



Stevens High School Commonly Asked Questions



1. WHAT IS A CREDIT?

A credit is what you earn when you pass a course. You need minimum of 24 credits to graduate from high school, which includes a combination of required and elective classes. A one-credit (1) course meets for the entire school year (two semesters). Examples are math and English. A one-half credit (.5) course meets for half the year (one semester). Examples are World Geography and Biology I.

2. HOW DO I KNOW WHICH CLASSES I NEED TO TAKE?

Consider class choices carefully. Visit with school counselors, teachers, and parents to gather information to make class choices. Take the time to read the Freshmen Academy Guidebook for details about courses and graduation requirements.

3. WILL I AUTOMATICALLY GO TO THE NEXT GRADE IF I FAIL COURSES?

No. Grade level classification is determined by the number of credits earned **NOT** by years of attendance.

4. WHAT HAPPENS IF I FAIL A COURSE?

Beginning in ninth grade, students EARN credits toward graduation. You must pass courses to earn credit. If you fail a course, you will have to re-take required courses, or take another course to replace the credit you lost through failure. Summer school is an option to earn lost credits. It is important to remember that your high school career begins the minute you enter Stevens High School in the fall.

5. HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE?

Students in grades 9, 10 and 11 are required to enroll in a minimum of six (6) courses per semester. The student's typical academic performance and participation in extracurricular activities in and outside of the high school should be considered when determining academic load. Classes may be cancelled for the following reasons: low enrollment, registration number exceeds class capacity, and program cuts.

6. HOW DO I KNOW THE CORRECT ENGLISH OR MATH CLASS TO REGISTER FOR?

Consult with your current English and math teachers to select the appropriate English and math class.

7. WHAT IS THE HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER (ARC)?

Students may be assigned to the ARC per parent, teacher or counselor. Students enrolled in ARC do NOT earn credit. The ARC staff can help students review for tests, gain additional explanation, practice, or otherwise help students be more successful with their courses. Students may also walk in for additional help with their classes.

8. WHAT ARE THE ELGIBILIY REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTIVITIES?

- Freshmen are eligible to participate in all fall activities. To remain eligible second semester, participants must pass at least four classes first semester.
- To participate in athletics, students are required to obtain a physical after June 1 of the upcoming school year and prior to the first day of practice. In addition, parents will need to complete the Parent Consent Form on Skyward.

9. WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE OFFERED?

Go to Stevensraiders.com to view a full listing of extracurricular activities, athletics, and social clubs and contact information.

10. WHEN WILL MY SCHEDULE BE COMPLETE?

Your schedule will be complete when you come to pick it up during picture/ID days the middle of August. It will be available on Family Access prior to the first day of school.

11. WHAT IS XELLO.WORLD?

SDMyLife powered by Xello is a resource for students to complete their academic and career planning. This resource helps students become prepared for life after high school. The goal is to help students understand how their interests, skills, and knowledge relate to real-world academic and career opportunities. The South Dakota Department of Education requires students, as a graduation requirement, to complete a career interest assessment (Matchmaker), career aptitude assessment (Skills Lab), and a course planner. To find out more information, log onto sdmylife.com or contact your middle school counselor.

12. WHAT IS AN ACADEMY

An Academy is a small learning community that includes career-connected learning and provides students with increased personalized attention. All RCAS students will select one of three Academies and in total need 3.5 credits of required academy learning. These Academies equip our students with the knowledge and skills they need to explore career options throughout each level of school. This approach will help students develop a plan that leads graduates to a successful transition beyond high school including postsecondary education and training, careers, and life responsibilities.

Required RCAS Academies Credits (3.5 credits total)

- Freshman Seminar (.5 credits)
- Credits from Chosen Academy including an Academy Introductory Course and Pathway Foundational Course (2 credits)
- GRADtime (1 credit)

13. WHAT IS CLOSED CAMPUS AND HOW DOES THIS IMPACT LUNCH?

Ninth grade students may not leave campus or be in the parking lots until after their last class. The Rapid City Area School District has a closed lunch/campus policy for 9th grade. Students who leave during lunch will receive consequences.

GRADE LEVEL CLASSIFICATION	
FRESHMAN	less than 5 credits
SOPHOMORE	min 5 credits and is enrolled in second year of high school, whose high school class is within three years of graduating
JUNIOR	min 11 credits and is enrolled in third year of high school, whose high school class is within two years of graduating
SENIOR	min 16 credits and is enrolled in fourth year of high school, whose high school class is within one year of graduating