

Graduation Requirements

Curricular Areas	Credits	Required Courses
English Language Arts	4.0	
Social Studies	3.0	World History, American History, American Government
Mathematics	3.0	*College entrance requirements may require more units.
Science	3.0	*College entrance requirements may require more units.
Physical Education	1.0	
Health	0.5	
Fine Arts	1.0	
Practical Arts	1.0	
Personal Finance	0.5	
World Languages	0.0	*College entrance requirements may require more units.
Electives	7.5	
Total Credits	24.5	

1. Complete a total of 24.5 credits, including credits required by the State Board of Education.
2. Pass proficiency exams concerning American history, American institutions, American civics, and the Missouri and U.S. Constitutions.
3. Successfully complete a course of instruction of at least one semester in length on the institutions, branches and functions of the government of the state of Missouri, including local governments, the U.S. government and the electoral process.
4. Have earned credit in the St. Joseph School District's educational program between the ninth and twelfth grades.
5. Have taken all required end-of-course (EOC) exams.

6. Have received 30 minutes of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instruction and training in the proper performance of the Heimlich maneuver or other first aid for choking.
7. Complete ten hours of community service. Waived for the class of 2021.

Exceptions

1. Graduation requirements for a student with a disability receiving special education services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) may be determined according to the student's individualized education program (IEP).
2. Students transferring from other Missouri school districts or charter schools, private or parochial schools, home schools, unaccredited schools, and schools in other states or countries will have their credits transferred in accordance with guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (see pages 6-9 of the DESE Graduation Handbook).
3. The district will waive the requirement to pass proficiency exams concerning American history, American institutions, American civics, and the Missouri and U.S. Constitutions for students who transfer from another state if they can document the successful completion of a course of instruction in the institutions, branches and functions of state government, including local governments, the U.S. government and the electoral process. Such instruction must have been completed in grades nine through twelve.
4. Graduation requirements for foster care students will be modified or waived in accordance with law and Board policy IGBE.
5. Eligible students who successfully complete the Missouri Option Program will be awarded a High School diploma.

Earning Credit

1. The superintendent or designee is directed to assign credit values for courses offered by or through the school district and to develop formulas and procedures for awarding credit to transfer students who transfer from a district that uses a different standard for awarding credit. All courses that extend for the full term will be considered to be one-unit courses. Courses that extend for one-half the school term will be considered half-unit courses.
2. The St. Joseph School District recognizes units of credit obtained through accredited schools and school districts, including credits earned through correspondence courses or courses delivered primarily through electronic media, such as satellite video, cable video or computer-driven or online courses. For the purposes of this policy, an "accredited school" is the Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP); a private agency where students with disabilities are placed by a public school; or any school or school district accredited by DESE, AdvancED, the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) or the University of Missouri Committee on Accredited Schools (CAS). If a school or school district is located in another state or country, that school or school district must be accredited by that state's or country's department of education, AdvancED, ISACS or the equivalent agencies.
3. Students may earn advanced-standing credit by successfully completing high-school level courses prior to entering the ninth grade. Advanced-standing credit may be counted toward meeting all graduation requirements, including state minimum requirements.
4. The district may waive one unit of academic credit in English language arts, math, science or social studies, whichever is most appropriate, for students who successfully complete an eligible three-unit career/technical program. Students must request this credit waiver prior to enrolling in the career/technical program for which the waiver is sought. Students must take the end-of-course exam required for any waived course.
5. In addition to the waiver of credit above, a student may fulfill one unit of academic credit with a district-approved agriculture or career and technical education course for any English language arts, mathematics, science or social studies unit required for high school graduation in any combination up to fulfilling one requirement in each of the four subject areas. The substitution may not be made for courses that require an end-of-course statewide assessment. Unless otherwise waived by law, students who substitute certain courses with agricultural or career and technical courses are still required to complete a course of study of at least one semester in length covering the institutions, branches and functions of the government of the state of Missouri, including local governments, and of the government of the United States and the electoral process.

6. Students can earn $\frac{1}{2}$ embedded math credit for successful completion of any three-unit career/technical program offered at Hillyard Technical Center.
7. The superintendent or designee may approve credit earned on a proficiency basis if a student is able to demonstrate mastery of the competencies for a particular course and if state requirements are met for a quality, competency-based credit system.
8. Students may earn credit by other means as approved by the Board and in accordance with law.
9. Credit recovery provides an opportunity for students who would otherwise fail a course to complete the requirements of the class. The content teacher will outline the deficiencies the student must correct in order to receive credit for the class. These courses are transcribed as pass/fail and will not count toward the students GPA.
10. Students can earn high school credit for courses taken during summer school; however, these courses will not count toward your GPA or class rank.

Attendance & Credit

The attendance goal in the St. Joseph School District is for students to miss no more than five (5) days during the 2020-21 school year. Meeting that goal supports readiness for college, career and success as a young adult. Additionally, the A+ Schools Program requirement is for students to attain 95% attendance. A high school student shall be allowed no more than eight (8) absences per semester in any one class (this includes partial absences). Any absence from a class (including partial absences) will count toward the eight (8) absence maximum and will be noted on attendance updates. On the ninth (9) absence in any one class, the student will not earn credit for that class and an informational letter will be mailed home to parents.

The following are examples of absences that will count toward the eight (8) absence limit:

(a) oversleeping, (b) family vacations, (c) going out of town, (d) missing the bus, (e) no ride to school, (f) needed at home, (g) personal business, (h) car trouble, (i) activity camps, (j) mission trips, (k) other absences excused by parents, (l) school suspensions in excess of 5 days, and (m) district/state contests or other school related activities in which the student is not a participant.

The following will not count toward the eight (8) absence limit with proper documentation:

(a) hospitalization, (b) death in the family, (c) mandatory court date, (d) religious observance, (e) documented doctor's appointment, (f) medically documented illness, (g) verified school counseling or office appointment, (h) documented dental/orthodontist appointment, (i) college

visits (2 allowed for seniors; 1 allowed for juniors), (j) first five days of ISS or OSS, (k) school related activities in which the student is a participant.

Please review the parent and student handbook to review the entire district attendance policy.

Content Specific Graduation Requirements

English Language Arts

Four units of credit shall include written and oral expression, language structure, and literature. Instruction in basic reading skills may be counted as one-half unit in meeting the English Language Arts requirement.

Social Studies

Three units will be required and shall include one unit covering the history and culture of the other nations of the world, one unit of American History, and one-half unit on the functions and structure of American government. Beginning with the class of 2021, students will be required to earn one credit of world history, one credit of American history, and one credit of American government.

Mathematics

Three units of credit will be required.

Science

Three units of credit will be required: one unit must be completed in a life science course; one unit in a course addressing the principles of chemistry, and one additional unit of science. The completion of 2 years of agricultural science at Hillyard Technical Center can satisfy the requirement for the third science credit.

Physical Education

One unit is required. JROTC may be counted in lieu of physical education credit.

Health

One-half unit will be required. The health course is to be taken in the freshman or sophomore years.

Since health is included in JROTC, this requirement will be waived for those who elect to use JROTC for the physical education credit.

Fine Arts

One unit of credit will be required. This credit may be obtained by taking a unit course or two one-half unit courses. Music, art, or drama may be counted as fine arts.

Practical Arts

One unit is required. Business education, industrial arts, skilled technical sciences (Hillyard Technical Center), cooperative occupational education, family and consumer sciences, and vocational-technical courses may be used to meet the requirement.

Personal Finance

One-half unit of Personal Finance or approved substitutes is required in eleventh or twelfth grade.

Grade Scale & Recognition Guidelines (Grades 9-12)

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Honors</i>	<i>*AP and DC</i>
A	94-100%	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	93-90%	3.75	4.25	4.75
B+	87-89%	3.25	3.75	4.25
B	83-86%	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	80-82%	2.75	3.25	3.75
C+	77-79%	2.25	2.75	3.25
C	73-76%	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	70-72%	1.75	2.25	2.75
D+	67-69%	1.25	1.25	1.25
D	63-66%	1.00	1.00	1.00
D-	60-62%	0.75	0.75	0.75
F	0-59%	0.00	0.00	0.00

1. All full-credit courses which carry 0.5 unit of credit for one semester will count in the GPA computation.

2. A student's semester GPA will be derived by dividing total points earned in classes by the total number of full-credit courses in which the student was enrolled during the semester.
3. Total points for the semester are obtained by adding the number of base points earned by the student during the semester.
4. The cumulative GPA after any semester will be obtained by adding the total number of points earned in each of the previous semesters, including the semester just completed, and dividing the total number of full credit semester courses through the completing of the most recent semester. The maximum possible unweighted GPA at any time is 4.00.
5. Class rank is based on a student's weighted GPA and assigned ordinarily for example, if two students are tied for the number 1 position; the next highest GPA is given the rank of number 3.
6. Students in grades 9-12 may receive weighted credit in a maximum of 4 classes.
7. Latin Honors, Top Ten Scholars, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian will be recognized in each graduating class. The Latin Honors Recognition qualifications are included on the next page.
8. To be recognized as the valedictorian or salutatorian, a student must have attended the school the last four semesters. This student must have completed the maximum number of credits offered by their school each year until their senior year when they can take 6 out of 7 classes each semester. Class rank and GPA are based on a weighted scale. In case of a tie for valedictorian, the school will not name a salutatorian. Please note, top ten scholar recognition will use the valedictorian and salutatorian selection criteria.

Latin Honors Recognition (Grades 9-12)

The honors system below will be implemented in addition to practices of designating a valedictorian, salutatorian, and recognition of the top ten grade point averages.

Summa Cum Laude	Magna Cum Laude	Cum Laude
4.2 or higher GPA	4.0 – 4.19 GPA	3.7 – 3.99 GPA

ACT of 28 or higher or AFQT of 93 or higher or Platinum WorkKeys certificate	ACT between 26-27 or AFQT between 80-92 or Gold WorkKeys certificate	ACT between 22-25 or AFQT between 70-79 or Silver WorkKeys certificate
95% attendance	95% attendance	95% attendance
5 AP/DC credits or Missouri CTE certificate	4 AP/DC credits or Missouri CTE certificate	3 AP/DC credits or Missouri CTE certificate
4 extra/co-curricular activities sponsored by SJSD faculty	3 extra/co-curricular activities sponsored by SJSD faculty	2 extra/co-curricular activities sponsored by SJSD faculty

Participating in Sports & Extra-Curricular Activities

In order to be eligible to participate in high school sports, students must meet the requirements set forth by the Missouri State High School Athletic Association (MSHSAA) as well as the SJSD policy.

Citizenship: Students whose conduct, both in school and out of school, will not reflect discredit upon themselves or their school.

Academics: Students must pass 6 of 7 classes each semester. If you are a beginning ninth grade student, you must have been promoted at the close of the previous school year.

Transferring Students: If you transfer schools and your parents do not move into the district of your new school, you will be ineligible for 365 days.

Entering School: Students must enter school within the first 11 days of the semester to be eligible.

Additional Requirements: There are additional rules regarding participation limits, age limits, playing under a false name, graduated students, non-school competition, etc. For more information contact the Activities Director at each high school.