

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

I am writing to make you aware about some of the innovative academic programs we have developed to enable students to earn high school credit by meeting the New Jersey Student Learning Standards outside the traditional school setting. Please review the information below with your child and contact the appropriate coordinator or your child's guidance counselor if you qualify and would like to participate in any of the programs listed below during the next school year.

As you plan for the year, I hope you will take advantage of these exciting and meaningful educational experiences so that you may learn more about your future interests and distinguish yourself as you compete for acceptances in higher education, trade school, military, or employment opportunities.

Sincerely,

John P. Pascale, M.Ed.
Principal

Program Descriptions

The Thunderbird Internship Program: Career & Academic Internships - A Career & Academic Internship program may be designed for all rising high school juniors and Grade 12 seniors who are in good academic standing, on track for meeting graduation requirements, and has passed the state assessment requirement. Students may earn up to 20 elective credits each year through an approved career & academic internship experiences in an area of career interest. Students are required to maintain and submit a portfolio/journal and complete a capstone project to demonstrate that they have met the goals and objectives of the experience.

The Thunderbird Internship Program: Career & Academic Internships Program is designed for all learners. For more information contact Ms. Estania Noel, Work-based Learning Coordinator at enoel@mahwah.k12.nj.us or by telephone at 201-762-2300 ext. 7252.

[Click on this link for more information on The Thunderbird Internship Program](#)

Thunderbird Externship Program: Career Pathway Exploration & Job Shadowing-The MHS Thunderbird Externship Program: Career Pathway Exploration & Job Shadowing is an opportunity for rising juniors (grade 11) and rising seniors (grade 12) to gain real-world work experience through observation. This program is available to students in good academic standing who are on-track with their educational plan. **[Click on this link for more information on The Thunderbird Externship Program](#)**

Early College Admissions Program- Upon completion of grade 11, students at Mahwah High School who have demonstrated ability to pursue advanced academic study, may enroll in full-time college degree courses in lieu of a high school year. Requires recommendations, scores, and admissions offer. Tuition incurred is the responsibility of parent/guardian.

On-Campus College Program - Grade 11- 12 students may enroll in college courses at Ramapo College for both college and high school credit. All fees for college credits and any necessary transportation arrangements are the responsibility of the student and his/her family.

Dual Enrollment Program- Grade 11-12 students receive both high school and college credit if they meet the criteria for participation in the program. All fees for college credits are the responsibility of the student and his/her family. [Click on this link for more information on The Dual Enrollment Program](#)

High School Level 1 Courses taken at Ramapo Ridge Middle School- Middle school students who take high school level courses at Ramapo Ridge Middle School may use those courses to meet prerequisites for advanced courses in particular content areas. In order to receive credit in world languages students must participate in the STAMP test and score novice-high to receive high school credit. Such approved courses are listed separately on a student's transcript. Courses **taken prior to grade 9** are not included in the GPA or class rank. Course credits will count toward graduation requirements.

Summer Enrichment Courses for Advancement - Grade 9, 10, 11 students who take high school level courses at an approved school during the summer may use those courses to meet prerequisites for advanced courses in particular content areas. Such approved courses are listed separately on a student's transcript. Students will need to successfully pass Mahwah High School's written final assessment in order for credits to be counted. Course credits will count toward graduation requirements. Students must get supervisor, guidance, and principal approval before enrolling in an advancement course.

Co-curricular Activities - Assignment of credit for participation in activities that occur all or some of which occur outside of the regular classroom schedule. Grade 9-12 students receive credit in activities that meet or exceed the NJ Student Learning Standards. The Principal must approve all activities in advance.

Online Courses - An option for earning course credit via Internet courses from an accredited college/university or approved NJ content area certified teacher. Grade 11- 12 students may receive credit in courses pre-approved by department supervisors in courses **not** offered at the high school.

Virtual Learning Programs - This option may also be used for students in grades 9-12 as a means of providing long-term medically approved home instruction, remedial courses, and enrichment courses. Courses must be taught by a NJ certified content area teacher. Students will need to successfully pass Mahwah High School's written assessment in order for credits to be counted. Course credits will count toward graduation requirements.

Community Service (off-campus) – Students may volunteer (without any monetary compensation) **outside** of their scheduled day in elementary schools, pre-school programs, health/safety related fields, or the community and receive credit. For every 27.5 hours of service, students will earn one credit. A maximum of 10 credits will be applied to graduation requirements. For more information contact Mrs. Stacy Mandel, Program Coordinator at: smandel@mahwah.k12.nj.us or by telephone at 201-762-2317

Physical Education (athletic participation)– Grade 9-12 student-athletes may earn physical education credits by participating on Mahwah High School freshman, junior varsity, and varsity athletic teams during any or all athletic seasons. Students must meet the eligibility criteria of the NJSIAA and the district. The student must attend and successfully complete the appropriate program requirements and meet or exceed NJSL Standards in PE order to receive credit. Credit will be awarded upon verification of attendance, journal entries, and a passing grade indicated by the Athletic Director.

For more information contact Mr. Roger Pelletier, Athletic Director/ Supervisor of Physical Education at: rpelletier@mahwah.k12.nj.us or by telephone at 201-762-2331

Dance (Performing Arts elective credits)- Grade 9-12 students may earn credits by participating in an approved and accredited dance program of study that fulfills the NJ Student Learning Standards for Dance. Students must be instructed by a properly credentialed dance instructors, submit a log of hours, and a portfolio with video which will be graded using a performance rubric. Prior approval must be obtained from the Performing arts supervisor. Dance is a performing art and is not an eligible for physical education credit as per NJDOE statutes.

Coordinated and supervised by Maureen Lynch, Supervisor. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Mrs. Maureen Lynch at 201-762-2323 or email mlynch@mahwah.k12.nj.us.

World Language Program Native Language Assessment - Students participate in a written and oral assessment in a native language on the states approved list for credit. Grade 9-12 native speaking students pass a written and oral proficiency assessment administered by a state approved assessor. Upon passing, students are awarded world language credits counting towards graduation. All fees associated with the proficiency assessment are the responsibility of the parent /guardian. For more information contact Mrs. Courtney Carrelha, Supervisor of World Languages at ccarrelha@mahwah.k12.nj.us or by telephone at 201-762-2320.

World Language Exchange Programs Study Abroad - Grade 11 and 12 students may earn credits by participating in an approved and accredited exchange program of study. Prior approval must be obtained from the Principal. All costs are the responsibility of the parent/ guardian. For more information contact Mrs. Courtney Carrelha, Supervisor of World Languages at ccarrelha@mahwah.k12.nj.us or by telephone at 201-762-2320.

World Language College Credits through the American Council on Education - The American Council on Education (ACE) is a college credit recommendation service that has been representing community colleges and four-year institutions since 1918. ACE has made a recommendation to affiliated institutions to grant credit based on student foreign language proficiency. This means that students can earn college credit based on how proficient they are in a world language. To determine language proficiency, students can take an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) with the American Council of Teachers Foreign Languages (ACTFL) testing office. All fees associated with the proficiency assessment are the responsibility of the parent /guardian.

It is important to emphasize that a student's level of language proficiency is dependent on the length of instruction. Therefore, we encourage students to select a language in 6th grade that they will continue to learn through high school. We encourage interested grade 12 students who have completed at least four years of a high school language to consider taking the Oral Proficiency Interview.

For a list of affiliated colleges please go to
https://www2.acenet.edu/programs/ccrs/adult_learners/index.cfm?sort=s.

As a convenience, this examination may be administered at Mahwah High School in the spring If you have any questions regarding proficiency, registration, testing, or this program, please contact Mrs. Courtney Carrelha, Supervisor of World Languages at ccarrelha@mahwah.k12.nj.us or by telephone at 201-762-2320