

## **What is a MRU Course?**

At MRU, courses are designed to help every student succeed by focusing on skill mastery and providing clear, consistent learning experiences. Classes are typically organized into units lasting 4–6 weeks, though this may vary based on the subject and content. Weekly practice (formative assessments) and end-of-unit evaluations (summative assessments) help track progress and ensure students understand key concepts. Students have opportunities to demonstrate their learning in different ways, supported by clear rubrics and flexible teaching methods. Teachers use data to guide instruction and adapt to student needs. Google Classroom serves as a flexible landing space for materials, with some teachers using it more than others, but all grades are entered in PowerSchool. Clear policies on late work and reassessments provide structure, and the curriculum is based on trusted resources and teacher expertise.

### **Course Structure**

- **Unit-Based Learning:** Courses are typically broken into units lasting 4–6 weeks, though this can vary depending on the subject. Each unit is designed around key learning objectives and proficiency-based outcomes.
- **Learning Targets:** Every class and unit begins with a clear explanation of what students are learning and why, helping them connect their efforts to larger goals.

### **Assessment Practices**

- **Formative Assessments:** Weekly opportunities for students to practice skills and receive feedback are essential for building understanding. Formative assessments should be recorded weekly in PowerSchool.
- **Summative Assessments:** At the end of each unit, summative assessments evaluate student learning and provide a measure of proficiency. Summative assessments should be recorded approximately monthly in PowerSchool.
- **Rubric-Based Scoring:** Assessments are scored using clear, holistic rubrics to ensure transparency and alignment with course proficiencies.
- **Reassessment Opportunities:** Students may reassess within two weeks of receiving feedback at no penalty. To reassess, students articulate what they would do differently and demonstrate readiness to try again.

### **Grading and Feedback**

- **Grades in PowerSchool:** All grades are entered into PowerSchool for consistency and accessibility.

- **Google Classroom:** Used as a flexible space for sharing materials like syllabi, assignments, and resources. The level of use may vary by teacher, but it serves as a central hub for students.
- **Late Work Policy:** Students can submit late work within two weeks of the due date at no penalty.

### **Student Choice and Differentiation**

- **Flexible Demonstrations of Learning:** Students are encouraged to choose how they demonstrate their understanding when appropriate based on course content, fostering engagement and ownership of their learning.
- **Differentiation:** Teachers adjust instruction and materials to meet the diverse needs of their students, ensuring everyone has a path to success. Educators are encouraged to collaborate with peers (in department, in grade level, and with Special Education) to support differentiation.

### **Curriculum and Professional Judgment**

- **Professional Expertise:** Teachers develop their curriculum using vetted resources, professional knowledge, and shared departmental goals.
- **Adaptability:** Fixed lesson plans and rigid structures are avoided to allow for responsive teaching that meets the needs of individual learners.

### **Focus on Equity and Growth**

MRU classes are designed with equity in mind, ensuring that all students have access to high-quality learning experiences that build skills, promote independence, and prepare them for success in the future. By combining clear expectations with flexibility and professional expertise, MRU fosters an environment where every student can thrive.