

## GRADE 7 & 8 HIGH-SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES

### Things to Consider before Enrolling in High School Credit Courses

- Does the student have strong core subject progress overall (3.5 GPA or better)?
- If considering a HS Language course, does the student have:
  - Strong English language skills, especially grammar?
  - Language Art's teacher's recommendation for that course?
  - Prior background in the language, to include exposure to the language in Host Nation or Exploratory Classes?
- If considering a HS Mathematics class (Algebra or Geometry), does the student have:
  - Strong Mathematics Skills?
  - Strong TerraNova Scores in Math?
  - Teacher recommendation for that level?
- These courses earn DoDEA Graduation Credit toward High School graduation. Note: There is no guarantee they will be accepted or counted anywhere outside of DoDEA schools. Each state/school district has its own policies for this.
- Textbooks, standards, course descriptions, and rigor are the same as the equivalent courses in the high school, thus students must work, function and achieve at the high school level.
- High School credit courses are sequential and thus must cover defined content to prepare for the next course in the sequence.
- Curriculum and rigor are more in-depth and the pace is faster than that of a typical MS course.
- Courses require much more study and daily review of content than the typical MS course or exploratory. In addition, more homework is required from High School credit courses than in Middle School courses.
- Frequent and/or extended absences generally DO impact students' learning and academic progress. Absence from class is particularly damaging to students in HS credit courses, especially if they are struggling in any way.
- Course and grades become part of a student's permanent DoDEA high school transcript (including failing grades and repeats).
- Grades are NOT calculated in the High School GPA or class rankings in DoDEA.
- HS credit courses require semester exams, generally 10-20% of the total grade for the semester.

- HS credit is earned by semester,  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit per semester. It is possible to pass one semester but fail the other. **If a student must leave early for a PCS, he/she must be enrolled through the early withdrawal date AND accelerate the work to earn the full credit for the semester.**

#### Indicators of Likely Success

- Student already has a good work ethic.
- Student has good study skills.
- Student has good organizational skills.
- Student takes initiative.
- Student has the ability to study and learn independently.
- Student functions well in his or her core classes.

#### High School Credit Add/Drop Regulations

- Add/Drop only in the 1st TEN school days of each semester.
- Withdraw passing and withdraw failing grades no longer apply when courses are dropped by these dates.

#### Required Signature

I have read and understand the information listed above and would like to enroll my child in the HS course(s) indicated on the reverse side.

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Parent's Signature

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Date Signed