

1 REVISION  
2 First Reading  
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4 Joint School District No. 2, Meridian

5 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM  
6

7 Series 600  
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10 Policy Title High School Credits & Graduation

Code No. 603.20

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12 **CREDIT REGULATIONS**

13 One (1) unit of credit shall be granted for successful course work completion for each  
14 semester. One (1) semester equals one-half (1/2) year.

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16 If a student drops a subject after having been enrolled in class six (6) days, (**block or**  
17 **hybrid schools – 4 A days or 4 B days**), the subject will be recorded on the record with  
18 an automatic “F” grade for the semester with no credit (exceptions: staff approved  
19 changes for more appropriate student placement).

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21 Credit will be accepted with the following provisions:

- 22 1. Credit will only be accepted for high school courses completed in an accredited  
23 high school.
- 24 2. Up to twelve (12) correspondence, and/or online credits from regionally  
25 accredited schools will be evaluated for acceptance upon receipt of an official  
26 transcript. The Director of Student Achievement must approve petitions for  
27 acceptance of correspondence or online credit outside the scope of the  
28 accredited program. Courses that do not meet standards may be accepted for  
29 elective credit. Online class credits from Joint School District No. 2 or from the  
30 Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) have received prior approval so  
31 additional review is not required and no maximum credit limit will be imposed  
32 upon these courses. The final grade must be posted no later than graduation  
33 practice. Students exceeding the twelve-credit maximum, and who have  
34 completed all other graduation requirements, will be eligible to receive a diploma  
35 from Joint School District No. 2, but will not be eligible to participate in building  
36 commencement ceremonies.
- 37 3. Students may receive dual/concurrent credit for approved college/university  
38 classes. District-level administrators shall work with institutions of higher  
39 education to determine appropriate classes, comparative curriculum, credit  
40 conversion, and specific processes for approval. A current list of available  
41 dual/concurrent credit options shall be maintained in the high school counselors’  
42 office and at the curriculum office. Building requests for concurrent credit  
43 courses will be submitted to the Director of Student Achievement for  
44 consideration.
- 45 4. A maximum of six (6) credits, (math-2, English-2, earth science-2, from a non-  
46 regionally accredited public, private, parochial or home school, may be accepted  
47 for the ninth (9) grade only based on demonstrated competency as a result of a  
48 district approved and administered test(s) in the area(s) listed above. Building  
49 counselors have competency test procedures/information for students and  
50 parents.

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1. Placement: the school counselor will tentatively place the entering student in the appropriate courses and grade level with consideration to:
  - a) Available documentation: transcripts, report card, test scores, work samples, etc.
  - b) The student /parent/guardian's assessment of his/her knowledge and abilities as well as courses believed to be successfully completed
  - c) Instructional materials with which the student has had experience
  - d) The student's age
  - e) ISAT requirements for the grade-level/year
  - f) The school counselor will determine final placement after competency tests have been completed. Appeals can be made to the Director of Student Achievement. The Director's decision is final
2. Allowable Freshman Competency Credits (6):
  - a) English I= one (1) credit (1 exam and writing portfolio)
  - b) English II= one (1) credit (1 exam and writing portfolio)
  - c) Earth Science= two (2) credits (1 exam)
  - d) Math:
    - 1) Algebra I (first semester) = one (1) credit (1 exam); both semesters= two (2) credits (1 exam)
    - 2) Geometry (first semester)= one (1) credit (1 exam); both semesters= two (2) credits (1 exam)

**ACCELERATED CLASS CREDIT**

All accelerated classes offered below grade nine (9), but of high school difficulty, will be recorded on the high school transcript as having been completed but with no high school credit earned. Seventh and/or eighth grade students, who complete high school level coursework while in attendance at an accredited high school or at the Treasure Valley Math and Science Center, will receive high school credit for those courses.

**PROFICIENCY TESTING**

Students may petition to take proficiency tests for placement only. Upon successful completion of the adopted proficiency test for an individual course, the student will be granted a waiver from that course and may take an advanced course in its place. No credit will be granted for proficiency testing.

89 **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

90 Joint School District No. 2 high schools are accredited by both the State of Idaho and by  
 91 the Northwest Accreditation Association.

92 Graduation requirements are as follows:

93 1) Required classes for the graduating class of ~~2008 and~~ 2009:  
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Traditional Schedule High School		High Schools on AB Block	
English	8 credits/RPR	English	8 credits/RPR
Speech/Debate	1 credit	Speech/Debate	1 credit
<del>Reading</del>	<del>1 credit/RPT</del>	<del>Reading</del>	<del>1 credit/RPT</del>
Math	4 credits/MPR	Math	4 credits/MPR
Earth Science	2 lab credits	Earth Science	2 lab credits
Biology	2 lab credits	Biology	2 lab credits
Global Perspectives	1 credit	Global Perspectives	1 credit
U.S. History	4 credits	U.S. History	4 credits
American Govt.	2 credits	American Govt.	2 credits
Economics	1 credit	Economics	1 credit
Physical Education	2 credits	Physical Education	2 credits
Health	1 credit	Health	1 credit
Technology	1 credit/TPT	Technology	1 credit/TPT
Humanities	2 credits	Humanities	2 credits
Electives	10-12 credits	Electives	18-20 credits
Total	42 credits*	Total	50 credits*

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96 2) Required classes for the graduating class of 2010:  
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Traditional Schedule High School		High Schools on AB Block	
English	8 credits/RPR	English	8 credits/RPR
Speech/Debate	1 credit	Speech/Debate	1 credit
<del>Reading</del>	<del>1 credit/RPT</del>	<del>Reading</del>	<del>1 credit/RPT</del>
Math	6 credits/MPR	Math	6 credits/MPR
Earth Science	2 lab credits	Earth Science	2 lab credits
Biology	2 lab credits	Biology	2 lab credits
Global Perspectives	1 credit	Global Perspectives	1 credit
U.S. History	4 credits	U.S. History	4 credits
American Govt.	2 credits	American Govt.	2 credits
Economics	1 credit	Economics	1 credit
Physical Education	2 credits	Physical Education	2 credits
Health	1 credit	Health	1 credit
Technology	1 credit/TPT	Technology	1 credit/TPT
Humanities	2 credits	Humanities	2 credits
Electives	8-10 credits	Electives	16-18 credits
Total	44 credits*	Total	50 credits*

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3) Required classes for the graduating class of 2011:

Traditional Schedule High School		High Schools on AB Block	
English	8 credits/RPR	English	8 credits/RPR
Speech/Debate	1 credit	Speech/Debate	1 credit
Reading	<del>1 credit/RPR</del>	Reading	<del>1 credit/RPR</del>
Math	6 credits/MPR	Math	6 credits/MPR
Earth Science	2 lab credits	Earth Science	2 lab credits
Biology	2 lab credits	Biology	2 lab credits
Lab Science	2 lab credits	Lab Science	2 lab credits
Global Perspectives	1 credit	Global Perspectives	1 credit
U.S. History	4 credits	U.S. History	4 credits
American Govt.	2 credits	American Govt.	2 credits
Economics	1 credit	Economics	1 credit
Physical Education	2 credits	Physical Education	2 credits
Health	1 credit	Health	1 credit
Technology	1 credit/TPT	Technology	1 credit/TPT
Humanities	2 credits	Humanities	2 credits
Electives	10+ credits	Electives	16+ credits
Total	46 credits*	Total	50 credits*

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4) Required classes for the graduating class of 2012:

Traditional Schedule High School		High Schools on AB Block	
English	8 credits/RPR	English	8 credits/RPR
Speech/Debate	1 credit	Speech/Debate	1 credit
Math	8 credits/MPR	Math	8 credits/MPR
Science *	6 lab credits	Science*	6 lab credits
Global Perspectives	1 credit	Global Perspectives	1 credit
U.S. History	4 credits	U.S. History	4 credits
American Govt.	2 credits	American Govt.	2 credits
Economics	1 credit	Economics	1 credit
Physical Education	2 credits	Physical Education	2 credits
Health	1 credit	Health	1 credit
Technology	1 credit/TPT	Technology	1 credit/TPT
Humanities	2 credits	Humanities	2 credits
Electives	8+ credits	Electives	14+ credits
Total	46 credits**	Total	50 credits**

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<b>Hybrid Schedule High School</b>	
English	8 credits/RPR
Speech/Debate	1 credit
Math	8 credits/MPR
Science *	6 lab credits
Global Perspectives	1 credit
U.S. History	4 credits
American Govt.	2 credits
Economics	1 credit
Physical Education	2 credits
Health	1 credit
Technology	1 credit/TPT
Humanities	2 credits
Electives	10+ credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>48 credits**</b>

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RPR = Reading Proficiency Requirement (See lines 138-142)

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MPR = Math Proficiency Requirement (See lines 148-156)

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TPT = Technology Proficiency Test (See lines 157-159)

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\*Shall include instruction in Biology; Physical Science or Chemistry; Earth, Space, Environmental, or approved applied science.

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\*\*Total Credits may change beginning for the graduating class of 2009 depending upon changes to the district calendar/ and master schedule changes.

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#### **EXPLANATION OF REQUIREMENTS (ALL GRADUATING CLASSES):**

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1. Humanities credits may be taken in any interdisciplinary course, visual or performing arts, or foreign language course that meets the Idaho State Content Humanities Standards. Courses that meet this requirement shall be selected from those offered by the Joint School District No. 2. These courses are identified as "humanities" courses in the Course Description Handbook. Credits earned from other institutions must meet the above requirements.
2. Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in Language, Reading, and Mathematics by achieving a passing score on each section of the ISAT 10 and other measures required by the State Board of Education. *Commencing with the Class of 2012, students are also required to demonstrate proficiency in Science by achieving a passing score on each section of the ISAT 10 and other measures required by the State Board of Education.*
3. Students planning to graduate in the spring semester of their senior year will take English 8 and American Government 2 simultaneously in the spring semester due to the interdisciplinary requirements of the senior project. Students, who choose to take senior English courses and American Government 2 earlier than spring semester, must either complete these courses simultaneously in a combination of night school/day school or in the Joint School District No. 2 summer school. For students planning to graduate in January, these two courses must be taken during the previous summer or in night school. English 8 and American Government 2 cannot be taken through other options, such as correspondence.

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- 158 4. Reading/Language/Math/Technology Proficiency Requirements:  
159 a. Students who do not meet the district's standard of proficiency on the  
160 spring grade 8 ISAT in reading must successfully complete a one (1)  
161 credit semester course in reading. The credit for this course shall come  
162 from the student's elective credits.  
163 b. Students in grade 11 and 12 who fail to meet the ISAT10 proficiency in  
164 language and/or reading must successfully complete the Language Arts  
165 Lab intervention class. The class will be taken concurrently with the  
166 student's regular English class, and the credit for this course shall come  
167 from the student's elective credits.  
168 c. Students, who do not meet the district's standard of proficiency on the  
169 spring grade 8 ISAT in mathematics, must successfully complete a one  
170 (1) credit/semester course in mathematics. Credits for this course shall  
171 come from the student's elective credits. This course shall not meet the  
172 mathematics credit requirement for graduation.  
173 d. Students who have passed Algebra I but fail to meet the tenth grade ISAT  
174 10 proficiency in mathematics must be enrolled continually in a district  
175 math course until proficiency level is obtained or met through an  
176 alternative option.  
177 e. Students may challenge the technology credit requirement by  
178 demonstrating proficiency on the Joint School District Technology  
179 Proficiency Test.
- 180 5. Students who plan to take either Competitive Speech or Debate to fulfill their  
181 graduation speech requirement must take the course for the full year and take  
182 the speech end-of-course examination (EOC).
- 183 6. Students who plan to take Orientation to Health Professions/Sports Medicine I  
184 must take the course for the full year and take the Health end of course  
185 examination.
- 186 7. The physical education requirement may be met by successful completion of:  
187 a. Two (2) semesters of physical education classes or Lifetime sports or  
188 b. Two (2) credits of Multi-Sport Fitness or Dance Class or by  
189 c. Any Combination of the aforementioned options
- 190 8. *Commencing with the class of 2008*, students are required to demonstrate  
191 achievement and proficiency in basic standards in science, social studies, health,  
192 and humanities.
- 193 9. *Commencing with the class of 2008*, to graduate, students are required to  
194 demonstrate proficiency on the district's senior project that includes the technical  
195 paper, the PowerPoint, and oral presentation.
- 196 10. *Commencing with the class of 2008*, to graduate, students must meet the  
197 district's mathematics proficiency requirements. This proficiency shall include  
198 successful completion of two (2) semesters of Algebra or Hands-on Algebra.
- 199 11. *Commencing with the class of 2012*, to graduate, students must successfully  
200 demonstrate proficiency in geometry.

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#### 202 **ATTENDANCE**

- 203 Joint School District No. 2 students must attend six (6) periods per day on traditional  
204 schedules or four (4) periods in a block schedule during a regular school day. With  
205 approval of the superintendent or designee, a student may be released for the following:  
206 1. One (1) period for religious instruction or other approved program in grades 9-11  
207 2. Up to three (3) periods for equivalent enrollment at an accredited  
208 college/university

209 3. Up to two periods for seniors on traditional schedules, one period per day for  
210 seniors in the block **or hybrid**; for seniors to be eligible, they must have sufficient  
211 credits (thirty-four (34) minimum on traditional schedule, forty (40) on block  
212 schedule) completed at the end of the eleventh grade, have successfully  
213 complete all ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) through eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) grade required credits, and have  
214 successfully completed or enrolled in two credits of physical education; 1 credit of  
215 speech; 1 credit of technology ( or passed the Meridian Technology Achievement  
216 Test); and 1 credit of reading (or met the ISAT reading proficiency expectation).  
217 Commencing with the class of 2006, seniors must demonstrate proficiency on the  
218 ISAT 10. (Policy 501.9)  
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## 220 **EARLY GRADUATION**

221 Students may apply to graduate early providing they have completed the required  
222 courses and have met the necessary credit and proficiency requirements in fewer than  
223 eight (8) semesters but in not less than six (6) semesters. Two (2) weeks before  
224 graduation ceremonies, the graduate must notify school officials that they wish to  
225 participate.  
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## 227 **GRADUATION EXERCISE PARTICIPATION**

228 Those students who have completed the required courses and who have met the  
229 necessary credit and proficiency requirements as stated are eligible to participate in  
230 graduation exercises. Those students who have not fulfilled all graduation requirements  
231 as stated may not participate in the graduation exercise. Students who drop out of their  
232 home high school and complete the second semester of their senior year via night  
233 school, summer school, correspondence courses, or online courses will be eligible to  
234 receive a diploma from Meridian Joint School District No. 2, but will not be eligible to  
235 participate in the graduation exercise.  
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## 237 **CLASS RANKING**

238 Class ranking for graduating seniors will be determined using the following formula: Un-weighted  
239 GPA + # of AP classes x .02  
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## 241 **RECOGNITION OF HONOR STUDENTS**

242 ~~As of 2004-2008, honor students will be those who meet the following GPA requirements~~  
243 ~~on their transcripts for any class for which high school credits were earned:~~

244	<del>Highest Honors</del>	<del>4.0-5.0</del>	<del>both high school colors</del>
245	<del>High Honors</del>	<del>3.99-3.76</del>	<del>both cords Silver CHS, EHS, &amp; MVHS, Gold</del>
246			<del>for MHS</del>
247	<del>Honors</del>	<del>3.75-3.50</del>	<del>both cords Maroon for CHS, Green for EHS,</del>
248			<del>Blue for MHS &amp; MVHS.</del>

249 As of 2009, honor students will be those who meet the following GPA requirements on  
250 their transcripts for any class for which high school credits were earned:

251	Highest Honors	4.1-5.0	both high school colors
252	High Honors	3.77-4.099	both cords Silver CHS, EHS, & MVHS, Gold
253			for MHS <b>and RMHS.</b>
254	Honors	3.5-3.7699	both cords Maroon for CHS, Green for EHS,
255			Blue for MHS & MVHS, <b>Purple for RMHS.</b>

## 257 **SELECTION OF VALEDICTORIANS**

258 ~~For school year 2004-2008, valedictorians will be those students who meet the following~~  
259 ~~GPA requirements on their transcripts for any class for which high school credits were~~

260 ~~earned and who are in attendance at a high school for eight (8) consecutive semesters.~~  
261 ~~As of 2004-2005, Advanced Placement courses have a 5-point grading scale:~~  
262 ~~1. For school year 2004-2008, 4.0 or above grade point average~~  
263 ~~2. Maximum of two (2) credits from pass/fail grade courses of the total required~~  
264 ~~credits~~  
265 ~~3. Minimum of twelve (12) credits from advanced placement and/or honors courses,~~  
266 ~~four (4) of which must be from advanced placement courses.~~  
267 ~~For 2004-2008, two (2) valedictorians will be asked to deliver addresses during the~~  
268 ~~commencement exercises. If there are more than two valedictorians, the graduating~~  
269 ~~class will select representatives by vote.~~  
270 Commencing with the graduating class of 2009, no valedictorians will be chosen;  
271 students will be honored with highest honors, high honors and honors.  
272 For 2009 and beyond, two (2) students from the top ten percent (10%) of the graduating  
273 class will be asked to deliver addresses during the graduation exercise. The graduating  
274 class will select the two representatives by vote **with administrative approval.**

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