

Student Services Frequently Asked Questions

How many class periods are in a day at St. Charles East?

We have an eight period day, with each class consisting of 47 minutes. The school day begins at 7:20 and ends at 2:21. Passing periods are 6 minutes in length. Please note that every other Wednesday follows a Late Start schedule with different class times. For your convenience, these unique schedules are printed on the inside cover of the student planner, and can be found on our school's web site (<http://East.d303.org>).

How many classes do I need to take?

All students must take a minimum of 6 credit bearing classes (5 classes plus P.E.) in our eight-period day. Typically, students take seven courses plus a lunch/study hall. Sometimes, if a student is busy with extracurricular activities or working, s/he may opt to take six classes instead.

How many credits do I need to graduate?

A total of 23 credits are required to graduate from St. Charles East including fulfilling the necessary graduation required classes.

** Please note that if a student takes a minimum of 6 credit bearing classes freshman through senior year the student will accrue a total of 24 credits. Many students graduate with more credits that exceed the required amount.*

How many credits should I accumulate each year?

Students should expect to earn at least 3 credits per semester and 6 credits every academic school year. Please find below the total number of credits that students should have at the completion of each year to be on pace towards graduation:

*Freshman – 6 credits
Sophomore - 12 credits
Junior – 18 credits
Senior – 24 credits*

Where can I find information about classes offered at St. Charles East High School?

Please feel free to reference our Course Offering Handbook and Planning Guide, which is on the St. Charles East website under the tab Curriculum.

If I take a full-period study hall, will I have enough credits to graduate?

Yes. Since we require 23 credits, a student who takes six classes with a lunch/SH and a full-period SH each semester would still end up with 24 credits. Of course, we encourage our students to take that extra seventh class in order to explore possible career options or to take a more challenging schedule to best prepare for life after high school.

What lunch options are there?

Lunch is available periods 4-7, either the first half of the period (A) or the second half (B), with a formal study hall the other half. Juniors and seniors have the option of a “Full-period lunch”, which allows them to stay in the cafeteria the entire lunch period with no study hall. Please note: a senior CANNOT have both an unscheduled period and a Full-period lunch.

Academic Planning

Academic planning is an ongoing process that occurs over the course of a student’s high school career that is facilitated by teachers, parents and school counselor. We encourage students to select courses that align will with their interest and intended college major/career goals in mind. Students can complete a 4-year plan to monitor and map out their high school courses in an effort to recognize the connection between their education decisions and their future endeavors. A copy of the 4-year plan can be found on the St. Charles East Home Page under the Student Services Tab.

What is the process for course selection / registration?

The course selection/registration process occurs in late January/early February. Students log onto the Home Access Center and enter their course selections after review with their parent. In the following weeks after the registration closes on Home Access Center, students will meet with their own school counselor individually and finalize their choices. Next, a course verification form is sent home for families to review the course selections for accuracy. Please know that changes to the course selection will only be made if errors exist in the course verification form. Next, sections are built, teachers are assigned, and student schedules are created.

Can I choose/change my teacher?

It is not our practice to change a student’s teacher. However, when one (or more) of the following circumstances exists, we may consider a teacher change:

- *The student has taken the same course with the teacher and failed the course*
- *There is a documented conflict between the student and the teacher on file with the administration*
- *There is a documented conflict between the student’s sibling and the teacher on file with the administration*

When do I get a class schedule?

First semester schedules are handed out on students’ assigned “Materials Pick Up Day” which is in August. Second semester schedules can be accessed on the Home Access Center at the end of the first semester.

How can I help my child if he/she is struggling in a class?

We recognize that many parents are active in their student’s academic success. Often, parents share with us that they monitor their student’s academic progress on Home Access Center. We also encourage you to contact the teacher directly. Please feel free to review the St.

Charles East Home Page for additional information about academic supports and tutoring opportunities.

When is the last day to drop a class?

A student can drop a class for a study hall through the first fifteen days of the semester with no penalty as long as the student remains a full time student. After that deadline, a “WF” grade is assigned, which counts towards the student’s GPA as an “F”. The add/drop form (available in Student Services Office) can be turned in to your school counselor once you have the required signatures.

What is the process to change academic levels?

The procedure for changing levels is to discuss this choice with both a parent and your current teacher. If they agree with the move, then see your school counselor with the proper level change form (available in Student Service Office) once you have all of the required signatures. Please note that your school counselor can only add you to a section if there is room and it meets the same period.

Am I required to have a lunch period?

We believe students need to take a break, socialize with friends, and nourish their bodies. Although we strongly suggest having a lunch, if you and your parents agree on not having one, we will honor that request.

Is it possible to graduate early?

Yes, however you need to work with your parents and school counselor to create a graduation plan early in your high school career. In addition to meeting all of our specific course requirements, you must have a minimum of 23 credits to graduate. Early graduation can have both positive and negative consequences and should not be taken lightly.

How do I take classes off campus for credit?

Information regarding the Elgin Community College’s Dual Credit program and the Fox Valley Career Center’s program is available with your school counselor. In addition, please feel free to reference the Elgin Community College website at: www.elgin.edu/highschool under the Tech Prep Dual Credit Program and the Fox Valley Career Center at www.kaneland.org/fvcc.

What classes do I need for college?

In preparation for college, we encourage you to enroll in rigorous and challenging courses each of your four years in high school. For example, a rigorous academic schedule may include 4- full years of academic core subjects and participation in honors and advanced placement courses. Remember, however, colleges have varying admission requirements. Therefore, it is imperative to know the admission requirements for your colleges of interest. We encourage you to review college admission webpages (using Naviance) or contact the school directly.

If I need to see my school counselor, how do I set up a meeting?

Please make an appointment with the Guidance Secretary in the Student Services Office to make an appointment to see your school counselor.

Do I need to register with the NCAA if I want to participate in Division I and II athletics?

*Yes. To participate in athletic competition at a Division I or II school, **students must meet NCAA initial eligibility requirements.** Please feel free to reference the Course Offering Handbook and Planning Guide on the St. Charles East Home Page or visit the website at www.NCAAClearinghouse.net for more details about eligibility requirements and a complete list of approved core courses. You may also see your school counselor for NCAA information.*

High School Graduation Requirements

*There are two types of courses to consider when planning a schedule. First, there are **core courses**. We typically think of core courses as English, Math, Science and Social Studies. Second, there are elective courses. We typically think of elective courses as courses chosen from various departments based on the student’s interests, abilities and college/career goals. To satisfy graduation requirements and earn a diploma, a student must enroll in and pass (with a “D” or higher) all course work specified by District #303, its Board of Education and the State of Illinois. Please reference the chart below for graduation requirements.*

Subject Area:	Duration and Comments:
English	4 Credits
Math	3 Credits
Science	2 Credits
Social Studies	2.5 Credits (Global Issues Fr. Yr.; American History Jr. Yr.; and Government Sr. Yr.)
Consumer Educ./Econ	.5 Credits (Economics or COOP I 2nd semester); Proficiency Test by end of Jr. Yr. replaces this requirement (NO credit)
Health	.5 Credits (Fr. Yr.)
Physical Education	3.5 Credits (Each semester in school, unless enrolled in Health or Dr. Educ.)
Electives	7 Credits
MINIMUM TOTAL	23 Credits