**1.  How many high school credits (which classes) can your 7th and/or 8th graders earn before they begin high school?**

Students in our corporation can take Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, and the first 2 years of either French or Spanish - all in 7th and/or 8th grade.  So within our corporation, that's a maximum of 10 credits they can get before high school.

Brian Hansen

Counselor, Columbus East High School

Grades 10-12, (B-J)

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phone: [(812) 376-4498](tel:(812)%20376-4498)

 Alg 1, Intro to Ag, and Digital Apps

Julie (Baumgart) Hill

School Counselor (Grades 9-12 A-I)/Department Chair, Western Boone Jr/Sr High

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Our students earn Digital Citizenship and Intro to Buisiness credits in 7th and 8th grade as well as Algebra I and French/Spanish I credit if they are ready for those classes.

Nanette Merida

School Counselor

Centerville Sr. High School

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Our students can earn high school credit in middle school (Alg I, PE, or Spanish I in some cases).  However, the credits they are are not counted in their high school GPA.  Only the grade shows on their report card.

Katelyn M. G. Richey, M. Ed., LPCA, NCC

Crothersville Community Schools, School Counselor

Algebra I, Digital Citizenship, Intro to Business, Band, and Spanish are all courses students can take in 7th or 8th grade and earn HS credit for.

Cheryl Abney-Brotz

School Counselor, Last Names A-L

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French I, Spanish I, Intro to Ag and Algebra I  sometimes Advanced concert Band

Barb Lecher

NDHS Guidance Counselor

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Students can earn credit in Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, and World Language while in middle school.

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| **Lori Mehrtens M.S. Ed** *School  Counselor, Team 2021* | |
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Algebra I, Honors Algebra II, Honors Biology

**Amy Winkler**

**School Counselor**

Edgewood High School

[812-876-2277, ext. 2228](tel:(812)%20876-2277)

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**2.  Do you weight classes?  If so, which ones?  Do you weight Algebra II for example?**

We don't weight any classes.  There's certainly valid arguments either way for that, but our corporation chose not to weight any classes.  I have interned for and worked for corporations that weight honors, AP, and upper-level foreign language classes, but I've not heard of regular Algebra 2 being weighted.

Brian Hansen

Counselor, Columbus East High School

Grades 10-12, (B-J)

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We weight all AP classes and dual credit classes in the core subject areas (no to Alg 2 as it is only honors)

Julie (Baumgart) Hill

School Counselor (Grades 9-12 A-I)/Department Chair, Western Boone Jr/Sr High

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We only weight Advanced Placement (AP) classes

Nanette Merida

School Counselor

Centerville Sr. High School

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We also do not weight any classes

Katelyn M. G. Richey, M. Ed., LPCA, NCC

Crothersville Community Schools, School Counselor

Our only weighted classes are the AP classes.  We do not weight our honors classes or dual credit - AP only.

Cheryl Abney-Brotz

School Counselor, Last Names A-L

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Any Advanced Placement (AP) course

Any dual credit English Course (Senior English)

Any 4th year world language course

Any 3rd or 4th year PLTW course

Barb Lecher

NDHS Guidance Counselor

[812-663-4204 ext 3010](tel:(812)%20663-4204)

[blecher@decaturco.k12.in.us](mailto:blecher@decaturco.k12.in.us)

The only classes we weight are Pre AP/honors classes and AP/Dual Credit classes.  We offer to many to list, but Pre AP/honors courses are given a .5 weight while AP/Dual Credit courses are given a 1.0 weight.  There are stipulations to this.  For example, students have to earn at least a C- in the course to earn the grade weight.  We don’t have grade weighted courses available for our middle school students unless we have a VERY advanced math student.

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| **Lori Mehrtens M.S. Ed** *School  Counselor, Team 2021* | |
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No.  We only weight AP and IU ACP courses.

**Amy Winkler**

**School Counselor**

Edgewood High School

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**3.  Do you find that students who earn credits before they begin high school are at a disadvantage when it comes to their class rank, since they will have more overall credits earned compared to those students who did not earn high school credits in middle school?**

Well, middle school grades factor into our students' high school GPAs.  So there are times when that can become a problem.  I've certainly had kids who are A students in high school, but had gotten B's in their credit-earning classes in middle school.  So that does hurt their GPA a bit.  Generally speaking, though, it is not a significant disadvantage.  It hasn't had a noticeable impact on our top-ranked students.

Brian Hansen

Counselor, Columbus East High School

Grades 10-12, (B-J)

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 (mathematically probably, but by starting in 8th grade with math, it allows them to proceed through to get to more of the weighted classes--I avoid this conversation whenever possible (I only explain it if they ask about rank) as I want students taking the best courses regardless of how it impacts rank)

Julie (Baumgart) Hill

School Counselor (Grades 9-12 A-I)/Department Chair, Western Boone Jr/Sr High

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Since almost all of our students earn the business class credits it seems to be a wash.  My val and sal this year....the one that has an ample amount of band credit does have a diluted GPA, she is taking an extra AP course through the Ball State Academy for the extra points to her GPA.

Nanette Merida

School Counselor

Centerville Sr. High School

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Overall, I haven't been here long enough to see if the extra earned credits are a disadvantage.  I know that does happen, for example this year we have a student taking and paying for an AP class on their own to help improve rank because summer band credits decreased their rank.  It's not my student so I do not know specifics -  I know students who have several band credits, so this may have been an issue with our without earning HS credits in junior high.

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Any Advanced Placement (AP) course

Any dual credit English Course (Senior English)

Any 4th year world language course

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Yes, students are at a disadvantage when these credits carry over, so we stopped including those credits in our class rank. They are averaged into GPA but not class rank.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lori Mehrtens M.S. Ed** *School  Counselor, Team 2021* | |
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Yes, it is a factor.  Our Val/Sals are extremely competitive and usually come down to a hundredth of a point.

**Amy Winkler**

**School Counselor**

Edgewood High School

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**4.  Do you rank?  Do you have vals and sals?**

Yes, we do.  We have val/sal, and then we honor our top 10 students as well.  I feel like more and more high schools are moving away from rankings, though.  I have excellent students who are ranked, say, 50th in their class.  I feel like all that ranking can do is hurt them.  But I've not heard any colleges say that they take ranking under serious consideration when they evaluate an application.  It seems that ranking lags way behind GPA, course selection, and test scores when it comes to what colleges are looking for in an application.  Perhaps there are some colleges out there that really care about rank, but I've not run across any.

Brian Hansen

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 Unfortunately yes--REALLY wish we'd move to the Latin honors system. Val and Sal are largely meaningless in the higher ed world anyway.

Julie (Baumgart) Hill

School Counselor (Grades 9-12 A-I)/Department Chair, Western Boone Jr/Sr High

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Yes we determine the val and sal at the end of 8 semesters.

Nanette Merida

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Centerville Sr. High School

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We do rank, and have vals and sals.

Katelyn M. G. Richey, M. Ed., LPCA, NCC

Crothersville Community Schools, School Counselor

We do rank and have a Val and Sal.

Cheryl Abney-Brotz

School Counselor, Last Names A-L

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yes....we have val and sal

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 We do rank, and we also have vals and sals.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lori Mehrtens M.S. Ed** *School  Counselor, Team 2021* | |
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Yes, we rank.  Our Val is the student ranked #1, Sal is ranked #2.  If we have more than one Val we do not have a Sal.

**Amy Winkler**

**School Counselor**

Edgewood High School

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