

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

There are two graduation requirements depending on the year your student enters TPCA. See the tables below.

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION**

#### **Graduation Requirements For Students Entering:**

9<sup>th</sup> Grade in 2017

9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> Grades in 2018

9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> Grades in 2019

9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> Grades in 2020 and beyond

Minimum requirements for graduation from high school at Twin Peaks include the following:

1. A minimum of 26.5 credits in grades 9-12, including completion of subject area requirements are required for a diploma. A minimum of 12 units of credits must be earned in grades 11-12, unless the student qualifies for early graduation.
2. Eight semesters of attendance beyond the eighth grade, unless the student qualifies for early graduation. (See below.)

A student's normal semester load will be considered to be 3.0 to 4.0 credits, with a maximum of 4.0 credits per semester permissible without prior approval of the high school Principal's or designee's approval.

Early graduation is allowed at the end of the seventh semester, provided all requirements for graduation have been met. Early graduation before the end of the seventh semester must be reviewed and approved by the high school principal or designee.

Students who complete their work at midyear and are eligible to graduate shall receive their diploma at the end of the school year and may return to take part in the graduation exercises at that time.

Transfer students will be required to carry a normal load for the grade level attained at the time of transfer into Twin Peaks, and will be held responsible for Twin Peak's requirements while enrolled as a Twin Peaks student. For transfer students with deficiencies for graduating in 4 years, the high school principal or designee can consider extenuating circumstances in waiving Twin Peak's graduation requirements. Those students, at a minimum, must still meet St. Vrain Valley School District graduation requirements. Students may appeal decisions by the high school principal per Twin Peak's Grievance Policy. Coursework completed outside the District will be evaluated for credit and for graduation requirements. In addition, at least two semesters of attendance in St Vrain Valley School District high schools shall be required to meet District

graduation requirements.

The Principal shall determine whether credit toward graduation requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside TPCA. This may include home study, non-accredited private schools, or online schools.

## **DIPLOMA SUBJECT AREA REQUIREMENTS**

A student must have met the following minimum requirements in grades 9 through 12 including 50% of core classes taken as honor classes for each subject strand (English, Social Studies, Math and Science) and have met the service learning requirements.

### **ENGLISH:**

Completed 4.5 credits of English, selected from courses such as: Classic Literature, British literature, American literature (each with an honors option), AP Language and Composition, 20<sup>th</sup> Century literature and Rhetoric. Each literature course features a selection of traditional and modern classics, and a balance of critical reading, analysis, and written and oral communication skills.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES:**

Completed 4.5 credits of History and Geography, selected from courses such as: Western Civilizations I, Western Civilizations 2, Civics, Human Geography, AP U.S. Government, AP Human Geography, U.S. History, AP U.S. History, AP World History, AP European History. In addition, students may choose to take elective social studies courses, such as World Religions or Economics.

### **MATHEMATICS:**

Completed 4 credits of mathematics, selected from courses such as Algebra, Geometry (with formal proofs), Algebra II/Trigonometry, Pre-calculus, (each with an honors option), Math Topics, College Algebra, AP Statistics/Formal Logic, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, and Calculus III with Differential Equations.

### **MATHEMATICS:**

Completed 3 credits of mathematics from the courses listed above.

### **SCIENCE:**

Completed 3 credits of laboratory science, selected from courses such as: Biology, Chemistry, Physics (each with an honors option), Anatomy and Physiology, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, and AP Physics. A 4th year of science is required by many engineering schools and is strongly recommended for students contemplating a college major in science, math, or the social sciences.

**WORLD LANGUAGE:**

Completed 3 credits of a world language or through level 4 in a single world language. Language offerings may include: Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, Spanish 4 (with an honors option), AP Spanish language, AP Spanish literature, French 1, French 2, French 3, French 4, AP French Language and Culture. Additional similar courses may be added in the future and may include Latin or French. All courses include listening, reading, writing and speaking skills.

**WORLD LANGUAGE:**

Completed 3 credits of world language or through level 4 in a single world language or 2 years of one language and one year of a second language. (*Students are cautioned that 3 years of a single language are preferred by competitive colleges and universities.*)

**OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:**

In addition to their core courses, students must pass a half-credit health course, a half-credit research and information technology course or digital art course, one credit of physical education, and 2 credits of the arts for honors diploma (*one credit for the classical diploma*). Participation in CHSAA-sanctioned athletics may earn 0.25 credits per semester of the 1 physical education credit required for graduation (see policy T-IKF-R). These physical education credits may be earned when participation in a formal athletic program has been pre-approved and sufficient documentation is submitted.

Graduation with Distinction per TPCA Policy T-IKA-R2

**ELECTIVES:**

In order to earn enough credits to graduate, students may choose from a variety of electives, including courses such as orchestra, band, choir, theater, journalism, forensics, various studio art classes, world religions, and economics. Twin Peaks Charter High School periodically develops new elective classes that are specifically based on student interest.

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>HONORS DIPLOMA</b>
Literature/English/Rhetoric	4.5
Social Studies/History/Am Gov	4.5
Math	4
Science	3
Fine Arts	2
Practical Arts	0.5
Physical Education	1
World Language	3 (or Level 4)
Personal Finance	0.5
Health	0.5
Other Electives	3
<b>Total Graduation</b>	<b>26.5</b>

Table 1 Summary of TPCA HS Graduation Requirements

**SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS**

Students must demonstrate college and/or career readiness in English and Math based upon at least one measure listed in the St. Vrain Valley Schools' Menu of College and Career-Ready Demonstrations:

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>English Minimum Score</b>	<b>Math Minimum Score</b>
<b>ACCUPLACER</b>	<i>62 on Reading Comprehension</i>	<i>61 on Elementary Algebra</i>
<b>ACT</b>	<i>18 on ACT English</i>	<i>19 on ACT Math</i>
<b>ACT Compass</b>	79	63
<b>Advanced Placement</b>	2	2
<b>Concurrent Enrollment</b>	<i>Passing grade per district and higher education policy</i>	<i>Passing grade per district and higher education policy</i>
<b>SAT</b>	430	460

**SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF AN INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN (ICAP)**

An Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) is a multi-year plan that intentionally guides students and families in the exploration of career, academic and postsecondary pathways.

Beginning at the elementary and middle school levels, students will explore and participate in the ICAP process in preparation for high school.

In ninth grade, students will develop and maintain an ICAP throughout high school. Student ICAPs will assist the student and student's parent/guardian with meaningful planning for career and postsecondary success.

The following quality indicators will assist students in exploring successful completion of their ICAP: Self-Awareness, Career Awareness, Postsecondary Aspirations and Options, Environmental Expectations, Academic Planning, Employability Skills and Financial Literacy.

For students who are receiving special education support and services, collaboration will occur between the IEP team and the school to determine if a student will have an ICAP File: IKF 8 of 9 and an IEP Transition Plan or only an IEP Transition Plan to meet graduation requirements.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

### Existing (Grandfathered) Graduation Requirements For Students Entering:

9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> Grades in 2016  
10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> Grades in 2017  
11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> Grades in 2018  
12<sup>th</sup> Grades in 2019

Minimum requirements for graduation from high school at Twin Peaks include the following:

1. A minimum of 24 credits in grades 9-12, including completion of subject area requirements. A minimum of 10 units of credits must be earned in grades 11-12, unless the student qualifies for early graduation. Twenty-four (24) credits are required for a "Classic" diploma; Twenty-five (25) credits are required for an "Honors" diploma.
2. Eight semesters of attendance beyond the eighth grade, unless the student qualifies for early graduation. (See below.)

A student's normal semester load will be considered to be 2.5 to 3.0 credits, with a maximum of 3.5 credits per semester permissible without prior approval of the high school Principal's or designee's approval.

Early graduation is allowed at the end of the seventh semester, provided all requirements for graduation have been met. Early graduation before the end of the seventh semester must be reviewed and approved by the high school principal or designee.

Students who complete their work at midyear and are eligible to graduate shall receive their diploma at the end of the school year and may return to take part in the graduation exercises at that time.

Transfer students will be required to carry a normal load for the grade level attained at the time of transfer into Twin Peaks, and will be held responsible for Twin Peak's requirements while enrolled as a Twin Peaks student. For transfer students with deficiencies for graduating in 4 years, the high school principal or designee can consider extenuating circumstances in waiving Twin Peak's graduation requirements. Those students, at a minimum, must still meet St. Vrain Valley School District graduation requirements. Students may appeal decisions by the high school principal per Twin Peak's Grievance Policy. Coursework completed outside the District will be evaluated for credit and for graduation requirements. In addition, at least two semesters of attendance in St Vrain Valley School District high schools shall be required to meet District graduation requirements.

## **DIPLOMA SUBJECT AREA REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible for the Honors high school diploma, a student must have met the following minimum requirements in grades 9 through 12 including 50% of core classes taken as honor classes for each subject strand (English, Social Studies, Math and Science) and have met the service learning requirements.

### **ENGLISH: (Honors and Classical)**

Completed 4.5 credits of English, selected from courses such as: Classic Literature, British literature, American literature (each with an honors option), AP Language and Composition, 20<sup>th</sup> Century literature and Rhetoric. Each literature course features a selection of traditional and modern classics, and a balance of critical reading, analysis, and written and oral communication skills.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES: (Honors and Classical)**

Completed 4.5 credits of History and Geography, selected from courses such as: Western Civilizations I, Western Civilizations 2, Civics, Human Geography, AP U.S. Government, AP Human Geography, U.S. History, AP U.S. History, AP World History, AP European History. In addition, students may choose to take elective social studies courses, such as World Religions or Economics.

### **MATHEMATICS: (Honors)**

Completed 4 credits of mathematics, selected from courses such as Algebra, Geometry (with formal proofs), Algebra II/Trigonometry, Pre-calculus, (each with an honors option), Math Topics, College Algebra, AP Statistics/Formal Logic, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, and Calculus III with Differential Equations.

### **MATHEMATICS: (Classical)**

Completed 3 credits of mathematics from the courses listed above.

### **SCIENCE: (Honors and Classical)**

Completed 3 credits of laboratory science, selected from courses such as: Biology, Chemistry, Physics (each with an honors option), Anatomy and Physiology, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, and AP Physics. A 4th year of science is required by many engineering schools and is strongly recommended for students contemplating a college major in science, math, or the social sciences.

### **WORLD LANGUAGE: (Honors)**

Completed 3 credits of a world language or through level 4 in a single world language. Language offerings may include: Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, Spanish 4 (with an honors option), AP Spanish language, AP Spanish literature, French 1, French 2, French 3, French 4, AP French Language and Culture. Additional similar courses may be added in the future and may include Latin or French. All courses include listening, reading,

writing and speaking skills.

**WORLD LANGUAGE: (Classical)**

Completed 3 credits of world language or through level 4 in a single world language or 2 years of one language and one year of a second language. (*Students are cautioned that 3 years of a single language are preferred by competitive colleges and universities.*)

**OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:**

In addition to their core courses, students must pass a half-credit health course, a half-credit research and information technology course or digital art course, one credit of physical education, and 2 credits of the arts for honors diploma (*one credit for the classical diploma*). Participation in CHSAA-sanctioned athletics may earn 0.25 credits per semester of the 1 physical education credit required for graduation (see policy T-IKF-R). These physical education credits may be earned when participation in a formal athletic program has been pre-approved and sufficient documentation is submitted.

Graduation with Distinction per TPCA Policy T-IKA-R2

**ELECTIVES:**

In order to earn enough credits to graduate, students may choose from a variety of electives, including courses such as orchestra, band, choir, theater, journalism, forensics, various studio art classes, world religions, and economics. Twin Peaks Charter High School periodically develops new elective classes that are specifically based on student interest.

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CLASSICAL DIPLOMA</b>	<b>HONORS DIPLOMA</b>
Literature/English/Rhetoric	4.5	4.5
Social Studies/History/Am Gov	4.5	4.5
Math	3	4
Science	3	3
Fine Arts	1	2
Practical Arts	0.5	0.5
Physical Education	1	1
World Language	3 (or Level 4)	3 (or Level 4)
Health	0.5	0.5
Other Electives	3	2
<b>Total Graduation</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>

Table 1 Summary of TPCA HS Graduation Requirements

**SERVICE LEARNING:**

A minimum of one hundred or more hours of volunteer service learning are required for high school graduation. In rare circumstances (such as prolonged illness) exceptions to

these credit requirements may be made by the high school principal or designee when such action is deemed in the best interest of the student and the school. Students may appeal decisions by the high school principal to the Executive Principal per Twin Peak's Grievance Policy. Transfer students volunteer service requirements will prorated at the time of enrollment

#### REQUIREMENTS AS APPLIED TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

To be eligible for a high school diploma, identified students with disabilities must meet objectives, appropriate for them, as determined by the Staffing/Individual Education Program (IEP) Committee. The IEP goals and objectives will reflect adaptations of the regular curriculum. To help prepare its special education students for college, Twin Peaks modifies graduation requirements as appropriate through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process.

#### NON-IMMIGRANT FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS (J-1):

The non-immigrant foreign exchange program student (J-1) will not graduate from Twin Peaks Charter Academy high school and will not participate in graduation ceremonies.

Adopted: January 16, 2013

Revised: May 4, 2017