

## Graduation Requirements

### 23 credits to graduate.

English – Four credits

Social Studies – Three credits. Must take US History, Government and Personal Economics (AP Macroeconomics will fulfill the Personal Economics requirement)

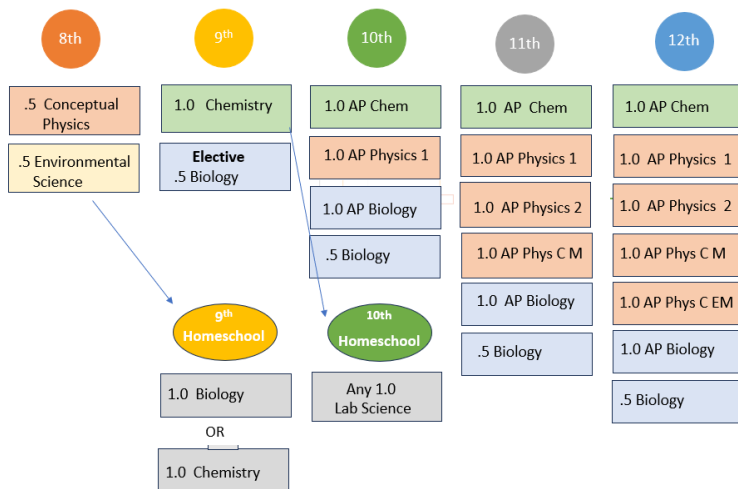
Math – Three credits

Science – Three credits

PE – One credit, scheduled for 1 semester each year in your homeschool

Fine/Applied Arts – 1 ½ credit (Throwing is in this category)

Electives – 7 ½ credits (World Languages are in this category)



1912 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Contact US  
Central Academy Counseling Office:

Kristin Hilton, A-L Counselor  
[Kristin.hilton@dmschools.com](mailto:Kristin.hilton@dmschools.com)  
515-242-7770

Amy Cumming, M-Z Counselor  
[Amy.cummings@dmschools.org](mailto:Amy.cummings@dmschools.org)  
515-242-8512

Suleyma Reyes, Counseling Dept. Assistant  
[Suleyma.reyes@dmschools.org](mailto:Suleyma.reyes@dmschools.org)  
515-242-8543

# Central Academy 9th Grade Course Requests 2025-2026



## Frequently Asked Questions

**How many classes can I take at Central Academy?** This answer varies by the individual. When you demonstrate the need for a class, acceleration, or a pathway that isn't available in your home building, then an Academy class is a good choice. If your Academy class is the right fit for you, you should earn an A or B. If you earn a C – particularly second semester – it is likely that there is a better academic fit for you at your home school.

### **What about transportation?**

Central Academy, Central Campus, and your home schools – along with the transportation department – construct a plan each year that ensures you can travel between buildings and attend classes at all locations. Most schedules allow for one trip each day. Parking is limited, and to ensure that you are able to arrive on time, the bus is a great option.

### **When will I have classes?**

We do our best to ensure that you are able to take the classes you need here, as well as your home school. We do our best to work around classes at your home school that are important to you and your academic plan.

### **Can I request a particular teacher or ask to be in the same class with a friend?**

Usually not. The reason? We work very hard to ensure that classes are not overloaded and are as balanced as possible. Also, most of the classes at Academy are taught just a couple of times a day, perhaps by only one or two teachers. If there is an unusual circumstance, please discuss it with your counselor.

### **Can I change my requests later on?**

So... once your requests are entered, we create classes, determine sections, and build teacher rosters. So does your home school. We build sections based on what you told us you wanted. So, when you change those requests, there is a ripple effect. If you have an academic plan, then choosing classes should be fairly easy. Make an educated and thoughtful decision the first time and stick with your plan if you can. If problems arise and you need to make changes, please talk to your counselor.

### **Can I plan to have a release block?**

We do our best to ensure that when you are here, you have a compact schedule. When that is not possible, we might have other options, like teacher aide, library aide, or other opportunities for you to get volunteer hours. Juniors and seniors might have more flexibility for this request, as they are closer to meeting graduation requirements. If you have extenuating circumstances, please talk to your counselor.

### **Does my attendance matter if I can do the work outside class?**

It sure does! The most successful students miss fewer than two days a month. And, education is a relational experience. You get the most out of it when in a community of learners with your teachers and peers. Your attendance is recorded on your transcript as well.

### **How much world language do I need?**

Two years of a world language meets college entrance requirements; four years meets the typical college graduation requirements. Also, being fluent in more than one language is an amazing attribute. If your schedule allows, four years of a world language is an asset.

*Balance taking classes at Central Academy with classes that interest you at Central Campus and in your home school. Take time for clubs, organizations, the arts, athletics, and a wide variety of extra-curricular activities.*

*Create an academic plan and have an educational experience that is as unique as you are!*

## Central Academy Course Offerings Available to Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students-

### English

\*Accelerated Language & Literature II - **Must take English if taking other core courses**

### Math

Academy Algebra I

Academy Geometry Pre-req: Alg I

Academy Algebra II Pre-req: Geometry

### Science

Accelerated Chemistry

### Social Studies

\*Accelerated AP Human Geography & Histories

### Electives

Beginning Throwing (Pottery) L1 2 Periods for 1 Semester

Arabic I

Chinese I

\*French I~

German I

\*Italian I ~

Japanese I

Follow this link to see course descriptions on our website:

<https://ca.dmschools.org/course-offerings/>

\*Weighted course  
~DMACC course