

Holyoke High School North

PROFILE 2020-2021

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Community

The city of Holyoke, located just north of Springfield in scenic Western Massachusetts, is an urban center of approx. 40,000 residents. Holyoke is close to many area colleges, including Amherst, Elms, Hampshire, Mt. Holyoke, Smith and the University of Massachusetts. According to the 2019 census data the dominant ethnic groups that make-up the city population are: 52% Hispanic or Latino, 42% white, 4.5% black or African American, 1.3% Asian. The median household income is \$40,656, 29.7% of residents live in poverty and 46.9% of residents speak a language other than English at home.

District

The Holyoke Public School district went into state receivership in 2015. The district is currently managed by a receiver appointed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

School

Holyoke High School comprises 2 campuses: the North Campus (college preparatory high school) and the Dean Campus (vocational high school). Holyoke High School North is a four year public school with approximately 1300 students. The school community represents a wide range of social, cultural and economic backgrounds. The school population is approximately 72% Hispanic, 23% White, 3% Black, 1% Asian and 2% other ethnic groups. 95% of the faculty are licensed in their teaching areas. Holyoke High School North is situated off exit 16 of Rt. 91, and close to exit 4 of the Massachusetts Turnpike. The CEEB number is 221018.

Holyoke High School North runs on a rotating drop schedule where students are enrolled in 7 classes, 6 of which meet each day. Semester-long electives are worth 2.5 credits and full-year classes are worth 5 credits (2.5 credits are awarded on the completion of each semester). Students are able to earn 35 credits per year and 140 credits in their high school career (see COVID exceptions below).

Placement of Graduates	2019	2020
4 year colleges	33%	34%
2 year colleges	41%	27%
Other post-secondary education	4%	--
Military service	7%	3%
Work	13%	24%
Information not available/Undecided	2%	12%

Curriculum

Holyoke High School grade 9 students take core classes within a Freshman Academy team. In grades 10-12, students choose a linked learning academy. Academies offered are: Community and Global Studies, Engineering and Life Sciences, and Performing and Media Arts. Within their academy students will take common classes and have related real world experiences.

Holyoke High School also offers several early college opportunities. Students may apply and be accepted into the Holyoke Community College Early College program, in which they begin to take college classes in grade 10 in a cohort model. By grade 12, all classes are at the college. Students graduate with at least 12 college credits in this program. The Westfield Promise is another application program in which students begin taking college classes in grade 11 in a cohort model and in grade 12 they take classes independently at Westfield State University. Most students will graduate with 12 college credits.

In addition to these application programs, students may take stand alone dual enrollment classes at UMASS Amherst (students pursuing a major in education), Holyoke Community College, and Springfield Technical Community College.

Honors weighted classes are offered in grades 9-12 in English, World Language, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Holyoke High School North offers 11 AP courses in Calculus, Statistics (new 20-21), Spanish Language, U.S. History, World History, English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science, Biology, Physics I, and Modern European History. Some AP classes are not offered annually; they are offered if enrollment and staffing allows. AP Biology was not offered in 19-20; AP Calculus AB is not offered in 20-21. Dual enrollment and college classes are weighted equally to AP course level credit.

Students earn credit by the semester. Year-long classes are divided into 2 semesters. Each semester is worth 2.5 credits. Credit recovery options are available to students who do not pass one semester. First semester courses are denoted by 1.1 on the transcript and second semester classes are denoted by 1.2.

Grading System

Grading is based on the following weighted scale:

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment Level Courses	Honors Level Courses	College Prep Level Courses
A	93 - 96	4.66	4.33	4.00
B	83 - 86	3.66	3.33	3.00
C	73 - 76	2.66	2.33	2.00
D	63 - 66	1.66	1.33	1.00
F	0 - 59	0.00	0.00	0.00

Class Rank

Class Rank is determined by the weighted GPA over sixteen quarters. Membership in the National Honor Society requires a minimum GPA of 3.5.

GPA

All graded courses contribute towards the GPA except for Squad, Teaching Assistant, Internships and Office Aide. Starting in the year 2019-2020, a pass/fail grade and 1.25 credits (per semester) were awarded for Squad. GPA is weighted

based upon the chart above. The practical maximum weighted GPA is approximately 4.6.

Work-Based Learning

Internships, Teaching Assistants, and Office Assistant positions provide students with a work-based learning experience. Students participating in internships are evaluated by their on-site supervisor. Students who are teaching assistants or office assistants are evaluated by an assigned Holyoke High School teaching staff.

Graduation

In order to graduate, students must earn a total of 120 credits in grades 9-12. Requirements include four years of English, three years of math, three years of social studies including U.S. History, and three years of science. Holyoke High School students must also fulfill the requirements of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System.

English Language Learners

The Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) program is designed to assist students with the acquisition of English as a second language. SEI and SCI (Sheltered Content Immersion) are used to indicate sheltered classes that scaffold specifically for English Language Learners. Holyoke High School also offers math and biology in a Transitional Bilingual Education setting (denoted by the acronym TBE) as part of our Newcomer Academy.

COVID 19 Updates

Holyoke Public Schools are operating remotely for at least the 1st quarter. Students will be enrolled in their typical 7 classes (A-G) and a Squad (H). Squad is a class designed to provide additional contact and social emotional support to students. Students will earn 1.25 credits per semester for Squad. We are operating on an A day/B day schedule where 4 classes meet per day. Many grade 12 students have a reduced schedule this year due to constraints in the schedule and the desire to limit the number of students in the building should we reopen.

Holyoke Public Schools operated remotely from March 16th, 2020 through the close of the 19-20 school year. Students were awarded Credit or No Credit for all classes. Credit Recovery options were available to students who did not complete their classes. The spring SAT at our school was cancelled and most students in the graduating class of 2021 have not had the opportunity to take standardized tests.

School Counselors

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