scores on your End of Course Tests. Your EOC/AIR tests will be in the Spring, as always, with opportunities to retest, as needed.

**3.) Graduation Seals**

Students must earn a minimum of two seals for graduation. Further information on how to earn each seal is attached.



## GPA and Transcript

As a high school student, your grade point average (GPA) becomes even more important. Honors, acceptance into various programs and colleges, and scholarship awards are often heavily dependent on GPA. Your GPA will be calculated every quarter for Honor Roll purposes, the same as it has been in elementary and junior high school. Your GPA will be calculated at the end of each year to create a cumulative GPA. This cumulative GPA is what goes on college and scholarship applications, and determines class rank.

Your transcript is the report of what courses you took each year and the grades you earned in them. It is a one-page snapshot of your entire academic progress from 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. This is the document that gets sent to colleges and employers. Therefore, the transcript is very important (which means your grades are, too).

## Career Passport

All graduates of Houston High School will complete a Career Passport. Every year students work on specific career exploration assignments, to help them discover what career and educational path they would like to pursue after high school. The ultimate goals of these assignments are: self-exploration, job exploration, brainstorming of options, and making some preliminary decisions toward selecting a beginning career option. This portfolio is the culmination of those activities.

## Counselors Office Website

On the HHS website, there is a menu for the Counselors Office. Please consult this site periodically. This is where all dates and upcoming events pertaining to UVCC, colleges, scholarships, and career prep will be available.

[www.hardinhouston.org](http://www.hardinhouston.org) >>School Information >>Counselors Office  
Be sure to click on Counselors Office.



*My job is to help every student get prepared for life after high school. Whether it's needing help with classes, or concerns about how to meet future goals, or maybe you just need someone to talk to on a rough day. My door is always open. If you're not sure who to ask about something, ask me and we will find the answer together. I am here as a resource for you.*

*-Mrs. Merickel*

# CLASS OF 2023 - GRADUATION AUDIT AND CAREER PLAN

## STUDENT INFORMATION

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ALL REQUIREMENTS MET** No  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_ **QUALIFIED AS AT-RISK** No

**Credit Requirements Met** No **Competency Met** No **Readiness Met (min. 2 seals)** No

### CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

English Language Arts	
Course	Credits
English 9	
<b>Credits Earned</b>	0
<b>Credits Needed</b>	4

Math	
Course	Credits
Math I	
<b>Credits Earned</b>	0
<b>Credits Needed</b>	4

Science	
Course	Credits
Physical Science	
<b>Credits Earned</b>	0
<b>Credits Needed</b>	3

Social Studies	
Course	Credits
World History	
<b>Credits Earned</b>	0
<b>Credits Needed</b>	3

Electives	
<b>Credits Earned</b>	0
<b>Credits Needed</b>	6
<b>Total Credits Needed</b>	21
<b>Total Credits Earned</b>	0

Health	
Course	Credits
<b>Credits Earned</b>	0
<b>Credits Needed</b>	0.5

Physical Education	
Courses	Credits
PE 8 + HS PE	
<b>Credits Earned</b>	0
<b>Credits Needed OR Waiver</b>	0.5
PE Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other Requirements	
Fine Arts (7-12)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial Literacy (7-12)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Electives	

### COMPETENCY—must meet: 1) Testing, 2) College or Career-Focused, or 3) Military

**1) End-of-Course Testing 684 minimum score**

ELA II	
Algebra I	

**2) College-Prep - score/course in area not met with EOC**

ACT	Scores
English Language Arts	/18
Reading	/22
Mathematics	/22
<b>CCP Course Credit Earned</b>	
CCP English course	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCP Math course	<input type="checkbox"/>

**OR 2) Career-focused Activities - two total items required**

Foundational—at least one	
12-Point Industry Credential	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proficiency on 3 WebXams	<input type="checkbox"/>
A pre-apprenticeship or acceptance into an approved apprenticeship program.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting	
Work-based learning—250 hrs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earn required WorkKeys score	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earn OMJ Readiness Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>

Industry Credential Itemization	
Credential	Points
<b>Total Credential Points</b>	/12
<b>WebXams with Proficiency</b>	/3
<b>WorkKeys Score</b>	/14

**3) Military**

Proof of contract signed to enter a branch of the U.S. armed services upon graduation.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Pathway Met** No **Pathway Met** No **Pathway Met** No

### READINESS—at least one of the two must be Ohio-designed

**Ohio**

OhioMeansJobs Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry-Recognized Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>
College-Ready Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Military Enlistment Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Science Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Honors Diploma Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seal of Biliteracy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technology Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Local**

Community Service Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fine and Performing Arts Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student Engagement Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Notes:**

### Career Pathway Goals

**Current career goal #1 (required):**

Steps in career pathway:

- 1.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Current career goal #2 (optional):**

Steps in career pathway:

- 1.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Post-Secondary Goals**

### Graduation/Career Pathway Interventions

**Credit**  **Competency**  **Readiness**

credit recovery? \_\_\_\_\_

meets UVCC credit min

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Interventions are deemed needed when a student is behind grade level in credits, competency, and/or readiness.

\*Age may also be a factor in determining need for intervention.

\*A need for intervention means the student becomes "at risk" for not graduating.

### Student-Parent-School Compact

This plan is for guidance purposes and will be revised annually. Any of the signing parties may request a revision, as needed. The signatures below indicate that all parties have read and understand this plan in its entirety.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Signature Parent Signature  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Counselor/Principal Signature Plan Completion Date

# Houston High School Local Graduation Seals



**The Hardin-Houston Board of Education authorizes students to earn the following seals to fulfill State requirements to earn a diploma.**

**Students will demonstrate readiness for their post-high school paths by earning two diploma seals that allow them to demonstrate important foundational and well-rounded academic and technical knowledge, professional skills, social and emotional competencies, and leadership and reasoning skills. These important sets of knowledge, skills and dispositions are necessary for high school graduates to be successful in the workplace, college, the military or other self-sustaining professions. Students will demonstrate readiness by earning at least two diploma seals, one of which must be state defined.**



## State Defined Seals

1. **Ohio Means Jobs Seal-** *Meet the requirements and criteria established for the readiness seal, including demonstration of work-readiness and professional competencies.*
2. **State Seal of Biliteracy-** *Meet the requirements and criteria, including proficiency requirements on assessments in a world language and English.*
3. **Industry-Recognized Credential Seal-** *Earn an approved industry-recognized credential that is aligned to a job considered in demand in this state and its region.*
4. **College-Ready Seal-** *Earn remediation-free scores on the ACT or SAT.*
5. **Military Enlistment Seal-** *Provide evidence that a student has enlisted in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces; or participate in an approved JROTC program.*
6. **Citizenship Seal-** *A student can-*
  - a. *Earn a score of proficient or higher on both the American History and American Government end-of-course exams*
  - b. *Earn a score that is at least equivalent to proficient on approved Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams*
  - c. *Earn a final course grade that is equivalent to a “B” or higher in an appropriate class taken through the College Credit Plus program.*
7. **Science Seal-** *A student can-*
  - a. *Earn a proficient or higher on the Biology end-of-course exam*
  - b. *Earn a score that is at least equivalent to proficient on appropriate Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams*
  - c. *Earn a final course grade that is equivalent to a “B” or higher in an appropriate class taken through the College Credit Plus program.*
8. **Honors Diploma Seal-** *Earn one of six Honors Diplomas outlined below:*
  - a. *Academic Honor Diploma*
  - b. *International Baccalaureate Honors Diploma*
  - c. *Career-Tech Honors Diploma*
  - d. *STEM Honors Diploma*
  - e. *Arts Honors Diploma*
  - f. *Social Science and Civic Engagement Honors Diploma*
9. **Technology Seal-** *A student can:*
  - a. *Earn a score that is at least equivalent to proficient on an appropriate Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam*
  - b. *Earn a final course grade that is equivalent to a “B” or higher in an appropriate class taken through the College Credit Plus program*
  - c. *Complete a course offered through the district or school that meets guidelines developed by the Department*



## Community Service Seal

The Hardin-Houston Board of Education believes that high-quality community service experiences help prepare students for success in the workplace by allowing them to apply academic and technical skills in a real-life setting. Community service also connects students with the community in a positive way and teaches them to become good citizens.

A student may earn a Community Service Seal by completing a minimum of one high-quality, school approved community service experience during their high school career.

A high-quality community service experience achieves the following:

1. Helps students make invaluable connections in their community
2. Gives students an opportunity to explore possible career options in the public, nonprofit and philanthropic sectors and gain valuable work skills
3. Exposes students to the needs of their community and promotes an understand of and the value in vivid engagements well as volunteerism
4. Provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate social and emotional skills, academic knowledge, leadership, professionalism, and critical reasoning.

Community service experiences must be approved by the Districts's designated community service advisors in advance. The Board designates School Counselor, Stephanie Merickel and High School Principal, Jeff Judy to serve as community service advisors. To obtain approval, students must submit the following information:

1. Name and description of the organization
2. A description of the proposed community service activities
3. A timeline for completing the community service project/s

Students will be required to submit a completed community service agreement that is signed by the advisor/s, students, parent and an individual at the organization who will oversee the student's work. Completion of the community service project must be documented and verified by an individual at the community service organization before they are submitted to the community service advisor/s for approval.

Students will be required to submit a reflection on the community service work experience. Reflections must be submitted to the advisor in writing and include a summary of the tasks completed as well as an assessment of how the service has benefited both the students and community at large before the project/experience will be approved.

The community service agreement form should be obtained prior to the start of the project. Forms should be submitted to Mrs. Merickel or Mr. Judy.



## **Fine/Performing Arts Seal**

The Hardin-Houston Board of Education believes that participation in fine and performing arts programs supports the development of critical skills such as creativity, sensory processing, communication, problem-solving, cultural awareness, and expression. It also helps students gain confidence that will assist them throughout life.

A student may earn a Fine/Performing Arts Seal by earning at least two credits of approved fine arts program electives.

Students may also earn the seal by participating in three full seasons of an approved fine or performing arts extracurricular activity in one of the recognized disciplines. In order for participation in a fine/performing arts extracurricular activity to count outward earning the seal, students must participate in the entire scheduled season of the activity. Participation must be verified by the program advisor.

### Qualifying Visual Arts Classes:

- Art I
- Art II
- Painting/Watercolor
- Advanced Art

### Qualifying Music Classes:

- Chorus
- High School Band
- Jazz Band

### Qualifying Extracurricular Activities

- Fall Musical/Play
- Pep Band
- Spring Musical/Play



## **Student Engagement Seal**

The Hardin-Houston Board of Education believes that meaningful participation in Board-approved extracurricular activities helps to develop well rounded students who are more engaged in the school community.

Students may earn a Student Engagement Seal by earning at least five points within the approved extra-curricular activities list during high school. Eligible activities include participation in an athletic program, recognized school club or student government.

In order for participation to count toward earning the seal, students must participate in the entire scheduled season of the activity. Participation must be verified by the program advisor or coach.





**Student Engagement Seal:** In order for participation to count toward earning the seal, students must participate in the entire scheduled season of the activity. Participation must be verified by the program advisor or coach. To earn the seal a student must accumulate five points throughout their high school career.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Club</b> <i>*The following clubs/organizations will count as 1 toward the Engagement Seal</i>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Fine art</b> <i>*The following will count as 1 toward the Engagement Seal</i>	<b>Years</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Academia <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Club <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Circle <input type="checkbox"/> Blood donation <input type="checkbox"/> Other* (as approved by HS Principal)	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pep band <input type="checkbox"/> Fall play <input type="checkbox"/> Spring play <input type="checkbox"/> Other* (as approved by HS Principal)	_____ _____ _____ _____
<b>Organization</b> <i>*The following will count as 1 toward the Engagement Seal</i>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Sport</b> <i>*The following athletics will count as 1 toward the Engagement Seal</i>	<b>Years</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Council <input type="checkbox"/> FCCLA <input type="checkbox"/> FFA <input type="checkbox"/> NHS <input type="checkbox"/> Yearbook <input type="checkbox"/> Jr. Honor Society <input type="checkbox"/> Other* (as approved by HS Principal)	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Baseball <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball <input type="checkbox"/> Cheerleading <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country <input type="checkbox"/> Golf <input type="checkbox"/> Softball <input type="checkbox"/> Track <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball <input type="checkbox"/> Other* (as approved by HS Principal)	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Student total \_\_\_\_\_



## **Transfer Students**

In the event that a student transfers into the Hardin-Houston School District, Houston High School will honor all local seals that the student has earned and that have been verified by that student's previous school or educational setting. All efforts will be made to convert an incoming student's prior qualifying engagement into progress toward the attainment of the approved Houston High School Graduation Seals.

