



GRADUATION HANDBOOK CLASS OF 2023

A Guide for Students, Parents, Teachers and the Greater Community

[Smithfield High School Mission, Core Values and Expectations](#)

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

The Smithfield High School Community seeks to instill high expectations for all students in their academic, civic, and social endeavors and to provide them with opportunities to succeed in higher education and in a 21st century, global marketplace. Our school community is committed to establishing clear, rigorous, and demanding standards which encompass all the necessary skills that students must demonstrate in order to succeed as responsible citizens in a changing world. These standards define what we expect of our students and assist us in identifying effective strategies for delivering instruction and assessing students' performance.

In order to accomplish our Mission, the school community has identified learning expectations for all students. These academic, civic, and social expectations specify what students should know and be able to do upon graduation. Our educational program is designed to engage students in active, collaborative learning that emphasizes the development of critical thinking skills to be applied to real-world concepts. Further, we believe that an educational program, which is academically challenging and student-centered, will provide our young adults with a strong foundation for future success.

The following pages outline the requirements for graduation from Smithfield High School. Please take the time to review this document carefully. If you have any questions about your child's educational program, please contact your child's school counselor.

Our sincerest best wishes for a positive and productive educational experience at Smithfield High School.

Respectfully,

Daniel P. Kelley
Principal

The requirements for a Smithfield High School Diploma will include:

- A. Coursework: Completion of the minimum required coursework credits, both in total and for specific subjects. Such coursework shall include both formative and summative performance of student knowledge and skills adequate to determine proficiency at the level of academic rigor required by relevant content standards. Fourteen of the required credits will be represented by four academic credits of english language arts, four academic credits of mathematics, three academic credits of science and three academic credits of history/social studies. A minimum of twenty-two (22) credits is required in order to graduate SHS.

English Language Arts	4.0	
Mathematics*	4.0	Algebra I & Geometry are required
Science	3.0	Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry are required
Social Studies	3.0	Civics & American History required
Physical Education	2.0	.5 credit completed each year
Fine Arts**	0.5	
STEAM***	0.5	
Personal Finance	0.5	
Electives	4.5	

*Effective August 26, 2014 math requirements can only be met through courses taught by a certified math teacher excluding AP Computer Science.

** Fine Arts: Foundations of Art, Workshop in Art, Ceramics, Asian Art, Art Journaling, Usable Art, A in STEAM, Graphic Design, Illustration, Sculpture, Chorus, Music Theory, Intro to Music, Keyboard Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Intro to Musical Theater, Music Technology, Concert Band, Drama. Trash Can Band, Songwriting

*** STEAM Courses: Introduction to Engineering, Forensics, Technology Survey, Furniture Design, CADD, Construction, Architecture, Robotics, Power and Energy, Design and Production, Computer Literacy, Usable Art, Workshop in Art, Foundations of Art, Ceramics 1 & 2, Sculpture, A in STEAM, Graphic Design, Music Technology, Exploring Computer Science, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science, Ocean Engineering, Multimedia.

Further Clarification

Technology Proficiency: In order to prepare a Smithfield High School Graduate for both a 21st century and global economy, a student must display evidence of a deep understanding of and proficiency in technology. Through the minimum 22.5 credits of high school coursework at SHS, students will be exposed to rigorous curriculum, instruction, and assessments aligned to and embedded with technology. Through the use of *Google Apps for Education* (GAPE) students will develop a comprehensive electronic portfolio. Successful completion of the electronic portfolio during senior year will serve as a measurement of technology proficiency. (Please refer to the the Smithfield High School *Portfolio Handbook* for further details.)

STEAM Exploration: STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. The end results are students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process. These are the innovators, educators, leaders, and learners of the 21st century.

Please refer to the *Smithfield High School Program of Studies* for further course descriptions.

- B. Digital Portfolio and Senior Demonstration:** Achieve proficiency or better on the graduation portfolio presentation, including a digital collection of performance assessments which documents a student's academic performance over time and demonstrates deep content knowledge and applied learning skills. (Please refer to the *Smithfield High School Portfolio Handbook* for further details)
- C. Career Exploration:**
Successful completion of fifteen (15) hours of Career Exploration. The process will be documented and will require reflective evidence.
- D. State Assessment(s):** Successful completion of state assessments according to a timetable determined by the Rhode Island Board of Education. Beginning with the class of 2021, minimum proficiency benchmarks on state approved assessments will allow a student to receive a "Commissioner's Seal" on his or her transcript. Updates related to such benchmarks will be communicated to students and families.
- E. Individual Learning Plan:** Each student, beginning no later than entry into sixth grade, will create an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) with assistance from the Guidance Department, parents and community contacts. The ILP will be actively used by educators, students, and families to guide and monitor student progress along individual pathways toward proficiency for graduation and post-secondary plans.
- F. Technology Proficiency:** In order to prepare a Smithfield High School Graduate for both a 21st century and global economy, students must display evidence of a deep understanding and proficiency in technology. Through the minimum 22.5 credits of high school coursework at SHS, students will be exposed to rigorous curriculum, instruction, and assessments aligned to and embedded with technology. Through the use of *Google Apps for Education* (GAFE) students will develop a comprehensive digital portfolio. Successful completion of the digital portfolio by senior year will serve as a measurement of technology proficiency. (Please refer to the the *Smithfield High School Portfolio Handbook* for further details.)
- G. STEAM Exploration:** STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, The Arts, and Mathematics) fosters the development of the skills needed to excel in a 21st century and global economy. The STEAM requirement at SHS integrates science, technology, engineering, the arts and math into curriculum, instruction and assessments.

COMMISSIONER'S SEAL/SECONDARY COUNCIL DESIGNATION:

The following information is taken from the updated RIDE/RI Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. The updated changes to the secondary regulations (approved in 2017) can be found here:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/CESE/Secondary_School_Regulations_Amendment_10_11_16.pdf

Commencing with the graduating class of 2021, LEAs (Local Education Agencies; i.e. Smithfield Public Schools) shall include a designation notation on permanent high school transcripts and on the diplomas of all students who meet Council-defined criteria. The Council shall determine:

1. Designations available statewide; and,
2. The level of achievement necessary for a Council Designation.

Designations approved by the Council shall include, but not be limited to documentation of student achievement of a statewide literacy and numeracy standard and documentation of student completion of a course of study consistent with a personal learning goal.

LEAs shall provide students with multiple opportunities and appropriate supports to meet designation requirements.

LEAs are authorized to award additional locally-developed designations.

*Note (8/2017): Beginning with the class of 2022, students will need to meet a minimum bar of proficiency on a state assessment (currently PSAT/SAT for Smithfield High School) in order to receive this Commissioner's Seal. The proficiency scores for these assessments, related to acquiring the Commissioner's Seal, are currently being developed by RIDE. Updated information will be provided here, and through school communications, regarding these requirements.

[Policy Reference: High School Proficiency Based Graduation IKF](#)