**CLASS RANK / GRADE POINT AVERAGE**

Class rank and grade point averages are computed by using unweighted semester grades beginning with 9th grade. Grades in all subjects are included in the computation of the grade point average and rank in class.

**EXAM EXEMPTIONS**

* Final exams are weighted as 20% of the semester grade and will be administered for every course.
* Students must have been enrolled on the first day of a semester in order to exempt any exam for that semester.
* Students must choose only one type of exemption (academic, attendance, OR senior).

**Academic Exemption:**

As a reward for **academic excellence**, students may choose to exempt any two final exams provided that they have grade point averages of 95 or better in the classes to be exempted.

**Attendance Exemption:**

As a reward for **excellent attendance**, students may choose to exempt any one final exam provided all of the following criteria are fulfilled:

* Students must not have been absent from school or have checked in late or signed out early a combined total of more than five times during a semester for any reason (excused or unexcused). The attendance secretary will verify students’ attendance records. Attendance will continue to be recorded and used as criteria for exam exemptions through the first exam day.
* Students must have a semester average of at least 71 in any course they wish to exempt.
* Students must not have been tardy to the class they wish to exempt. Checking in through the attendance office (late to school) is addressed in the maximum 5 attendance occurrences.
* Each day of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) counts against attendance exemption.

**Senior Exemption:**

Seniors may exempt exams in any course provided that they meet the following criteria:

* Students must have averages of 80 or higher in the classes they wish to exempt.
* Students must not have been absent from school, checked in late, or signed out early a combined total of more than five times for any reason (excused or unexcused) or been tardy to the classes they wish to exempt. Checking in through the attendance office (late to school) is addressed in the maximum 5 attendance occurrences.

**State-Mandated EOCT / Advanced Placement Exams:**

Students may not exempt one of the state-mandated End of Course Tests (EOCT); however, the EOCT will serve as a final exam for the course. Students may not exempt a first semester exam in an Advanced Placement course. The Advanced Placement test will serve as a final exam for the course in the second semester.

**EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION (NO PASS – NO PLAY)**

Students are “required to pass classes that carry at least 2.5 Carnegie Units counting toward graduation the semester immediately preceding participation” to be eligible to participate in athletics, clubs, and extracurricular activities. Students should be demonstrating academic success in current coursework to continue participation in extracurricular activities.

**The following guidelines define being on track:**

* 1st year high school student – is eligible 1st semester; must earn 2.5 units 1st semester to be eligible 2nd semester
* 2nd year high school student - must have at least 5 units and have earned 2.5 units in the previous semester
* 3rd year high school student - must have at least 11 units and have earned 2.5 units in the previous semester
* 4th year high school student - must have at least 17 units

Students who are in a 5th year or more are ineligible for all extracurricular athletic activities.

**GIFTED PROGRAM**

Continuation in the Gifted Program in Fayette County requires a student to meet criteria-specific performance requirements in classes for the gifted as evidenced by participation, completion of assignments, and the maintenance of an average of 80 or better in each gifted class and/or a 70 or better in each Advanced Placement class. If a student fails to meet the performance requirements in a gifted class, the student will be placed on gifted probation the following semester for that department’s gifted courses. Failure to meet the performance requirements in the same academic area for two consecutive semesters will result in the student’s being declared ineligible for gifted courses from that department for the entirety of the following semester and placed in a non-gifted core course in the same academic area. The student may regain gifted placement in that department after meeting all continuation requirements. Re-entry may occur only at the beginning of the next 18-week semester. The student is allowed to remain in all other gifted classes as long as all continuation requirements are met.

**GOVERNOR’S HONORS PROGRAM (GHP)**

The Governor’s Honors Program (GHP) is a challenging, academic summer program for high school students. GHP students take courses in specific academic areas, as well as in high interest or elective areas. These courses are taught by master teachers with not only exceptionally strong backgrounds but also wide-ranging interests and interdisciplinary approaches to teaching. The GHP serves rising juniors and seniors statewide who are extremely capable, highly motivated, and firmly committed to particular academic areas. In their search for students who have gone beyond the expected and the required, GHP reviewers assess both past performance and present level of interests.

**GRADE PROGRESSION / GRADING SCALE**

Fayette County high schools are on a semester grading and scheduling system with two 18-week semesters. Each semester grade is final, and students must earn final semester grades of 70 or higher to pass.

**Progression:**

Students earn one half (.5) unit of credit for each semester course that they pass. To be promoted from one grade level to the next, students must earn the following number of units:

9th to 10th 5.5 units

10th to 11th 11.5 units

11th to 12th 17 units

**Scale:**

A (100-90) B (89-80) C (79-71) D (70) F (69-below)

**GRADUATION**

**Requirements to Graduate:** To graduate from a Fayette County school, students must accumulate twenty-three units of credit and pass the Georgia High School Graduation Tests and/or the End of Course Test in English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Credit is given for all classes passed, not just academic classes.

**Graduation Exercise Participation:**

Participation in the graduation ceremonies is a privilege. Students must have completed all state and local requirements for a diploma to be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies. In addition, the student must maintain good conduct and be in good standing with the school by not having any outstanding obligations. Students suspended or expelled through the second semester of the senior year will not be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activities, including the prom, baccalaureate or graduation ceremonies.

**HONOR GRADUATES/JUNIOR MARSHALS**

**Honor Graduates:**

Seniors who have an unweighted grade point average of 90.0 or above as of the end of the first semester.

**Junior Marshals:**

Juniors who have the top twenty unweighted grade point averages at the end of first semester will be invited to serve as Junior Marshals during graduation activities.

**Salutatorian:**

The senior who has earned at least 12 academic units in Fayette County high school and has the second highest unweighted grade point average at the end of the first semester will be awarded salutatorian.

**Valedictorian:**

The senior who has earned at least 12 academic units in a Fayette County high school and has the highest unweighted grade point average at the end of the first semester will be awarded valedictorian.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES**

As a general rule, requests for class schedule changes will only be approved for the following reasons:

* Students have taken the course before and received credit.
* Students have not completed the prerequisite course(s).

**Schedule changes will not be made for the following reasons:**

* Students want different teachers.
* Students do not want to do the work involved in a course.
* Students change their minds about taking the course.
* Students want to change the order of their classes.

**EXAM EXEMPTIONS**

* Final exams are weighted as 20% of the semester grade and will be administered for every course.
* Students must have been enrolled on the first day of a semester in order to exempt any exam for that semester.
* • Students must choose only one type of exemption (academic, attendance, OR senior).