

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPATION**

The number of academic credits a student needs to demonstrate successful completion of graduation requirements depends on several factors including staff expectations, total potential courses available to a student during Fitzgerald enrollment, chosen career path, state mandates, and post-secondary prerequisites. In establishing the minimum number and distribution of necessary credits, the Board of Education provides the standards a student must meet to receive a diploma.

All high school students must attempt all parts of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) State Assessment and ACT Test in order to be eligible for graduation, unless indicated otherwise in an IEP (Individualized Education Program).

### **High School Credit for Courses Taken Prior to Entry in High School**

Students may earn high school credits prior to entering high school as long as the credit(s) being earned follow the high school content expectations for the specific credit. Course letter grades earned will be added to the high school student transcript.

### **Personal Curriculum**

The Board of Education is dedicated to preparing all its students for post secondary education. We recognize students have differing career goals, educational abilities and backgrounds. Therefore, the Board will allow a modification of certain requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum through a Personal Curriculum, as permitted by state law and Michigan Department of Education guidelines.

### **COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPATION FOR THE CLASS OF 2010 AND THEREAFTER:**

Students must complete all of the Board of Education required academic credits for graduation to participate in commencement activities.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

The Board of Education believes that students of Fitzgerald Public Schools are valued resources and positive contributors to our community. We are committed to supporting this belief with a policy that requires our students to extend service to others beyond the high school through community service. These opportunities will allow students to apply what they have learned in the classroom, to increase awareness of career opportunities, and to realize themselves as contributors to society.

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Adopted: May 16, 2002; Revised 6/26/03, 2/10/05, 7/12/07, 5/15/08, 10/5/08, 1/22/09, 07/2009, 05/05/2010, 10/05/2011, 6/28/2012

Each high school student will complete a community service requirement before June 1<sup>st</sup> of their senior year in order to receive a diploma with their peers and participate in the commencement ceremony. That requirement will be 40 hours of service. Service may begin the summer prior to a student's freshmen year. Community/Service Learning hours can be obtained within the community, outside of the school, or within the high school curriculum and student's course work.

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