

2019-2020 MCPS High School Exam Exemptions

As decided by the Curriculum & Instruction Department in consultation with high school principals, the following will be the district's position regarding exam exemptions. The Assistant Superintendent of Instruction has the discretion to uphold or reverse this decision from year-to-year as necessary. (7.3.2019)

For quarter long classes, students will take a midterm at the end of each quarter, and there will be no midterm exemptions.

For semester long classes, midterms will be given at the end of Q1 and Q3. There will be no exemptions for midterms. Semester exams will be given at the end of Q2 and Q4.

Students who meet the criteria for discipline, attendance, and semester averages listed below may be exempt from semester exams.

- No In-school or Out-of-school suspensions for the semester
- Satisfactory semester attendance requirements are as follows:
 - A semester average—no more than 4 absences (excused/unexcused)
 - B semester average—no more than 3 absences (excused/unexcused)
 - C semester average—no more than 2 absences (excused/unexcused)
 - D semester average—no more than 1 absence (excused/unexcused)
- Students who are tardy to school/class seven or more times will not be exempt from exams.

To be exempt from semester exams, the number of absences (excused/unexcused) will be counted for each semester. Averages for semester exam exemptions will be the semester average of Q1 and Q2, and it will be calculated no more than two days before the semester exam is to be given.

Students enrolled in classes that require an End of Course Exam, but who **do not** meet the requirements for semester exam exemptions, will take a chapter test, a unit test, or complete a project for their semester exam grade.

Schools offering AP courses may exempt students who choose to take the AP exam from semester exams. Students enrolled in AP classes and who choose to take the AP exam, but who **do not** meet the requirements for semester exam exemptions, will take a chapter test, a unit test, or complete a project for their semester exam grade.

Students **will not** be allowed to take midterms or exams early. If a midterm or semester exam is missed, the student will have one week to make it up at the beginning of the following quarter or semester, which ever applies. If a student fails to make up the midterm/semester exam, after the one-week period, a 0 will be assigned.

Midterms and semester exams should count 15%. Teachers should set up midterms and semester exams as an assignment type or category within their gradebooks, and teachers will enter the midterm and semester exam grades for their own classes.

There are no exemptions for the following assessments:

- State End of Course Exams
- District Financial Literacy Test
- Civics Exam for graduation requirement
- ACT in 11th grade year