



## **GPA Exempt Course Information**

### **What is a GPA Exempt Course?**

To encourage more students to participate in upper level courses and retain and recruit students with specific interests, MISD will allow students to apply for a GPA exempt grading option.

### **Who can participate?**

Students must be a junior (Gr. 11) or senior (Gr. 12) in order to participate. Additionally, students must be on track to graduate within four years and must have completed all graduation course requirements in the respective area before requesting GPA exempt grading..

### **How are grades handled in a GPA exempt course?**

Students are expected to complete all assignments, tests, and other activities associated with the course. Numeric grades will be calculated and posted on the report card and with a GPA exempt notation on the Academic Achievement Record (transcript). However, these numeric grades will be excluded from the calculation of the GPA & rank.

### **How will grades in a GPA course affect eligibility for extracurricular activities?**

Your grades will be subject to the same UIL eligibility guidelines that affect courses that are calculated in the GPA.

### **How many courses can be taken on a GPA exempt basis?**

Students may utilize the GPA exempt grading option for up to four credits (eight semesters) of eligible courses.

### **Can any course be selected for a GPA exempt grading option?**

No. Only specific courses are offered on a GPA Exempt basis.

### **What classes are available?**

If a student has two or more credits in the following areas, MISD allows juniors and seniors to participate in the **third and fourth year** on a GPA exempt basis:

- Athletics
- Band/Colorguard
- Choir
- Orchestra
- Dance/Drill Team
- Theater/Technical Theater
- Advanced Journalism
- Advanced Audio Video Production
- Debate

- Avid 3 or 4
- Computer Science
- 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> course in sequence as part of the CTE clusters as outlined in the APG

Additionally, student may select from the following CTE courses ONLY if used as an elective credit rather than a Math or Science credit:

- Forensic Science
- Principles of Technology
- Advanced Animal Science
- Engineering Mathematics
- Anatomy & Physiology

**If I am new to MISD can I still participate?**

Visit with you counselor to determine if you meet the appropriate criteria.

**If a student exempts a course during junior year but does not continue in that area in the senior year, can they GPA exemption be removed?**

No. Once a course is approved for a GPA exemption, the decision cannot be changed or reversed.

**What happens if a student drops an exempt course?**

Students are expected to remain in courses taken on a GPA exempt basis. In rare instances, extenuating circumstances may be considered and the student may be allowed to exit. However, the student will not be able to reapply the GPA exemption to a different course.

**Can only one semester of a full year course be designated as GPA exempt?**

No. Both semesters of a full year class must be taken under the same grading option.

**Can I take more than one GPA exemption in the same subject area?**

You may take more than one course in a particular area (such as Choir and Theater) on a GPA exempt basis provided that you have met all graduation requirements in that discipline and you do not exceed the maximum number of allowable exemptions.

**How to Sign Up:**

- 1) Fill out the GPA Exempt Application
- 2) Obtain all signatures
- 3) Turn in to your counselor

**Application Deadline 2014/2015: June 5, 2014**

**Need More Information?**

For additional information refer to the Academic Planning Guide or visit with your campus counselor.