

MT. ARARAT HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2006 - 2007

The *Program of Studies* presents information about courses which may be taken towards a Mt. Ararat High School diploma. This publication also presents information that can help students plan an academic program with their future goals in mind. It is designed for use by students and their parents during course registration.

Information on educational programming for students in grades 9-12 with documented physical, behavioral, and / or learning disabilities, as determined through a Pupil Evaluation Team meeting, is available from the Special Services department at Mt. Ararat High School.

Please note that some courses or other provisions described in this publication may turn out to be unavailable in 2006-07, depending on course enrollment, staffing, or other factors.

For additional information, contact the high school principal at Mt. Ararat High School, 73 Eagles Way, Topsham, ME 04086. Telephone: (207) 729-2951. Fax: (207) 729-2953. Web site: <http://www.mta75.org>

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ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADUATION

Please refer to MSAD No. 75 policy for more information on graduation requirements.

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Mt. Ararat High School operates on a modified block schedule involving 7 periods. Students are required to take a minimum of 5 courses at all times, including 3 courses in different academic subject areas. Credits are earned when courses are passed; partial credits are not awarded. Half credits are earned for semester courses or those which meet twice per week over the year; quarter credits are earned for semester courses which meet twice per week over a semester. In order to graduate, students must earn a minimum of 20 credits. Of the 20 credit total required to graduate, students must earn a minimum of:

4 credits in English (English I - IV; qualified students may substitute AP English for English III and/or IV)

3 credits in Social Studies (Social Studies I - III)

3 credits* in Math (*refer to page 10 for details concerning courses required for graduation)

3 or 4 credits* in Science (Science I-III) (*refer to page 12 for details concerning courses required for graduation)

1 credit in Fine Arts (all Music and Visual Art courses and certain elective courses described under English)

1 credit in Physical Education

1/2 credit in Health

Students typically graduate in four years. For organizational purposes, second-year high school students with 3 to 7 credits are usually considered 10th graders; third-year high school students with 8 to 14 credits are usually considered 11th graders. In order to be considered a member of the senior class and a 12th grader, a student must enroll in a program of study for the final year that, if successfully completed, will result in graduation. Regardless of grade level, third-year high school students are scheduled to take the SAT. Additionally, students who attend school at Maine Vocational Region 10 prior to 11th grade are subject to modified academic and graduation requirements. Additional information regarding credit requirements for these vocational school students and about course options are available from school counselors.

NOTE: a proposal for an additional required credit (at 1/4 credit per year) to be earned through sustained participation in the school's advisory program will be considered by the MSAD No. 75 Board of Directors. As proposed, this requirement would affect students as of the class of 2010. Please refer to the 2006-07 Student Handbook or Board policy for more information.

BEYOND REQUIREMENTS

In addition to satisfying graduation credit requirements, students and parents should consider the following:

- Students are encouraged to take classes that challenge their academic abilities.
- Students should keep their options open. Those considering post-secondary education, particularly two or four year colleges, should exceed the high school graduation requirements and take four years of mathematics and three years of a world language.

- Students who seek to compete as Division I or II athletes must satisfy the NCAA Clearinghouse academic eligibility guidelines, and need to be aware of NCAA eligibility requirements. Contact the guidance office for more information or go to <http://www.ncaa.com>

MAINE LEARNING RESULTS: COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT IN REQUIRED SUBJECTS

Students demonstrate achievement of the Maine Learning Results by successfully completing essential course tasks and associated common assessments within the District's assessment system. All students taking required high school courses of study in the required subject take these common assessments.

REMEDICATION and MAINE LEARNING RESULTS

Mt. Ararat High School provides remediation for students who need help meeting the academic standards associated with the Maine Learning Results requirements. Teachers often make themselves available to students who need help improving performance on common assessments before and after school or during their planning time. Parents are urged to contact their child's teacher or department heads of required assessment subjects (English, mathematics, science, social studies, health and physical education) for more information about academic support.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: COURSES, EXAMINATIONS, COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT, AND POSSIBLE COLLEGE CREDIT

In accordance with the May AP examination schedule, each student taking a course designated "Advanced Placement" or "AP" must take either the actual exam associated with the course or a released edition of the exam selected by the department head following consultation with the course teacher(s). The student would thereby meet the system requirement for comprehensive AP-level assessment in each AP course taken. Students should keep in mind that they can earn possible college credit only by taking actual AP exams rather than released editions. Students and their parents are encouraged to check the AP credit policies of particular colleges and universities policies by contacting the institutions or checking credit information through the College Board's Website: <http://www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy/>

COURSE REGISTRATION

The serious business of course registration period for the 2006-07 academic year begins with the publication of the *Program of Studies* and ends on the last day of school in June. During this time, students, parents, and faculty work together to determine student schedules for the following academic year. The entire process involves planning then making choices and commitments. Registrations influence the shape of the master schedule and the allocation of school resources such as faculty, staff, materials, and space.

Schedule-building

At the start of the course registration period, students consult with their advisors then with teachers of their current courses, who recommend subsequent courses and

placements. If a teacher or department recommendation does not match a student's desired course or placement, that student's parents may override the teacher's recommendation, providing the student meets published course prerequisites. •• As initial registration activities proceed, students receive information on other courses (including electives and MVR Ten programs) through the *Program of Studies* and other means. Students may then select any additional courses.

Schedule review / adjustment

After the schedule-building phase of the course registration period, each student receives a preliminary schedule. Students must review their preliminary schedules with their parents and, as needed, with school counselors and other faculty. Modifications must be made prior to the June 2006 close of the course registration period.

Course registrations and schedules are final on the last day of school in June, 2006.

After the last day of school in June, a student's preliminary schedule becomes final. From that point on, a schedule may then be changed only when • a department head approves a different academic placement, •• a school counselor determines the existence of a situation that requires intervention in the affected student's best academic interest (*e.g.* a student may need to address particular graduation requirements or may have assumed an inappropriate course load), or ••• a department head determines that course sections require balancing.

ACADEMIC PLANNER

Only specific courses required for Mt. Ararat High School graduation are listed. Consult course descriptions for details on common assessment requirements. At least 1 elective credit must be in fine arts. Credits earned must total at least 20. A minimum of 5 credits must be carried at all times.

First Year (9th grade / freshman)

_____ Academic English I
_____ Social Studies (Academic Ancient World Cultures)
_____ Math (Algebra I, Academic Algebra I, Academic Geometry, or Adv. Geometry)
_____ Science (Science I / Academic Science I)
_____ PE I
_____ Electives:

Second Year (10th grade / sophomore)

_____ English II (Academic) English II or Adv. English II)
_____ Social Studies (European History, Academic European History or AP European History)
_____ Math (see the Math section for options) _____
_____ Science II (Biology, Academic Biology, or Honors Biology)
_____ Health
_____ PE II
_____ Electives:

Third Year (11th grade / junior)

_____ English III (Academic English III) or AP English

_____ Social Studies (U.S. History, Academic U.S. History or AP U.S. History)

_____ Math (see the Math section for options) _____

_____ Science (see the Science section for options) _____

_____ Electives:

Fourth Year (12th grade / senior)

_____ English IV (Academic English IV) or AP English

_____ Science (required when Chemistry is selected in the third year; see Science section for options)

_____ Electives:

MT. ARARAT HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

At Mt. Ararat High School, our vision is for every student to explore and work toward fulfilling his or her unique potential.

In order to achieve this vision, it is our mission to

- ensure challenging and personalized learning,
- teach the essential skills necessary to meet the demands of a changing world,
- provide a safe, nurturing, and intellectually vibrant environment where diversity is valued and everyone is respected, and
- work in partnership with families and the community to promote the health and development of the whole individual.

Academic Expectations for Student Learning

All Mt. Ararat High School graduates will be self-directed and lifelong learners. As such, they will be

- effective communicators,
- quality workers,
- problem solvers, and
- integrative and informed thinkers.

Civic and Social Expectations for Student Learning

All Mt. Ararat High School graduates will be responsible and involved citizens. As such, they will

- assume responsibility for their own behavior and utilize appropriate conflict resolution skills,
- demonstrate an understanding of the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society, and
- be respectful and tolerant.