

Requirements to be designated a MERIT Student

Thomas County Middle School

1. Must take academic classes designated as part the MERIT Program with at least one “Honors” class in an area of identified strength. MERIT students will be encouraged to take a minimum of two “Honors” courses, and they may take up to a full load of “Honors” classes based upon their achievement, interest, and motivation
2. Must take foreign language as a class each year beginning in sixth grade
3. Must complete 20 hours of community service each year
4. Must maintain an exemplary disciplinary record

Thomas County Central High School

1. A minimum of 2 Honors level, AP, and/or ACCEL classes each year
2. Total of 3 AP and/or ACCEL classes during high school career
3. Earn 4 high school foreign language credits (all credits in one language or 2 credits each in 2 different languages).
4. Maintain an 80 academic average
5. Complete and document community service hours, a minimum of 20 hours per year
6. Participate in at least one extracurricular activity each year: a sport, academic competition, club, or student government
7. Participate in at least one academic competition per year

Designated MERIT Program students will

- Receive a world-class education that will prepare them to compete for admission to our nation’s most selective colleges and universities
- Receive recognition for outstanding academic work
- Receive a MERIT Program patch to be worn at graduation
- Receive a MERIT Program seal on their high school diploma
- Participate in special field trips
- Earn an academic letter jacket or an academic patch based upon the following criteria:
Complete all community service requirements and meet 3 of the 6 following conditions:
 1. Earn a score of 3 or better on an AP examination
 2. Receive first place in an individual or team academic competition at the regional or district level
 3. Receive a perfect score on a section of a standardized test such as EOCT, ACT, SAT, or GHSGT
 4. Participate on at least two academic teams or in at least two academic competitions each year of high school
 5. Earn a score of 1800 or higher on the three combined SAT sections
 6. Earn a score of 28 or higher on a section of the ACT