

Montezuma-Cortez High School REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HONORS DIPLOMA

THE HONORS DIPLOMA PROGRAM REPRESENTS THE MOST RIGOROUS COURSE OF STUDY AT MONTEZUMA-CORTEZ HIGH SCHOOL. Available to all fulltime students, the program provides an individualized experience for participants so they can get the most out of their experience at Montezuma-Cortez High School as well as prepare for future studies. ***Please complete the honors diploma form if you are planning to complete the Honors Diploma for priority consideration into Colorado’s selective and highly selective colleges/universities. This document is available in the Counseling Office or with Mrs. Copeland and requires a parent/guardian signature.**

THE HONORS DIPLOMA CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES (5) five components:

1. An Educational Plan – Graduation Requirements and an annual Individual Honors Education Plan (IHEP), and a 3.2 GPA.
2. Academic Excellence Requirement
3. Specialized Learning Assignment
4. ICAP (Individualized Career and Academic Plan)
5. Individual Involvement: (Choice of 2 or a combination of 3)
 - Participate in an M-CHS sponsored activity each year AND/OR
 - 80 Community Service hours over 4 years AND/OR
 - 80 Hours of work experience over a 4-year period

GOVERNANCE OF HONORS DIPLOMA PROGRAM:

The Honors Diploma Program Committee is composed of parents, teachers, counselors and administrators from M-CHS as well as a representative from the district. The Honors Diploma Coordinator oversees and manages the daily workings of the program. **For more information, contact our Program Coordinator Sonja Copeland at 565-3722 ext. 2194, scopeland@cortez.k12.co.us, or any member of the Honors Diploma Committee.**

RELEASE AND REINSTATEMENT OUT OF AND INTO THE HONORS DIPLOMA PROGRAM:

If an Honors Diploma candidate is removed from the program for any reason, he/she may submit a written request to the Honors Diploma Committee to be reinstated into the program. If certain circumstances require exceptions, we will evaluate them on an individual basis. The decision of the committee is final. If a student requests to be released, confirmation from a parent is required.

I. M-CHS HONORS DIPLOMA PROGRAM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

(Senior year must be on MCHS campus with an MCHS instructor)

COURSE	CREDITS
English	4.0
Math	4.0
Science	3.0
Social Studies	3.0
Physical Education	0.5
Health	0.5
Fine Arts (Music, Art, Drama)	1.0
Foreign Language	2.0
Electives	6.0
TOTAL	24.0

II. ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE REQUIREMENT: Choose 3 areas from the list of 8.

In addition to fulfilling the course requirements above, Honors Diploma students must show academic excellence in 3 content areas. All classes, except the on campus SCCC programs, must be completed on MCHS campus.

- 1. **READING, WRITING, COMMUNICATION** - Complete 4 years with final 2 years being AP and/or PCC level.
- 2. **MATHEMATICS** - Complete 4 years with final year being AP Calculus.
- 3. **NATURAL / PHYSICAL SCIENCE** - Complete 4 years and must include 2 PCC/AP/CLEP courses.
- 4. **SOCIAL / BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE** - Complete 4 years and must include a PCC/ AP course.
- 5. **ART / VISUAL ARTS** - Complete at least 3 years with the final year being AP or PCC level.
- 6. **WORLD LANGUAGE** - Complete at least 3 years with the final year being PCC level.
- 7. **MUSIC – Make a choice and complete the following requirements**
 - Band** – complete 4 years of band
 - Choir** – complete 4 years of choir, 2 years must be in Chamber Choir
- 8. **CAREER and TECHNICAL EDUCATION (Programs must be completed with a B average)**

Complete one of the following PCC/SCCC Programs – see PCC/SCCC Handbook for program requirements:

- Auto Mechanics
- Welding
- CNA/Phlebotomy

OR Complete a minimum of 3 credits in one of the following M-CHS Career & Technical Education Programs:

- Agriculture - 3 credits
- EMT or Fire Science Certificate - 3 years
- Family & Consumer Sciences – 3 years
- Visual Design (Business and Media Publication) – 2 years with one being AP computer science
- Theatre – 3 credits – can include coursework and production participation

III. SPECIALIZED LEARNING COMPONENT:

The specialized learning component is the combination of a research paper written in senior English class and a presentation. During the course of honors diploma students’ high school career, they will have chosen 3 areas of academic excellence. From one of these areas, students will choose a specific area of focus upon which to expand, keeping in mind that “the greater good” will need to be incorporated. They will need to complete the paper and presentation by mid-April of their senior year. The Specialized Learning Assignment is an extension of their senior level English class research paper with an addition of a presentation mid-April of their senior year. Therefore, students must be enrolled in an MCHS on-campus Senior English class.

IV. ALL STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE AN INDIVIDUALIZED CAREER and ACADEMIC PLAN (ICAP) prior to graduation:

V. ALL STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE 2 OR A COMBINATION OF 3 OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS TO DEMONSTRATE 21st CENTURY SKILLS THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO GRADUATION:

Students will track & document their activities.

- SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:** 4 years of school activities/athletics participation **AND/OR**
- VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES:** 80 hours of volunteer work **AND/OR**
- WORK EXPERIENCE:** 80 hours of work experience outside of home

Revised: December 15, 2020