February 16, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

College Credit Plus (also referred to as CCP), which began in 2015-2016, replaces Ohio’s Post-Secondary Enrollment Options program and all alternative dual-enrollment programs previously governed by Ohio Revised Code 3365. All public districts and public institutions of higher education ARE REQUIRED to participate in College Credit Plus.

College Credit Plus is a dual-enrollment program, meaning that high school students take college-level non-remedial courses and earn credit towards high school graduation while simultaneously earning college credit. If a student takes courses through a public college or university, there is no charge to the family; the cost of tuition, fees, and textbooks is covered by the school district and the college or university.

There are two fundamental conditions of College Credit Plus:

1. The student MUST BE enrolled in both high school and college.
2. Students earn TRANSCRIPTED high school and college credit upon successful completion of courses.

All courses taken through College Credit Plus are transcripted credit. Transcripted credit is posted on a high school or college transcript when a student completes coursework or enrolls in college. The transcripted, graded credit is generally based on an end of course test, either developed or approved by the college faculty in the discipline area. The course can be taught in the college or high school setting by a credentialed instructor. A Transfer Assurance Guide, or TAG, credit is a credit that is guaranteed transfer among Ohio’s public colleges and universities. TAG credits are guaranteed equitable treatment in the application of credits to admission and degree requirements. This allows students to transfer College Credit Plus coursework to any other state institution of higher education without unnecessary duplication or institutional barriers. With careful selection of courses, students can earn college credits that can count toward a degree when they later enroll in college after high school graduation.

In fact, high school students can earn as much as a full semester or even a full year or more of college credit for free through College Credit Plus, allowing them later to earn a college degree in less than four years. With tuition at Ohio public colleges running between $6,000 and $13,000 a year, College Credit Plus can save a student both in terms of financial costs and time to complete a degree. Furthermore, College Credit Plus gives secondary students a taste of real college coursework, enabling them to develop time-management and study skills they will need in college.

Taking college courses before high school graduation offers a lot of benefits, but there are cautions to consider in deciding whether College Credit Plus is right for your child. There is information about the College Credit Plus Program in the Winton Woods High School Program of Studies, as well as on the Winton Woods website (www.wintonwoods.org).
If you would like your child to participate in College Credit Plus, you must complete an Intent to Participate form which must be turned in to your school’s principal by Monday, April 3. These forms will be available on the district website. Even if you are not 100% sure your student will participate but think the possibility exists, turn in the form by April 3 to preserve your student’s eligibility to participate. After April 3, the only way to participate in College Credit Plus is with special permission from both the building principal and the Executive Director of Teaching & Learning. The state of Ohio requires all students who participate in College Credit Plus and their parents/guardians to meet with school staff to get information on College Credit Plus, including the responsibilities of participating in the program. Once we receive your Letter of Intent, a guidance counselor will set-up a face-to-face meeting with you and your student.

For further information, you can contact middle school guidance counselor Kim Sterwerf (sterwerf.kim@wintonwoods.org) or high school guidance counselors Christina Jeranek (jeranek.christina@wintonwoods.org), Brad Tash (tash.brad@wintonwoods.org), John Beischel (beischel.john@wintonwoods.org), or Kim Goins (goins.kim@wintonwoods.org). As the College Credit Plus contact for our district, you may also contact me at holden.terri@wintonwoods.org or by phone at 513-619-2300.

Sincerely,

Terri L. Holden, EdD
Executive Director of Teaching & Learning