

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### ADVANCED REGENTS DIPLOMA

#### Credits Required:

22 units of credit distributed as follows: 4 ELA, 4 social studies, 3 science, 3 mathematics, ½ health, 1 arts, 1 language other than English (LOTE), 2 physical education, 3 ½ electives. In addition, a student must earn an additional 2 units of credit in LOTE or a 5-unit sequence in the Arts or CTE. These credits can be included in the 22 required credits.

#### Assessments Required:

Students may meet the assessment requirements in order to earn a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation by passing any one of the following combinations or Regents examinations and/or Department approved alternatives<sup>3</sup> if applicable:

- a. **Traditional Combination:** ELA, Global History and Geography, US History and Government, 3 mathematics, 2 science, (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science) = 8 assessments
- b. **Pathway<sup>4</sup> Combination (other than STEM):** ELA, 1 social studies, 3 mathematics, 2 science (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science), 1 Pathway (other than science or mathematics) or complete the requirements for the CDOS Commencement Credential = 7 or 8 assessments
- c. **STEM (Mathematics) Pathway<sup>4</sup> Combination:** ELA, 1 social studies, 4 mathematics, 2 science (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science) = 8 assessments
- d. **STEM (Science) Pathway<sup>4</sup> Combination:** ELA, 1 social studies, 3 mathematics, 3 science (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science) = 8 assessments

In addition, a student must pass either a locally developed Checkpoint B (Language) examination or complete a 5-unit sequence in the Arts or CTE.

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreq/nitro.html>

### ADVANCED REGENTS DIPLOMA WITH HONORS

Students may earn an "Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors" by meeting all assessment requirements for the Regents diploma with advanced designation with a computed average score of **90 or better** (no more than 2 Department approved alternatives may be substituted and will not count in the computed average. **Note:** The locally developed Checkpoint B Language examination is not included in the computed average. <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreq/intro.html>)

### ADVANCED REGENTS DIPLOMA WITH MASTERY IN MATHEMATICS AND/OR SCIENCE

Students who first enter grade nine in September 2009 and thereafter who complete all course work and testing requirements for the Regents diploma with advanced designation in mathematics and/or science, and who pass, with a score of **85 or better**, three commencement level Regents examinations in mathematics and/or three commencement level Regents examinations in science, will earn a Regents diploma with advanced designation, with an annotation on the diploma that denotes mastery in mathematics and/or science, as applicable.

## ADVANCED REGENTS DIPLOMA AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA

In addition to the Advanced Regents Diploma, students may earn an International Baccalaureate Diploma by completing the requirements listed under the International Baccalaureate section of this guide.

## REGENTS DIPLOMA

### Credits Required:

22 units of credit distributed as follows: 4 ELA, 4 social studies<sup>1</sup>, 3 science, 3 mathematics, ½ health, 1 arts<sup>2</sup>, 1 language other than English (LOTE), 2 physical education, 3 ½ electives.

### Assessments Required:

5 required Regents exams<sup>3</sup> with a score of 65 or better as follows: 1 math, 1 science, 1 social studies, ELA and 1 Pathway Assessment<sup>4</sup> or complete the requirements for the CDOS Credential. <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreg/into.html>

## REGENTS DIPLOMA WITH HONORS

Students may earn a "Regents Diploma with Honors" by passing 5 required Regents exams<sup>3</sup> with a computed average score of **90 or better** as follows: 1 math, 1 science, 1 social studies, ELA and 1 Pathway Assessment<sup>4</sup> (no more than 2 Department approved alternatives may be substituted and will not count in the computed average). <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreg/into.html>

## REGENTS DIPLOMA AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA

In addition to the Regents Diploma, students may earn an International Baccalaureate Diploma by completing the requirements listed under the International Baccalaureate section of this guide.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOOTNOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Minimum four credits required including 2 units in Global History and Geography, 1 unit in U.S. History and Government, ½ unit in Participation in Government, and ½ unit in Economics. IB History Part II (20<sup>th</sup> Century IB) fulfills Participation in Government and Economics requirements.

<sup>2</sup> To satisfy the Arts requirements, students must earn one credit through one of the following options:

- Art (Studio A plus an additional Art Course – See Art Department offerings)
- PLTW – DDP Design and Drawing for Production
- Chorus
- Orchestra
- Band
- Comprehensive Music Theory

<sup>3</sup> In all cases students may substitute an assessment from the list of Department Approved Alternative Examinations Acceptable for Meeting Requirements for a Local or Regents Diploma found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgn/archive/list.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> **Pathway Assessment Options:** A student must either complete all the requirements for the CDOS Commencement Credential at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/multiple-pathways/memos/cdos-graduation-pathway-option.html>; or

- Pass an additional math Regents exam in a different course or Department Approved Alternative; or
- Pass an additional science Regents exam in a different course or Department Approved Alternative; or
- Pass an additional social studies Regents exam in a different course or Department Approved Alternative; or

- Pass an additional English assessment in a different course selected from the Department Approved Alternative list; or
- Pass a Department approved CTE pathway assessment, following successful completion of an approved CTE program; or
- Pass a Department approved pathway assessment in the Arts; or
- Pass a Department approved pathway assessment in a Language Other Than English (LOTE)

See Multiple Pathways at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/multiple-pathways/>

See Department Approved Alternatives at <http://www.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgen/archive/list.pdf>

Due to the cancellation of Regents exams during the COVID pandemic, those students who received an exemption for a Regents exam should view the Frequently Asked Questions Related to the June 2021 and August 2021 Exemptions from Diploma Requirements: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgen/2021/faq-june-august-2021-assessments.pdf>

## **ACADEMIC AND COUNSELING CENTER INFORMATION GRADUATION & TRANSCRIPTS**

A student may not attend graduation unless all requirements are completed by the day of graduation. Students who plan an early graduation must meet with their counselor before the completion of scheduling. It is necessary to make early plans to ensure the availability of subjects needed to meet the diploma requirements. Arrangements must be complete before the start of the senior year.

### **ACADEMIC STANDING, ACADEMIC LEADER AND HONORED SPEAKER SELECTION**

#### **Academic Standing/Cohort Group Determination**

Commack High School will not rank seniors. In place of traditional ranking, weighted grade point averages will be calculated for each student three times during the senior year: September, after the first semester, and in June. These grade point averages (GPA) will then be recorded on student transcripts. Final course grades in Physical Education classes will not be included in a student's final GPA. Also located on senior transcripts will be a Cohort/Grade Conversion Table (see sample in Curriculum Guide). The cohort group, in combination with a student's weighted grade point average, will permit colleges to determine where an applicant stands relative to his/her classmates. Academic standing will be demonstrated without displacing other students who are achieving at approximately the same level.

#### **Determination of Academic Leaders (Graduation Speakers)**

At the end of seven semesters, the grade point averages for the top ten seniors will be calculated and from this group two Academic Leaders will be selected to speak at graduation. The selection of the academic leaders will be made by the Academic Leader/Honored Speaker Selection Committee. Members of the selection committee will include: Principal, Assistant Principal, Administrative Dean, Director of Guidance, National Honor Society Advisor(s), and Senior Class Advisor(s). In determining the Academic Leader, the following criteria will be adhered to by the committee: Academic record (weighted grade point average and course work); Extra-curricular activities; Honor Society Standing (students dismissed or on probation are disqualified); Community Service; Disciplinary Record (students violating academic integrity are automatically disqualified); Attendance Record; Enrollment History (transfer students must have four or more full semesters to be considered for selection as an Academic Leader). Once the two Academic Leaders are selected, the one with the higher GPA will attend the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association Valedictorian Luncheon.

#### **Selection of Honored Speakers**

Students in the top cohort will be eligible to speak at a variety of functions with the exception of those students who are disqualified in the above section. The selection of honored speakers will be made by the Academic Leader/Honored Speaker Selection Committee.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Higher education is very expensive, but students who have maintained good records in high school are often able to defray the cost of a college education through scholarship aid. Competition is keen and a student must begin to plan early to be considered for scholarship aid. It is not necessary to be the top-ranking student, but it is necessary to have a good four-year record in all subjects. Scholarship Bulletins are posted regularly outside the Counseling Center, on the Counseling Center website. Any scholarships requiring official school records must be processed through the Counseling Center.

### **COLLEGE CREDITS EARNED THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL COURSES**

Commack High School affords qualified high school students an opportunity to take college courses and earn college credits while learning in the high school environment through eight (8) universities: Adelphi University, Long Island University, North Dakota State University, Rochester Institute of

Technology, St. John's University, SUNY at Stony Brook, Suffolk Community College and Syracuse University. All courses offered by the post-secondary institutions listed above carry credit which may be applicable toward a degree at other colleges and universities. Applications, with registration instructions, will be distributed through the Counseling Center or the classroom teachers in September and January. Each institution has specific eligibility requirements and registration procedures that must be followed to ensure proper registration and receipt of course credit. Please note that the tuition fees listed in the Curriculum Guide are for the current school year and are subject to increase yearly. In the event that a student chooses to withdraw from a course, they must follow the deadlines and withdrawal procedures established by the credit granting institution. Please realize that there will be no financial reimbursement by the college or university if this occurs. To receive college credit for co-enrolled classes taken at Commack High School, students must request transcripts directly from the Registrar's Office of the college or university granting credit. Please see the Commack High School Curriculum Guide for more detailed information.

### PROGRAM LEVELS

#### REGENTS

Designed to meet the needs of those students who can follow the regular New York State Education Department Syllabus, the Regents Program offers a Regents examination at the completion of specific courses.

#### ENRICHED/AP/IB

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

With the above in mind, Commack High School has designed a curriculum that meets the needs of all students including those that will enable all students to pursue subjects at an accelerated rate and enriched depth.

The District recognizes the importance of these academic challenges for all students. They also recognize that some students will benefit from educational experiences beyond the high school level and receive appropriate credit (college) for their efforts. The District will also support the development of enriched courses that will assist all students to be successful in upper level courses.

***Any student who demonstrates the willingness to succeed in the enriched curriculum should be given an opportunity to participate in the program.***

#### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Advanced Placement courses offer students an opportunity to take a course taught on a college level. Both enrichment and college credit are available to the dedicated student. Intensive classroom work, independent study, and research are an integral part of the program. The cost of taking AP Examinations is absorbed by the student. The examination is administered by the College Entrance Examination Board and a five-point college-level scale is used. According to the College Board,

currently more than 90% of colleges and universities offer college credit, advanced placement, or both, for qualifying AP scores. AP Examinations must be taken to receive the 10 percent weighting for grade point average and determining cohort group purposes, and to receive AP credit. A student enrolled in an AP course may, at mid-year, declare if they wish to take the AP exam. If they choose not to take this exam, the designation of the course will be changed to Honors, as per College Board Policy, and their grade will receive a 6% weighting.

### **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB)**

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program is an internationally recognized curriculum that offers 11th and 12th grade students the opportunity to earn an IB Diploma. The program is offered in over 5,400 schools in 158 different countries worldwide as of February 2021.

The IB Program:

- Is an academically challenging and balanced two-year program with assessments and examinations that promote college and career readiness.
- Aims to teach students to become independent learners who can recognize the connection between what they learn in school and the world outside.
- Teaches students to combine relevant knowledge, experience, and critical thinking to solve problems.
- Continues to gain recognition and respect from the world's leading universities.

The IB Diploma Program is an inclusive rather than exclusive program of study. Students should, above all, be highly motivated learners because IB courses offer a high degree of challenge. The prospective IB student should also develop analytical and critical thinking skills, possess or be willing to learn necessary time management skills, be open to new ideas and cultures and be tolerant of different beliefs. The IB student must be willing to participate in school and community activities, be able to develop and use information effectively, and, above all, be willing to handle the rigor and pace of a demanding academic curriculum.

To earn the IB Diploma, students must:

- Complete coursework and assessments in six IB subjects.
- Write an Extended Essay (EE) of independent research on a topic chosen by the student and guided by a faculty mentor.
- Complete 10 reflections with evidence demonstrating their Creativity, Activity, and Service activities (CAS) and uploaded to ManageBac.
- Participate in a critical thinking course called Theory of Knowledge (TOK).

Students will receive 10 percent weighting and IB credit if they take the IB assessment. If a student does not register for the IB subject assessment and/or does not take the IB assessment, then a 6 percent weighting is applied. Students who take IB courses without completing the Diploma program may earn IB certificates by testing in selected IB courses.