

Meridian High School Running Start Agreement

The Running Start Program affords juniors and seniors the opportunity to attend area community and technical colleges as part of their high school program. **In order to participate in Running Start (RS), students must be junior status or senior status.** Students and parents, please read the following important considerations, and sign below in the spaces provided.

Counselors **WILL NOT** sign off on student enrollment paperwork until this form is signed.

COLLEGE – NEED TO KNOW

1. College classes are generally more difficult than equivalent high school courses, requiring more self-discipline and more time spent studying and reading outside of class.
2. Transportation, books, special equipment, and lab fees are not provided. Students are responsible for these costs per quarter. In addition, **RS regulations require** students to pay all community or technical college mandatory fees as established by each college.
3. Many out-of-state four-year colleges/universities will **NOT** accept college credit while in high school.
4. It is the student's responsibility to request college registrars to send college transcripts with RS credits to those colleges to which he/she is applying. Plan ahead; many community colleges are closed for winter break when you are mailing your applications.
5. The grades received in RS classes become a permanent part of both your high school and college records and carry the same weight as high school grades. Five college credits are worth 1.0 high school credits; three college credits equal 0.6 high school credits.
6. MHS is on the semester system, while the colleges are on the quarter system. This often contributes to problems in meshing the two schedules and can make it difficult to return to MHS for credit mid-semester if you are not doing well at the college. The vacations do not coincide, so you may end up with no break if you attend classes on both campuses.
7. According to the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a student's progress in RS classes is confidential between the student and college instructor, and not shared with either the school or parent/guardian. Final grades will be put on the MHS transcript.
8. Students earning 40 college credits but less than an Associated Arts Degree may still be considered a "transfer" student by four-year colleges. This may impact admission and/or eligibility for scholarships. Many times RS students are considered freshman status, this is up to the individual colleges and you will need to check with them. This may also have an impact on Financial Aid status; students who have accrued college credit **may be less eligible** for Federal and state financial aid.
9. Classes numbered below 100 are **not** college level and will not be considered part of the RS program; therefore, the tuition cost must be borne by the students.
10. If you receive an incomplete "I" in a college class, you must have the college send a new transcript to the high school when that grade is made up so we can update your high school transcript. Until then, it is posted as a No Credit "NC" on your MHS transcript.

MHS – NEED TO KNOW

11. Students are not able to be on campus during lunch without having a class connected to that lunch. Students are also not able to stay on campus outside their classes without prior approval from administration.
12. Students cannot leave their MHS class early or arrive to the MHS class late in order to attend their RS classes.
13. Counselors **will not** sign off on student enrollment paperwork if the student has any outstanding fines.
14. Counselors **will not** sign off on student enrollment paperwork if the High School and Beyond Plan deadlines have not been met.
15. It is the student's responsibility to inform the MHS Registrar of any grade change at the college.
16. Students and parents will be responsible to insure that high school graduation course requirements are met. Students and parents will be responsible to use the correct equivalency guide when choosing courses to meet those graduation requirements.
17. The student must assume responsibility for junior or senior timelines, for taking competency tests and standardized tests, and for scholarship and other information presented at the high school.
18. Any changes in FTE (at the high school or college) will require a new enrollment verification form to be signed by the MHS counselor.
19. Running Start classes cannot be made up in credit retrieval.
20. In order to complete MHS graduation requirements, students must complete a senior project presentation.
21. Enrollment in college classes without an enrollment verification form signed by a MHS counselor may impact graduation and the student may end up paying for some of their college classes.
22. The student assumes responsibility to stay in touch with MHS announcements and information. There are email lists both students and parents can join to stay in touch with school information, scholarships, etc.
23. Students are **REQUIRED** to attend graduation practice in order to walk at MHS graduation ceremony. If you have a conflict due to a final exam in a RS class, please see your counselor as soon as possible.
24. MEETINGS WITH MHS COUNSELORS TO COMPLETE PAPERWORK ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. STUDENTS MAY NOT DROP IN AND EXPECT ACCESS TO A COUNSELOR.

Student contact info: Name _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____ Parent Signature _____ Date _____