



HOMESCHOOLING HIGH SCHOOL WORKSHOP

Presented by:

The
SOCIAL
MICROSCHOOL

REMEMBER

As your child's primary teacher, you do not need to be an expert in the subject. You are not here to be a dispenser of information. Rather, you are a guide and a coach for your child, teaching them how to learn, how to be inquisitive, and teaching them how to find the resources for themselves. You are modeling work ethic and discernment. You are helping your children grow up into responsible, discerning, mature adults who love to learn.

MAINTAINING RECORDS

Types of Records to Keep:

Academic Records organized by year and grade level:

- Volunteer opportunities
- Work experience
- List of books read
- Curriculums used: include exact title, publisher, and overview of content included
- Extra curriculum content utilized
- Extra-curricular activities
- Tests, exams, and/or final projects that will prove mastery of content

Transcript organized by year, grade level, and semester

Example: https://www.drwile.com/chron_trans.pdf

- Note courses that were taken early as part of an accelerated program
- Note courses taken at other institutions (co-ops, microschool, nature center, etc)

AWARDING CREDITS

Awarding Homeschool Credits in Michigan

In Michigan, homeschooling is legally recognized under Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) 380.1561, the compulsory attendance statute, which permits parents to educate their children at home.

The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC), established under MCL 380.1278a, sets graduation requirements for public school districts. However, these statutory graduation requirements do not directly regulate home schools. Homeschool programs are not required to follow public school seat-time rules or district-level credit formulas.

Because of this structure, homeschool parents function as the school administrator. They determine course titles, grading policies, graduation requirements, and the amount of credit awarded per course.

While legally permissible, families often consider college admissions expectations, transfer policies, and transcript clarity when determining how credits are assigned.

References

Michigan Compiled Laws 380.1561 – Compulsory School Attendance. Michigan Compiled Laws 380.1278a – Michigan Merit Curriculum Requirements.
Michigan Department of Education. (n.d.). Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) Frequently Asked Questions and Guidance. Retrieved from <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/academic-standards/mm>

WHAT IS A CREDIT?

In Michigan, the state does not mandate a fixed number of instructional hours that must equal 1.0 high school credit. Under the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC), credit is awarded based on student mastery of content standards rather than strict seat-time requirements (Michigan Department of Education, MMC FAQ Guidance).

Traditionally, many Michigan high schools follow a Carnegie Unit-style model in which:

- A full-year course equals 1.0 credit
- A semester course equals 0.5 credit

Michigan law allows local school districts to define how credits are awarded, provided students demonstrate mastery of required standards. A credit can be awarded if:

- The course satisfies all required academic standards
- Students demonstrate mastery of course outcomes

Credits can be awarded before high school if the student completes a course that is noted as a high school level course.

WHAT CREDITS DOES MY CHILD NEED?

In Michigan, homeschooling is legally distinct from public schooling. The state does not actually set a mandatory number of credits for a homeschool student to graduate. You, as the parent, have the authority to set your own graduation requirements and issue your own diploma.

However, if you want your child to be competitive for Michigan universities (like MSU or GVSU) or ready for a rigorous trade, following the **Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC)** is the "Gold Standard." This is a minimum of 18 credit hours, allotted in the chart below. In addition, here are some quantities to note:

- Typical school district requirement: 22-26 credits
- Average to strong college prep recommendation: 24-28 credits
- Rigorous college prep for students applying to highly selective college: 26-30 credits

Pro-Tip for Trade-Bound Students: The MMC allows for "Personal Curriculums." If your child is heading to a trade school, you can substitute the 3rd Science credit or the 2nd World Language credit for a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. This reinforces the "Hybrid" approach where hands-on skills count as much as academic ones.

Curriculum Area	MMC Credits (Required for Public/Recommended for All)	Examples
Mathematics	4 Credits	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, etc.
English Language Arts	4 Credits	Writing, American Lit, etc.
Science	3 Credits	Biology, Physics/Chemistry
Social Studies	3 Credits	.5 Civics, .5 Economics, US History, and World History.
World Language	2 Credits	Can be replaced with a CTE program or additional Arts credit
Arts	1 Credit	Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts.
Health & PE	1 Credit	.5 Health and .5 PE
Online Experience	1 Credit	Can be a dedicated course or integrated into other credits.

THE RISE OF THE ALTERNATIVE TRANSCRIPT

We are seeing a revolution in how students "show what they know."

- **Mastery Transcript Consortium (MTC):** Over 700 universities now accept the "Mastery Transcript" or "Learning Record." This is a digital transcript that focuses on **Durable Skills** (also called "soft skills" or "human skills") such as:
 - Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
 - Communication & Collaboration
 - Creativity & Adaptability
- **Why this matters:** Instead of just a "B+" in Math, these transcripts allow you to show a video of a project your child built, a link to a coding project, or a supervisor's review of their trade apprenticeship. This is the future of work; employers and colleges want to see what you can *do*, not just what you can memorize.
- **Coming Soon:** The Social will be providing a competency-based report for each child that will help parents understand what skills they are learning in our programs. See **Made to Make Competency Framework** to see the complete list of durable skills we are using that you can add to your transcript.

COURSE OPTIONS

Language Arts:

- Grammar
- Vocabulary, exploring roots of our language
- Writing: creative, essay, storytelling, research, communications, professional writing
- American Lit, British Lit, World Lit
- Speech, Public Speaking
- Research & Debate
- Logic & Rhetoric

Math:

- General math
- Algebra 1, Algebra 2
- Geometry
- Business Math
- Consumer Math/Personal Finance
- Pre-Calculus
- Calculus
- Accounting
- Statistics
- Trigonometry

Social Studies/History

- World Geography
- World Governments
- US Government
- US History
- World History
- Economics

COURSE OPTIONS

Science

- Physical Science
- Biology
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Botany
- Ecology
- Chemistry
- Nutrition
- Psychology
- Astronomy
- Marine Biology
- Earth Science
- Physics
- Engineering

Foreign Language

PE/Health:

- Sports classes or teams
- Nutrition
- Exercise program

Arts

- Fine Arts: drawing, painting, watercolor
- Visual Arts: photography, film making, videography, sculpture/ceramics/pottery, architecture
- Performing Arts: dance, theater, music
- Applied Arts: jewelry making, sewing, apparel design, fashion design, industrial design, graphic design, architecture, woodworking, furniture design, interior design

COURSE OPTIONS

Electives

- Driver's ed
- Test Prep
- Bible
- Theology
- Vocational Exploration
- Home Economics
- Personal interest study (e.g. S Korea, auto mechanics, etc)
- Personal Finance
- Agriculture
- Landscaping
- Teacher's Aide
- Entrepreneurship

Add your own ideas:

GRADES & GPA

Commonly used Grading Scale:

Grading Scale

94-100	A	4.0
90-93	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	.7
0-59	F	0.0

To calculate grades, consider using this formula:

60% tests & quizzes, 20% daily work, 20% effort & attendance

Letter grades convert to a Grade Point Average (GPA)

EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL

- Dual Enrollment - usually Junior or Senior year, check with college or university for their offerings and requirements, can be a reduced tuition rate
- Articulation Credits - some local colleges partner with local high schools to allow a specific high level high school course to satisfy college-level college course requirements
- AP Exams (Advanced Placement Exam- check with local college of choice); if student passes the exam, student could earn college credit and not have to take that course in college, or could just test out of the course but not earn credit, depending on student score
- CLEP Exams

TEST SCORES FOR COLLEGE

Does my child have to take the SAT, ACT or CLT (Classic Learning Test)?

Most local colleges no longer require these test scores to attend.

However, you may want to consider taking these tests if:

- You want to attend a prestigious university (Harvard, Yale, etc.)
- You are seeking a degree in a field that places high value on academic knowledge such as nursing, medicine, teaching, engineering, etc.
- You want to increase your chances of being awarded an academic scholarship

Category	SAT	ACT	CLT
Content Included	Reading & Writing Math Essay discontinued	English Math Reading Science Optional Writing	Verbal Reasoning Grammar/Writing Quantitative Reasoning Classical Literature & Historical Texts
Average Cost (2026)	\$60	\$66 (without writing) \$91 (with writing)	\$59 (digital) \$69 (paper)
Length of Test	2 hours 14 minutes Digital format	2 hours 55 minutes +40 minutes with writing	2 hours (digital) 2 hours 20 minutes (paper)