



Serving the communities and students of Brier, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Woodway, and portions of Snohomish County

To the families of 6th Graders,

February 2018

As a member of the graduating class of 2024, your student will be required to earn 24 high school credits in order to graduate.¹ This is a change from the 22 credits that is currently required through the class of 2020. Part of this change includes the requirement that students take three (3) credits of science instead of the two (2) credits now required. A graphic that shows all of the requirements that make up the 24 credits appears on the back of this letter.

As an incoming 7th grader, it is important that your student understands this requirement and what it means for the learning pathway ahead of them. High school students take six (6) classes a year, so over four years, students have 24 credit opportunities. It is important that students and their families select their courses carefully and that students strive to pass all of their courses so that they are able to graduate on time.

One opportunity your student has this coming year is to take high school credit-bearing courses in middle school. The courses available could include Algebra, Geometry, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), and Spanish. French is available at Alderwood Middle School only. For more information, see your school's registration materials or speak to your student's counselor.

A second opportunity for earning high school credit is through world language proficiency testing.² Students who are proficient in a language other than English have the opportunity to earn up to four high school credits by demonstrating their proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in that language. Students need to show their skills in all four categories in order to receive credit. This test is available for students in grades 7-12 and the first test is free for students currently registered in the Edmonds School District. For more information, please visit the district webpage and do a search for "World Language Proficiency Credits".

While not absolutely necessary, earning high school credit in middle school gives your student a head start to reaching 24 credits and could provide a cushion if, for some reason, your student does not earn a credit at some point in high school. We encourage all families to consider these opportunities as their student registers for 7th grade.

Sincerely,

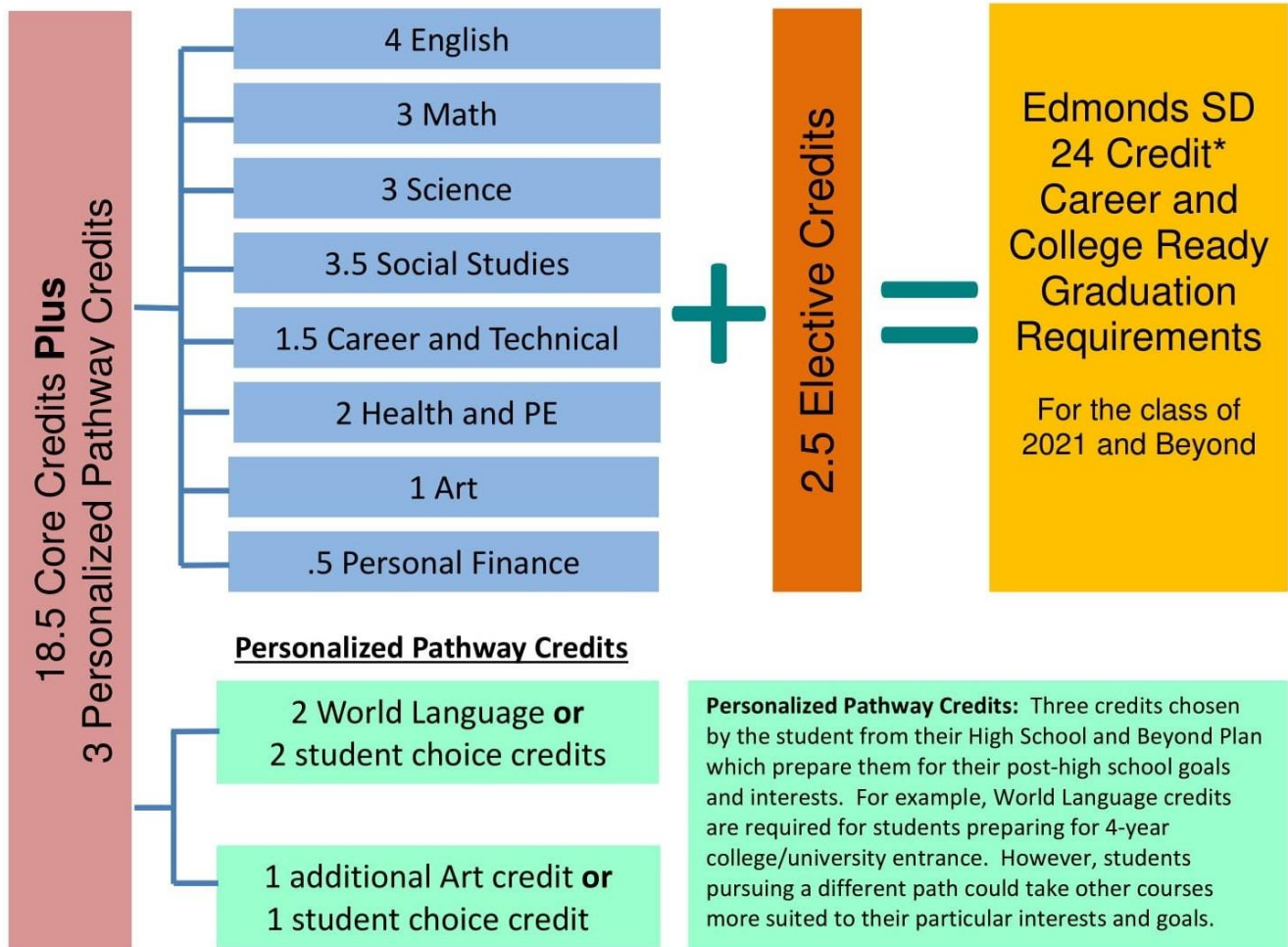
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¹ **Note: WA State's 24 credit requirement does not apply to full International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma candidates at Edmonds-Woodway High School (EWS) as they have their own, unique, graduation requirements. Please contact the IB Coordinator, David Quinn, for your graduation requirements.**

² **World language proficiency testing is not recommended for full IB students, as they must complete world language courses as a part of their IB diploma course series. Please contact the IB Coordinator for more details.**

How do the Edmonds School District 24-Credit Graduation Requirements Add Up?

$$18.5 + 3 + 2.5 = 24$$



Personalized Pathway Credits: Three credits chosen by the student from their High School and Beyond Plan which prepare them for their post-high school goals and interests. For example, World Language credits are required for students preparing for 4-year college/university entrance. However, students pursuing a different path could take other courses more suited to their particular interests and goals.

*For individual students, 2 credits may be waived due to unusual and exceptional circumstances.

Please visit the Washington State Board of Education website for more information about graduation requirements. <http://sbe.wa.gov/graduation.php>

Note: This graphic does not apply to full-IB diploma candidates at EWHS as they have their own, unique, graduation requirements. Please contact the IB Coordinator for your graduation requirements.