

## **College & Career Readiness Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How many class periods are in a day at St. Charles East?**

We have an eight period day, with each class consisting of 48 minutes. The school day begins at 7:20 and ends at 2:29. Passing periods are 6 minutes in length. Please note that every Wednesday follows an Early Release schedule with different class times. For your convenience, these unique schedules are printed on the back cover of the student planner, and can be found on our school's web site: <http://east.d303.org/>

### **How many classes do I need to take?**

All students must take a minimum of 6 credit bearing classes (5 classes plus P.E.) in our eight-period day. Typically, students take seven courses plus a lunch/study hall. Sometimes, if a student is busy with extracurricular activities or working, s/he may opt to take six classes instead. \* Please note that if a student takes a minimum of 6 credit bearing classes freshman through senior year the student will accrue a total of 24 credits.

### **How many credits do I need to graduate?**

A total of 23 credits are required to graduate from St. Charles East including fulfilling the necessary graduation required classes. Many students graduate with more credits that exceed the required amount.

### **If I take a full-period study hall, will I have enough credits to graduate?**

Yes. Since we require 23 credits, a student who takes six classes with a lunch/SH and a full-period SH each semester would still end up with 24 credits. Of course, we encourage our students to take that extra seventh class in order to explore possible career options or to take a more challenging schedule to best prepare for life after high school.

### **How many credits should I accumulate each year?**

Students should expect to earn at least 3 credits per semester and 6 credits every academic school year. Please find below the total number of credits that students should have at the completion of each year to be on pace towards graduation:

Freshman – 6 credits

Sophomore--12 credits

Junior – 18 credits

Senior – 24 credits

### **What lunch options are there?**

Lunch is available periods 4-7, either the first half of the period (A) or the second half (B), with a formal study hall the other half. Juniors and seniors have the option of a “full-period lunch”, which allows them to stay in the cafeteria the entire lunch period with no study hall.

**Am I required to have a lunch period?**

We believe students need to take a break, socialize with friends, and nourish their bodies. Although we strongly suggest having lunch, if you and your parents agree on not having one, we will honor that request.

**Academic Planning**

Academic planning is an ongoing process that occurs over the course of a student's high school career that is facilitated by teachers, parents and school counselors. We encourage students to select courses that will align with their interest and intended college major/career goals in mind. Students can complete a 4-year plan to monitor and map out their high school courses in an effort to recognize the connection between their education decisions and their future endeavors. A copy of the 4-year plan can be found on the St. Charles East Home Page under the College & Career tab: Academic Planning.

**Where can I find information about classes offered at St. Charles East High School?**

Please feel free to reference our Course Offering Handbook and Planning Guide, which is on the St. Charles East website under the Academics tab or on the College & Career tab.

**What is the process for course selection / registration?**

The course selection/registration process begins in December and extends into early February. Students log into their HAC (Home Access Center) account and enter their course selections after reviewing them with their parents/guardians. In the following weeks after the registration closes on HAC, students will meet with their own school counselor individually and finalize their choices. Next, a course verification form is sent home for families to review the course selections for accuracy. Please know that changes to the course selection will only be made if errors exist in the course verification form. Next, sections are built, teachers are assigned, and student schedules are created.

**When do I get a class schedule?**

First semester schedules are handed out on students' assigned "Materials Pick Up Day" which is in August. Second semester schedules can be accessed via Home Access Center at the end of the first semester.

**How can I help my child if he/she is struggling in a class?**

We recognize that many parents are active in their student's academic success. Often, parents share with us that they monitor their student's academic progress on Home Access Center. We also encourage you to contact the teacher directly. Please feel free to review the St. Charles East Home Page for additional information about academic support and tutoring opportunities.

**When is the last day to drop a class?**

A student can drop a class for a study hall through the first fifteen days of the semester with no penalty as long as the student remains a full time student. After that deadline, a "WF" grade is

assigned, which counts towards the student's GPA as an "F". The add/drop form (available in College & Career Readiness Office and the CCR website) can be turned in to your school counselor once you have the required signatures.

### **Can I choose/change my teacher?**

It is not our practice to change a student's teacher. However, when one (or more) of the following circumstances exists, we may consider a teacher change:

- The student has taken the same course with the teacher and failed the course
- There is a documented conflict between the student and the teacher on file with the administration
- There is a documented conflict between the student's sibling and the teacher on file with the administration

### **Can I request a preferential course change?**

We are unable to accommodate preferential course change requests. The following circumstances will be considered a valid reason for changing a course request:

- Student lacks a prerequisite for the selected course
- A different course is needed to meet graduation requirements
- An error in recording student information is made
- Student fails a required course
- An institution of higher learning recommends in writing an additional course

### **What is the process to change academic levels?**

The procedure for changing levels is to discuss this choice with both a parent and your current teacher. If they agree with the move, then see your school counselor with the proper level change form (available in College & Career Readiness Office) once you have all of the required signatures. Please note that your school counselor can only add you to a section if there is room and it meets the same period.

### **Is it possible to graduate early?**

Yes, however you need to work with your parents and school counselor to create a graduation plan early in your high school career. In addition to meeting all of our specific course requirements, you must have a minimum of 23 credits to graduate. Early graduation can have both positive and negative consequences and should not be taken lightly.

### **How do I take classes off campus for credit?**

Information regarding the Elgin Community College Dual Credit program and the Fox Valley Career Center is available on the College & Career Readiness website or consult with your school counselor. In addition, please feel free to reference the Elgin Community College website at: [www.elgin.edu/highschool](http://www.elgin.edu/highschool) under the Dual Credit Program and the Fox Valley Career Center at <https://www.foxvalleycc.org/>

**Can I change my schedule to accommodate a TA position with a specific teacher and/or class period?**

No. Students may serve as a teaching assistant only if their non-academic period (lunch or study hall) already coordinates with a teacher's schedule. We are not able to move classes around within a schedule to accommodate a TA position.

**What classes do I need for college?**

In preparation for college, we encourage you to enroll in rigorous and challenging courses each of your four years in high school. For example, a rigorous academic schedule may include 4- full years of academic core subjects and participation in honors and advanced placement courses. Remember, however, colleges have varying admission requirements. Therefore, it is imperative to know the admission requirements for your colleges of interest. We encourage you to review college admission webpages (using Naviance) or contact the school directly.

**If I need to see my school counselor, how do I set up a meeting?**

Please make an appointment with the Guidance Secretary in the College & Career Office to make an appointment to see your school counselor.

**Do I need to register with the NCAA if I want to participate in Division I and II athletics?**

Yes. To participate in athletic competition at a Division I or II school, students must meet NCAA initial eligibility requirements. Please feel free to reference the Course Offering Handbook and Planning Guide on the St. Charles East Home Page or visit the website at [www.NAAClearinghouse.net](http://www.NAAClearinghouse.net) for more details about eligibility requirements and a complete list of approved core courses. You may also see your school counselor for NCAA information.

**High School Graduation Requirements**

There are two types of courses to consider when planning a schedule. First, there are core courses. We typically think of core courses as English, Math, Science and Social Studies. Second, there are elective courses. We typically think of elective courses as courses chosen from various departments based on the student's interests, abilities and college/career goals. To satisfy graduation requirements and earn a diploma, a student must enroll in and pass (with a "D" or higher) all course work specified by District #303, its Board of Education and the State of Illinois. Please reference the chart below for graduation requirements.

Subject Area	Duration & Comments
English	4 credits
Math	3 credits
Science	2 credits

Social Studies	2 credits (Geographic Foundations course & US History course)
Government/Civics	.5 credit
Consumer Ed./Econ	.5 credit
Health	.5 credit
Physical Education/Driver Education & Electives	10.5 credits (Must be enrolled in PE/Driver Education or Health each semester)
<b>Minimum Total</b>	<b>23 credits</b>