



MINOOKA

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

District #111 mchs.net

*Mission: Strengthen **M**astery, **C**ollaboration, **H**igh Expectations, and **S**uccess for All Students.*

To: Dr. Robert Schiffbauer, Board of Education

From: Dr. Phil Pakowski

Date: December 17, 2025

Subject: December Board Report

2026-2027 Course Recommendations

Counselors have been meeting with our 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students to discuss courses for next school year. Juniors were the first to choose their courses during the last two weeks in November. Sophomores and Freshmen will begin selecting courses when we return from winter break. Our feeder schools, Troy Middle School, Channahon Jr. High, Minooka Jr. High, as well as local private schools have begun reviewing high school course recommendations for current 8th grade students. Those recommendations will be completed prior to winter break to allow for incoming student schedules to be created prior to Incoming Freshman Night in January.

Dual Credit Testing

While our students are choosing courses for next year, many of our Dual Credit courses require placement testing to take the course. This year MCHS will be working with JJC's testing services to pilot placement testing with MCHS staff and JJC staff. This will allow more students to take placement tests at MCHS as opposed to traveling to JJC to complete testing. We will have two dates for placement testing in January. One date at Central Campus and one date at South Campus. Counselors have done a wonderful job communicating with students and families about the testing requirements for dual credit courses.

End of Semester One and Final Exams

Staff began preparing and revising final exams during the November early release date. This allows teachers to adjust timelines for finishing content, develop review materials, and create opportunities for students to successfully prepare for the end of the first semester. Several opportunities, including Finals Review Night, will be available for students to prepare for assessments, which will be given on December 17th-19th. A special thank you to Jamie Soliman, Matt Wikoff, Kevin Murphy, and Aubrey Knight for their communication with staff, students, and parents making sure everyone has the necessary information to finish the semester successfully.