

Milestones For College & Career Readiness

As students move through their K-12 academic careers, they strive for and reach a number of key milestones. The Mequon-Thiensville School District has determined seven milestones that benchmark our students to be college and career ready. MTSD's *Seven Milestones for College and Career Readiness* include measurable outcomes that allow us to monitor student progress in preparing for life after graduation.

College and career readiness means a high school student has the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in post-secondary education or job training. Each milestone is rigorous, encouraging our students to develop higher-level thinking and problem-solving skills required to meet the challenges of a changing global environment.

They include:

- 1. Reading to instructional level (K – 2nd grade)** – The instructional level is the ability at which the student can read without additional support i.e., challenging but manageable text for the reader. This milestone gives students the foundation they will need for all subsequent learning.
- 2. Reading scores (3rd – 8th grade)** – Students who score above the 50th percentile at grade level on Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) tests demonstrate reading skills that ensure college and career readiness.
- 3. Math scores (3rd – 8th grade)** – Students who score above the 50th percentile at grade level on Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) tests demonstrate math skills that ensure college and career readiness.
- 4. ACT Early High School college readiness scores (8th grade)** – The ACT Early High School Exam is part of the ACT series of assessments, designed to assess college readiness. Students who meet the ACT Benchmarks associated with this exam have a high probability for success on college credit-bearing courses.
- 5. Algebra 2 Success** – Students who complete Algebra 2 by the end of 11th grade with a “C” or higher will perform better on college entrance exams. Additionally, they are less likely to be required to take remedial math courses in college.
- 6. Advanced Placement and Dual Credit opportunities** – Students who take Advanced Placement (AP) exams and college equivalent courses perform better in college. Homestead High School offers 22 Advanced Placement courses and partners with five area colleges and universities to offer dual credit options to students.
- 7. ACT college readiness scores** – All MTSD students take the ACT Early High School tests in preparation for the ACT. ACT benchmarks are reported in English, math, reading, and science. Students who meet those benchmark scores are less likely to have to take college remedial courses.

Strengths for College

Colleges and universities consider several factors in the admission decision. The Mequon-Thiensville School District works closely with college admission counselors to ensure we are giving our students an advantage.

Some of the key factors include the following:

- Involvement in a variety of diverse activities, demonstrating commitment and initiative
- Special talents or experiences that will contribute to an interesting and well-rounded student body
- Demonstrated leadership in activities. Colleges want students who are prepared and willing to take leadership of student activities and events
- Demonstrated intellectual curiosity through high school course selection, outside activities and interest