

Instruction

Performance Graduation Requirements

Hamden High School's Performance Graduation Requirements are drawn from Connecticut's Common Core of Learning and are, therefore, a set of expectations that all students can and must achieve to become educated citizens.

Connecticut's Common Core of Learning and Hamden High School's graduation requirements are organized under three major headings: "ATTRIBUTES AND ATTITUDES", "SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES", and "UNDERSTANDINGS AND APPLICATIONS".

Attributes and Attitudes

The family and societal forces other than schools play major roles in fostering student growth, and schools can and should provide a supportive climate for that growth. While it is inappropriate for schools to accept the sole or even primary responsibility for developing these "ATTRIBUTES AND ATTITUDES" there is no question that the development of these "ATTRIBUTES AND ATTITUDES" is a consequence of an learning opportunities provided by teachers.

The "ATTRIBUTES AND ATTITUDES" are an integral part of the total learning program and goals for the development of educated citizens. The following "ATTRIBUTES AND ATTITUDES" are to be encouraged by all teachers: POSITIVE SELF-CONCEPT; MOTIVATION AND PERSISTENCE; RESPONSIBILITY AND SELF-RELIANCE; INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY; INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS; SENSE OF COMMUNITY; AND MORAL AND ETHICAL VALUES.

The "ATTRIBUTES AND ATTITUDES" most able to be assessed and, therefore, considered a Graduation Requirements is: SENSE OF COMMUNITY.

THE HHS GRADUATE UNDERSTANDS AND DEMONSTRATES A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

The Graduate is able to :

- Demonstrate the ability to be a contributing member of his/her community.

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Performance Graduation Requirements (continued)

Skills and Competencies

All educated citizens must possess a core of basic or enabling skills and competencies that provide the critical intellectual foundations for broader acquisition of knowledge. These enabling skills, applied in diverse ways, form the heart of an academic experience as each contributes to the development of understanding within and among disciplines.

The HHS Graduate understands and demonstrates a sense of community

The Graduate is able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to be a contributing member of his/hers community.

The HHS Graduate Reads Actively And Critically For A Variety Of Purposes

The Graduate is able to:

- Identify and Comprehend the central and supporting ideas in written work
- Recognize and understand the different forms and purposes of writing
- Interpret a writer's meaning from what the text both says and implies
- Make and support critical judgments about written work

The HHS Graduate Writes Effectively

The Graduate is able to:

- Write using standard English for a variety of purpose and audiences
- Select, organize and coherently develop ideas
- Expresses meaning and key points clearly and succinctly

The HHS Graduate Speaks Effectively

The Graduate is able to:

- Communicate ideas and information effectively in formal presentations
- Communicate ideas and information effectively in informal presentations
- Share information and give directions by asking and answering questions

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Performance Graduation Requirements (continued)

The HHS Graduate Listens Actively and Critically

The Graduate is able to:

- Understand spoken directions
- Explain the main idea of a spoken message
- Evaluate spoken information and ideas
- Listen responsibly to others with different perspectives

The HHS Graduate Views Materials Actively and Critically

The Graduate is able to:

- Recognize, examine and evaluate different styles and elements of visual presentations
- Prepare and deliver a presentation with significant use of visual media
- Demonstrate learning from a visual presentation.

The HHS Graduate effectively reasons and problem solves

The Graduate is able to:

- Identify, clarify and describe the issues and the problem;
- Organize and synthesize information from a variety of sources
- Extends and refines knowledge using appropriate thinking skills
- Describe and distinguish between possible conclusions and decide which is best.

The HHS Graduate effectively employs learning skills

The Graduate is able to:

- Set priorities and achievable goals
- Evaluates and manages own progress toward goals

Unless students have the knowledge and experiences need to apply this “Skills and Competencies” and to develop a fuller understanding of life, their education will be incomplete. While the “Understandings and Applications” are grouped by the usual disciplines, it is important to recognize the inter-relationship among the disciplines and to promote student’s ability to transfer knowledge and applications across subject areas.

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Performance Graduation Requirements (continued)

The HHS Graduate participates in and is culturally and aesthetically aware of a wide variety of art forms.

The Graduate is able to:

- Expressively demonstrate concepts, ideas, emotions in a chose are of the ARTS (Art, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Film, Music, Photography).
- Identify significant works in the ARTS (Art, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Film, Music, Photography) and recognize the aesthetic qualities in one of the ARTS forms other than his/her performance piece.

The HHS Graduate meets the demands of the changing employment market by demonstrating skills and knowledge in career preparation and/or choice.

The Graduate is able to:

- Develop a broad-based educational/career plan
- Exhibit the interpersonal skills necessary for success in the modern workplace
- Use technology to find, organize and communicate information

The HHS Graduate understands and communicates in at least one language in addition to English.

The Graduate is able to :

- Communicate in a second language
- Read with understanding in a second language
- Write effectively in a second language

The HHS Graduate analyzes problems form a global perspective and contributes to society as a responsible and skilled citizen by applying techniques from a different social science disciplines.

The graduate is able to:

- Explain democratic/constitutional principles and practices, compare them to other forms of government and demonstrate the ability to take action within the political system
- Utilizes historical evidence to formulate positions, view points, and to understand current issues
- Analyze basic economic problems confronting individuals, nations , and the world
- Explain how different cultures express, communicate and instill their most important ideas
- Apply geographic principles

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Performance Graduation Requirements (continued)

The HHS Graduate reads and responds to a variety of literature

The Graduate is able to:

- Understand the essential elements of literary genre
- Analyze and evaluate selected works of literature, including masterpieces past and present
- Appreciates literature for its own sake and as a reflection of human experiences

The HHS Graduate uses a variety of mathematical methods and appropriate technology to solve problems and function confidently in a mathematically sophisticated world.

The Graduate is able to:

- Use mathematical reasoning in problem solving
- Communicate mathematics by using language, graphing symbols, concrete models, visuals and technology to express and comprehend mathematical ideas.
- Make mathematical connections
- Demonstrate a quantitative sense
- Demonstrate spatial sense
- Demonstrate knowledge of arithmetical/algebraic properties
- Demonstrate an effective use of the basic concepts of probability and statistics

The HHS graduate understands and applies the concepts of personal physical fitness and good health

The Graduate is able to:

- Demonstrates understandings of the life long value of physical fitness and wellness
- Demonstrates understanding and an ability to utilize the basic techniques of stress management
- Understands and can utilize the basic techniques to avoid substance abuse
- Understanding and can make decisions relating to sexual health.

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Performance Graduation Requirements (continued)

The HHS Graduate understands and applies scientific and technological concepts to explain and demonstrate an understanding of their world

The Graduate is able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of and apply the basic principles, concepts and language of the biological, earth and physical sciences
- Understand the complex and limited socio-economic, political and technological factors affecting the environment
- Understand the historic development and dynamic nature of scientific thought
- Demonstrate the ability to work safely and effectively with laboratory measuring, manipulating and sensing devices
- Identify and design techniques for solving problems in science or technology.

Autonomous Learner

The ultimate goal of a high school education must be that the student has acquired the skills, attitudes and understandings necessary to meet the unknown, study it, and develop an appropriate plan to deal with the changes of the modern world, thus being a “live-long learner”. Students must learn to learn on their own by demonstrating that the student can identify a goal, develop a plan of action, find or develop appropriate information and/or materials, analyze and organize them into a presentation and communicate what has been achieved. Therefore, the final graduation requirement is a demonstration that the student is capable of being an autonomous learner.

The HHS Graduate has demonstrated the ability to be an “Autonomous Learner” by presenting a “Graduation Exhibition”

The Graduate is able to:

- Design and execute a major project that fulfills the student’s own stated purpose
- Formally present to an audience the content and findings of the exhibition in an appropriate presentation of the student’s design.