



# River Valley High School Graduation Requirements 2018-19 School Year

**Graduating  
Classes of 2019,  
2020, 2021, and  
2022**

To be eligible for graduation, all students must participate in the Michigan Merit Exam or MI-Access in the spring of their junior year. In addition, students must earn the following credits:

Department	Requirement
<b>English Language Arts</b>	4 credits - At least one core English class taken each school year.
<b>Mathematics</b>	4 credits (at least one in senior year) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Algebra 1</li> <li>● Geometry</li> <li>● Algebra 2</li> <li>● Additional math or math related course in senior year</li> </ul>
<b>Science</b>	3 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Physics/Chemistry Essentials</li> <li>● Biology</li> <li>● Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, or CTE program</li> </ul>
<b>Social Studies</b>	3 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● World History</li> <li>● US History</li> <li>● Economics</li> <li>● Government</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Physical Education</b>	1 credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Health (.5 credit)</li> <li>● Physical Education OR participation in school-sanctioned physical activity (.5 credit = 2 seasons)</li> </ul>
<b>Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts</b>	1 credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Art, Culinary Arts, Music, CTE program</li> </ul>
<b>World Languages</b>	<i>Students in the Graduating Classes of 2019, 2020, and 2021:</i> 2 credits - Both credits must be of the same language OR students may satisfy the second credit by completing a CTE program or taking an additional VPAA course <i>Students in the Graduating Class of 2022 and beyond:</i> 2 credits - Both credits must be of the same language
<b>Online Learning Experience</b>	0.5 credit - Satisfied with successful completion of RVHS US History or other online class
<b>Elective Credits</b>	4 credits in electives must be completed and awarded
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	22 Credits

# **River Valley High School**

## **Courses and Potential Modifications That Meet Graduation Requirements**

The following is a breakdown of the courses offered by River Valley High School which meet the graduation requirements. The State of Michigan allows students to request a personal curriculum to modify some of the state-established graduation requirements. See your counselor for additional information. This is also discussed below.

### **English Requirements**

Students must take one English course per year, with a total of four credits required for graduation. This requirement cannot be modified with a Personal Curriculum. Courses which meet the English requirement include:

- English L
- English M
- English H
- English 9
- English 10
- English 11
- English 12
- College English

### **Mathematics Requirements**

Students must earn four credits of math, including one during their final year of high school. All students must complete the following courses in the Math Department:

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Algebra 2\*

Students must take one math or math-related course during their senior year. When taken during their senior year, the following courses satisfy this requirement:

F/S/T, Accounting, Personal Finance, Physics\*\*, some Berrien County Career and Technical Education classes, online math or math-related course as approved by the counselor

Modifications can be made to the mathematics requirements through a personal curriculum. See your counselor for further information.

\*Students may be able to fulfill the Algebra 2 requirement through completion of a Berrien County Career and Technical Education program.

\*\*Students may not count Physics as both a science credit and a math-related credit. Students successfully completing Physics as a math-related credit must also successfully complete Chemistry.

## **Science Requirements**

All students must complete three credits of science. This requirement cannot be modified with a Personal Curriculum. Courses that meet the Science requirement includes the following:

- Physical Science
- Biology
- Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, or Forensic Science

Completion of some Berrien County Career and Technical Education courses may also fulfill the third science requirement.

## **Social Studies Requirements**

Students must complete three Social Studies credits, including the following:

- US History (1 credit)
- World History (1 credit)
- Economics (.5 credit)
- Government (.5 credit)

Modifications can be made to the social studies requirements through a personal curriculum. Students may request a modification of one fewer Social Studies credits if he/she takes additional credit(s) beyond the required credit in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, or World Languages, or through completion of some Berrien County Career and Technical Education courses. No modification can be made of the Government requirement.

## **Physical Education Requirements**

Students must complete one credit of Physical Education, including one-half credit of PE and one-half credit of Health. Students may satisfy the their PE portion through participation in school-sanctioned physical activities (see below).

Students may request a personal curriculum to modify this credit if he/she takes an additional credit beyond the required credit in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, or World Languages, or through completion of some Berrien County Career and Technical Education courses.

Acceptable activities meet all of the following criteria:

- Two full seasons with a school-sanctioned sport which requires regular physical activity with a team during regularly-scheduled practices over the course of the established seasons.
- Two full seasons with River Valley High School Marching Band which requires regular physical activity over the course of the marching band season.

Earning PE credit in this alternative way does *not* result in additional transcribed credit. Rather, it allows a student to waive that PE credit to take more elective coursework.

### **Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts Requirement**

All students must complete one credit of a Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts class. Courses available to students at River Valley High School which meet this requirement includes the following:

- Any class in the Art Department
- Any class in the Culinary Arts Department
- Any class in the Music Department
- Creative Writing (high school or college)
- Yearbook

Several Berrien County Career and Technical Education courses will also satisfy the VPAA credit. Students may request a personal curriculum to this requirement by taking an additional credit beyond the graduation requirement in English, Mathematics, Science, or World Languages.

### **World Language Requirement**

Students must complete two credits of the same language in order to meet this requirement (ex: Spanish 1 and Spanish 2). This requirement can be met at River Valley High School in the following ways:

- Taking Spanish 1 and Spanish 2
- Learning beyond the classroom: formal study abroad, college coursework, home or heritage languages, or online courses
- Students in the classes of 2019, 2020, and 2021 may fulfill one credit of this requirement by completing one of several Berrien County Career and Technical Education courses, or by completing an additional Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts credit

This requirement cannot be modified with a Personal Curriculum. Students in the class of 2022 and beyond cannot waive the second credit with a CTE or VPAA class.

### **Additional Personal Curriculum Modifications**

Students with an IEP are eligible for additional modifications through a personal curriculum, as long as the modification aligns with their Education Development Plan, their IEP, and their future career goals. See your counselor for details.

Transfer students who have completed 2 years of high school are eligible for additional modifications. See your counselor for details.