



December

The Academic Record

Throughout high school, you will come across many different terms that you may or may not be familiar with. Listed below are some common terms that all students and parents should understand.

Credit

“Credit” is given to students for successful completion of a course. Because Zeeland High School operates on a semester schedule, students earn a half credit for each passing class at the end of the semester. Students take six classes each semester and can therefore earn three credits each semester. In addition to taking and passing the courses required by the Michigan Merit Curriculum and Zeeland High School, students must obtain a certain number of overall credits. This number is 22 (it may be altered for students who have not spent all four years of high school at Zeeland). If students fail too many classes, they may become off-track to graduate and may have to take part in credit recovery programs such as summer school or online courses. These come at a cost, generally about \$150 per half credit.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A student’s grade point average, or GPA, is an indicator of how well that student is performing in school. A student’s GPA is simply the average of the student’s semester grades, starting with his/her freshman year. GPA is one of the criteria used for college admission.

Zeeland uses a 4.0 scale, in which an A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, and D=1.0. Students with all A’s, for example, have a 4.0 GPA. Students who have Bs in half of their courses and Cs in the other half have a 2.5 GPA. Zeeland does “weight” grades in Advanced Placement classes only, due to their difficulty level. Because of this, a grade in an AP course is worth more than in a non-weighted course, as Advanced Placement classes are weighted on a 5.0 scale (A=5.0, B=4.0, C=3.0, D=2.0).

- **Term GPA** – the grade point average for a particular semester
- **Cumulative GPA** – a student’s overall grade point average, from grades 9-12
- **Unweighted GPA** - grade point average where all classes are weighted on the same 4.0 scale
- **Weighted GPA** - grade point average where AP classes are weighted on a 5.0 scale and all other classes are weighted on the traditional 4.0 scale

Class Rank

Many high schools use class rank to show where a student stands in relation to the other members of his/her graduating class. Zeeland ranks students in “deciles,” meaning, students are ranked based on the percent they fall from the top of the class. For example, a student who is in the top 20th percentile has a GPA that is in the top 20% of his/her class. Like GPA, class rank is another factor that colleges use in the college admissions process.

High School Transcript

A high school transcript is a document that details a student’s academic achievement in high school. A transcript is simply a copy of a student’s high school record. Although the appearance of the transcript varies from school to school, high school transcripts generally contain the following information:

1. grades and credits for each high school course completed (based on semester grades only)

2. attendance records
3. current cumulative GPA

An official transcript has a signature, stamp, or seal verifying its authenticity. An unofficial transcript is exactly the same as an official transcript, except that it has no signature, stamp, or seal. You can request an unofficial copy of a transcript (to check credits, take on a college visit, etc.) by contacting your counselor.

Transcripts are used whenever a school, organization, or college needs an official copy of a student's academic record. For example, if a student were to transfer to another high school, the new high school would ask the student's previous school to send them an official transcript.

In order to determine whether or not a student meets their admissions criteria, college admissions officers need to have a record of an applicant's courses, grades, test scores, and GPA. Most colleges, therefore, require that an official transcript be submitted along with a student's application for admission. A transcript is also usually required when a student applies for a scholarship.

A sample transcript can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Parent Portal

Parent Portal is an online tracking tool for parents to monitor their son/daughter's academic progress at Zeeland High School. With a password, parents are able to access their child's class schedule, grades, discipline history, report cards, and other information. East families should contact Pam Keen (pkeen@zps.org) and West families should contact Donna Lyles (dlyles@zps.org) to sign up if you do not already have an active account.

Electives

Electives are courses not specifically required by Zeeland but offered to fulfill the 22 credits needed for graduation. Examples may include: Beginning Woods, Aerobics, Choir, Psychology, just to name a few.

PSAT 8/9

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) is a test that provides first-hand practice for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) that all high school students take in the spring of the junior year as part of the state-mandated Michigan Merit Exam (MME). The SAT is an important college admission test, and because of this, students at Zeeland High School participate in practice tests to prepare for it. In the spring of the freshman year, students take the PSAT 8/9. Additional practice opportunities will be given to students in both 10th and 11th grade.

**Some information adapted from "How to Get the Most out of High School."*

District Name: Zeeland Public Schools
Zeeland High Schools Official Transcript
 School CEEB Code: Tel: (616)748-3100
 East: 3333 96th Ave West: 3390 100th Ave, Zeeland, MI 49464

Student Information						#04623 Zeeland High Schools				
Student Number:		Grade: 12				Course		Mark	Weight	Credit
Birthdate:		Gender:				2020-2021 Grade 10 Term 1				
UIC:						AD9-E Advisory 10 East CR 0.0000 0				
Diploma Date:						EE 13 English 10 A A 1.0000 0.5				
GPA Summary						ME 33 Hon Algebra 1 A (STEM) C+ 1.0000 0.5				
Cumulative GPA (Weighted)		3.4306				C 29 Honors Chemistry A B+ 1.0000 0.5				
Cumulative GPA (Unweighted)		3.3194				F 35 Honors Spanish 3 A A- 1.0000 0.5				
Attendance						SE 13 US History A B+ 1.0000 0.5				
School Year	Calendar	School Days	Member Days	Absent Days	Tardy	ZL 101 ZLinks A A- 1.0000 0.5				
19-20	19-20 Zeeland High Schools	126	126	3.81	4	Credit: 3.000 GPA: 3.3833 U/W GPA: 3.3833				
20-21	20-21 Zeeland High Schools	172	172	6.76	3	2020-2021 Grade 10 Term 2				
21-22	21-22 Zeeland High Schools	171	171	1.71	8	AD9-E Advisory 10 East CR 0.0000 0				
22-23	22-23 Zeeland High Schools	178	178	1.00	0	EE 14 English 10 B A 1.0000 0.5				
Total: 4		647	647	13.27	15	ME 34 Hon Algebra 1 B (STEM) C 1.0000 0.5				
Enrollment Summary						C 30 Honors Chemistry B A- 1.0000 0.5				
Start/End Date	Grade	School				F 36 Honors Spanish 3 B A- 1.0000 0.5				
08/01/2017-06/08/2018	07	Cityside Middle School				SE 14 US History B B+ 1.0000 0.5				
08/01/2018-06/07/2019	08	Cityside Middle School				ZL 102 ZLinks B B+ 1.0000 0.5				
08/01/2019-06/05/2020	09	Zeeland High Schools				Credit: 3.000 GPA: 3.3333 U/W GPA: 3.3333				
07/01/2020-06/10/2021	10	Zeeland High Schools				2021-2022 Grade 11 Term 1				
07/01/2021-06/10/2022	11	Zeeland High Schools				C 27 Advanced Geology A C+ 1.0000 0.5				
07/01/2022-	12	Zeeland High Schools				AD9-E Advisory 11 East CR 0.0000 0				
#08350 Cityside Middle School						C 33 Anatomy/Phys A B- 1.0000 0.5				
Course	Mark		Weight	Credit		E 41 AP English Language A A 1.0000 0.5				
2018-2019 Grade 08 Term 2						S 69 AP World History A C 1.0000 0.5				
HW 12 9th PE and Health (A)	A		0.0000	0.5		M 43 Hon Algebra 2 A (STEM) B 1.0000 0.5				
F 15 Spanish 1A	A-		0.0000	0.5		F 45 Honors Spanish 4 A B- 1.0000 0.5				
Credit: 1.000 GPA: 0.0000 U/W GPA: 0.0000						Credit: 3.000 GPA: 3.1167 U/W GPA: 2.7833				
2018-2019 Grade 08 Term 4						2021-2022 Grade 11 Term 2				
F 16 Spanish 1B	A-		0.0000	0.5		C 28 Advanced Geology B B 1.0000 0.5				
Credit: .500 GPA: 0.0000 U/W GPA: 0.0000						AD9-E Advisory 11 East CR 0.0000 0				
#04623 Zeeland High Schools						C 34 Anatomy/Phys B B- 1.0000 0.5				
Course	Mark		Weight	Credit		E 42 AP English Language B B- 1.0000 0.5				
2019-2020 Grade 09 Term 1						S 70 AP World History B B- 1.0000 0.5				
A 11 Art - Beg Drawing	A		1.0000	0.5		M 44 Hon Algebra 2 B (STEM) C+ 1.0000 0.5				
CE 17 Biology A	A-		1.0000	0.5		F 46 Honors Spanish 4 B C+ 1.0000 0.5				
SE 11 Civics	A-		1.0000	0.5		Credit: 3.000 GPA: 2.9500 U/W GPA: 2.6167				
EE 11 English 9 A	A-		1.0000	0.5		Credit Summary				
M 23 Honors Geometry (STEM) A	A		1.0000	0.5		HS Credits Attempted Earned				
F 25 Spanish 2 A	A-		1.0000	0.5		Elective 1.000 1.000				
Credit: 3.000 GPA: 3.8000 U/W GPA: 3.8000						English 3.000 3.000				
2019-2020 Grade 09 Term 2						Fine Arts 1.000 1.000				
A 12 Art - Beg Design	A		1.0000	0.5		Foreign Language 4.000 4.000				
CE 18 Biology B	A		1.0000	0.5		Health 0.500 0.500				
SE 12 Economics	A		1.0000	0.5		Mathematics 3.000 3.000				
EE 12 English 9 B	A		1.0000	0.5		Science 4.000 4.000				
M 24 Honors Geometry (STEM) B	A		1.0000	0.5		Social Studies 3.000 3.000				
F 26 Spanish 2 B	A		1.0000	0.5		Total 19.500 19.500				
Credit: 3.000 GPA: 4.0000 U/W GPA: 4.0000										