

PROFICIENCY-BASED GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS



EXPLORE. DISCOVER. THRIVE.

Mill River

Unified Union School District

Overview

All students attending Mill River Union Unified School District beginning with the class of 2021 will demonstrate achievement in rigorous proficiencies as well as meeting credit requirements for graduation. These graduation requirements ensure that all students provide evidence that they have achieved the established content proficiencies and acquired the knowledge, skills and work habits that will prepare them for postsecondary education and modern careers.

Graduation and Grading Policies

A. Communicating Graduation Requirements

Accurate, up-to-date information concerning all graduation proficiency standards and high school diploma requirements will be made available to students and parents in a proactive and regular manner.

B. Academic Requirements for Graduation

B1. Students enrolled in the Class of 2021 must earn twenty six (26) credits allocated as follows:

- A. English: Four (4) credits
 - B. Arts: One (1) credit
 - C. Health: One half (.5) credit
 - D. Mathematics: Three (3) credits
 - E. Physical Education: One and a half (1.5) credit
 - F. Social Studies: Three and a half (3.5) credits
 - G. Science: Three credits (3) credits
 - H. Foreign Language: One (1) credit
 - I. Electives: Eight and a half (8.5) credits
- TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS: 26**

B2. In addition to credit accumulation, proficiency must be demonstrated in the following areas through completion of courses that meet the credit requirements outlined above:

Proficiency is demonstrated through aggregate performance on summative assessments with an overall proficiency score of 2.0 or higher for each proficiency in the following content areas [listed in 2120.5 of the Vermont Education Quality Standards]:

- a) English Language Arts/ Literacy
- b) Mathematical content and practices
- c) Scientific inquiry and content knowledge
- d) Global citizenship
- e) Physical education and health education
- f) Artistic expression (including visual, media and performing arts); and
- g) Transferable Learning Skills

C. Transfer/Home-Schools Students

Like traditionally matriculated students, transfer students will need to satisfy all assessment, proficiency, and graduation requirements in the appropriate subject areas, as determined by the Principal and MRUUSD graduation requirements. For students who transfer to Mill River Union High School from another state, country, school, program, or home-schooling program, including educational programs that are not aligned with MRUHS's cross-curricular and content-area graduation standards, the Principal or designee shall evaluate the value of the student's prior educational experiences and determine to what degree the student has met the school's graduation requirements and schedule courses to meet remaining needs. When this evaluation is completed, MRUHS school counseling staff will create a transcript and academic record within the school data-systems. Courses taken outside of MRUHS may receive a proficiency score or a P for pass in this transcription. The Principal will ultimately determine whether these students are eligible to receive a diploma.

D. Students Receiving Special-Education Services

Students who successfully meet Mill River Union High School's cross-curricular and content-area graduation standards, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP), will be awarded diplomas.

Graduation Proficiencies

Content Proficiencies Required for Graduation:

English Language Arts
Reading: Comprehend, interpret, analyze, and evaluate a wide range and level of complex literary and informational texts.
Writing: Produce clear and coherent writing for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.
Speaking and Listening: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations (1:1, in groups and teacher/student led) with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
Language: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Math
Number & Quantity: Reason, describe, and analyze quantitatively using units and number systems to solve problems.
Algebra: Create, interpret, use and analyze expressions, equations and inequalities.
Functions: Use functions including linear quadratic, trigonometric, and exponential, to interpret and analyze a variety of contexts
Geometry: Understand geometric concepts and constructions, prove theorems, and apply appropriate results to solve problems.
Statistics & Probability: Interpret and apply statistics and probability to analyze data, reach and justify conclusions, and make inferences.

Science
Earth & Space Sciences: Understand and analyze Earth's systems and the origins, interactions and relationships between and among the Earth, our solar system and the universe.
Life Science: Understand and analyze concepts of genetics, adaptation, biodiversity, ecosystems, and molecular, structural, & chemical biology.
Physical Science (Energy & Interactions): Understand how the interactions among objects can be described and represented by the motion, forces, and energy of the objects, and that these interactions can be represented with either particle or wave models.
Physical Science (Properties of Matter) : Understand and analyze matter, reactions and physical systems.

Global Citizenship
History: Use historical inquiry, including the use of primary and secondary sources, to gather information about the past that will help them make sense of the present and decisions about the future.
Geography: Propose solutions to local and world issues by using geographic tools to analyze data and examine cultural information.
Civics, Government and Society: Act as citizens by understanding how governments function and by exercising their rights and responsibilities within their current societal structure(s).
Economics: Make economic decisions through their understanding of the interaction between humans, the environment, and the economy.

World Language

Culture: Interact with cultural competence and understanding.

Communication: Communicate (interpersonal, interpretive, presentational) effectively in more than one language in order to function in a variety of situations and for multiple purposes.

Physical Education *(1.5 years of PE must be taken in accordance with the Education Quality Standards)*

Motor Skills: Demonstrate proficiency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns

Knowledge: Apply knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies and tactics related to movement and performance.

Physical Fitness: Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health enhancing level of physical activity and fitness.

Affective Qualities and Social Interactions: Exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects and promotes success of self and others.

Health

Analyze Influences: Analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology and other factors on health behaviors. **OR Access Information:** Demonstrate the ability to access valid information and products and services to enhance health.

Decision-making & Goal Setting: Demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills and goal setting to enhance health.

Visual and Performing Arts
Create Visual Art: Conceive and create well-crafted, expressive visual art that communicates ideas and experiences. OR
Creating (Drama): Conceive and develop new artistic ideas and work. OR
Creation, Performance, Expression (Music): Create, perform, and express ideas and experiences through the music discipline.

Transferable Skills Required for Graduation
Clear and Effective Communication
Self-Direction
Creative and Practical Problem Solving
Responsible and Informed Citizenship
Informed and Integrative Thinking

Flexible Pathways and Personalized Learning:

A. Program Length

Most students will satisfy graduation requirements during a four-year experience, however, students may fulfill the requirements for a diploma in a time period that is accelerated or lengthened based on their individual needs.

B. Flexible Pathways

All students will have access to multiple pathways to graduation. Flexible pathway experiences will be approved, assessed, and documented through the school. All flexible pathways must also be recorded in a student's Personalized Learning Plan.

Pathway options include the following:

- Early College/Dual Enrollment Courses
- Career and Technical Education programming
- Online/Virtual Learning
- Alternative/At-risk programming
- Internships & additional Field work and/or Exchange Experiences
- Independent Study or Long-term Projects
- Traditional Classes

C. Personal Learning Plans

In addition to the learning options offered by the school, students can work with advisors, school counselors, and teachers to identify alternative courses, programs, or student-designed learning experiences, including independent studies and long-term projects, that engage their personal interests and ambitions, align with one or more learning standards, and meet MRUHS's graduation requirements.

To pursue a personalized learning pathway, including outside-of-school learning options, students must describe their learning experiences in a Personal Learning Plan, including how the experience satisfies both graduation requirements and expected cross-curricular and content-area standards.

Outside-of-school learning options may or may not be entirely aligned with specific classroom-based courses, but they must enable students to achieve some of the performance indicators taught in a comparable classroom-based course. Some interdisciplinary pathway experiences may enable students to achieve performance indicators addressed in multiple content areas or classroom-based courses. The student's Personal Learning Plan will detail how the personalized pathway options will enable the student to achieve expected performance indicators, graduation standards, and graduation requirements.

D. Approval, Certification, and Documentation

All learning options must be approved, reviewed, certified, and documented by administrators, teachers, and staff at Mill River Union High School. Administrators, counselors, and teachers will collaborate to certify that classroom-based learning experiences culminate in the demonstration of proficiency on the graduation standards and performance indicators detailed in a student's approved Personal Learning Plan. Learning opportunities outlined in the flexible pathways or in addition to these routes must be evaluated and endorsed by a school-based committee composed of a teacher, administrator, and counselor.

To satisfy Mill River Union High School graduation requirements, all learning options must (1) be approved in advance by the school and (2) be of an equal or higher rigor and quality as the school's academic courses. If questions arise about the rigor, quality, or standards of a learning option, the Principal or a designee will make the ultimate determination.

Students who successfully complete an approved learning option will have the experience, and the resulting grade or performance level, reported on the student's progress reports, report cards, and official Mill River Union High School transcript.

E. Advisory and Exploration

On 8 period block days, advisory will allow for small group initiatives and check-ins. On the extended advisory days, students develop their Personalized Learning Plans.

Sample of a Typical Four Year Progression: Standard Course of Study

9th Grade 1. 9th grade ELA 2. Math 3. Government and Economics 4. Earth Science 5. World Language Level 1 6. PE/Health 7. Art 8. Elective	10th Grade: 1. 10th grade ELA 2. Math 3. World History 4. Chemistry 5. World Language Level 2 6. PE 7. Art 8. Elective
11th Grade: 1. 11th grade ELA 2. Math 3. US History 4. Biology 5. Health 6. PE 7. Elective 8. Elective	12th Grade: 1. 12th grade ELA 2. Math 3. Civics and Economics 4. Science 5. Elective 6. Elective

F. Endorsements

MRUHS provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate advanced proficiency in the visual and performing arts in order to earn designated endorsements.

Visual Arts Endorsement:

Graduation requirements as described for the class of 2020 and the following additions:

- 1) 2 credits (minimum) of Visual Art courses:
- 2) Completion of at least 1 of the following:
 - A significant contribution to build/paint a set for a theatrical production.
 - Becoming an active member of the Art Army for at least 1 year.
- 3) Maintain a 3 average in all Fine Arts Courses and remain in overall "Good" Academic Standing.
- 4) Senior year capstone project has a focus on the visual arts

Performing Arts Endorsement:

- 1) 4 credits of Band, Chorus or Band/Chorus
 - 2) 1.5 Honors credit in one or more of the following classes:
 - 3) Chamber Singers, Clef Hangers, Tempo Tantrums, Jazz Band
 - 4) 1 credit of Music Theory (Castleton University 4 credit Music Theory and Aural Skills 1 - requires textbook and workbook)
 - 5) 0.5 credit Music Electives (Example: Rock 2 Rap, Digital Recording, Independent Study)
 - 6) Tri-M Music Honor Society (one year participation and community service hours)
- Capstone Project
- 7) Music classes used as alternative credit for other requirements: 1 credit Music Theory = 1 credit Math .5 credit
 - 8) Digital Recording = .5 credit Technology
 - 9) 0.5 credit Rock 2 Rap = .5 credit History
 - 10) Senior year capstone project has a focus on the performing arts
- *Recognition for students participating in Band/Chorus for four years at graduation. *We encourage students to carry a full load of classes (7 credit hours) at Mill River to maximize and diversify their learning.*

G. Scholarships

In order to provide scholarship organizations and post-secondary institutions with relative ranking when necessary, student grade point average and class ranking will be calculated

Appendix:

Conversion Chart:

This chart is used to convert transfer credits into Mill River's proficiency scale only.

	No evidence		Beginning		Approaching Basic Proficiency *Minimal passing score		Proficient		Exceeding
Proficiency Scale	NE	0	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4
For transfer of credit	I	F	F	D-	D	C	B+	A	A+
	Inc, etc	0-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-80	81-89	90-95	96-100

*updated 4/6/2022