

Top 10 Myths of Merit Classes:

1. Merit classes mean parents will not have to do anything else to ensure academic success for their child.

This is the most common myth among parents. Students will be the most successful when parents are partnering to enforce what their child is learning. That can be done by helping the child stay organized with his/her binder, communicating regularly with teachers, reviewing classwork materials daily, and checking grades bi-weekly. While teachers are very proactive in helping students succeed, the burden cannot be vested solely in the instructor. When the school and home are working together, students produce the most optimum results.

2. Merit classes mean an automatic good grade.

Merit classes provide guidance on a level that a traditional classroom cannot. Such support translates into giving students an opportunity to grasp concepts they may miss otherwise. Additionally, the smaller setting of a maximum of ten students means more one-on-one time with the instructor. These factors do contribute to much better grades in most cases.

3. Merit classes mean the work is really easy.

This is the most common myth among students. All of the work is on grade level using academically rigorous curricula.

4. Merit classes mean the teachers give students answers.

Merit abides by the same policies as ELCA. Teachers do not give answers, nor do they permit students to cheat. Merit students are held to the same standard of honesty and integrity as if they were in a traditional classroom.

5. Merit classes mean students work on their own with no adult help.

Classes are not an independent study. The courses function like a traditional class in that the students received instruction from a teacher and assessments to gauge learning. No one is allowed to set his or her own lesson plans or work without accountability.

6. Merit classes mean no homework.

Merit classes do mean reduced homework, but that does not mean that a student will never have anything to bring home. Homework typically will include reading literature, doing math problems, reviewing course content, completing unfinished classwork, and organizing materials.

7. Merit classes mean no studying.

For optimum success, students should review their lessons each night from the school day. While most quizzes are open note, students have the best result when they study for an open note quiz as if no notes were allowed. Annotating notes and study guides are fantastic ways to review. Students are given a study guide at least 2 days before each test, and these study guides are tailored for the test. No study materials are permitted to be used on the test.

8. Merit classes mean a student will not be prepared for transitioning back into the classroom.

Merit students are taught an academically rigorous curriculum with the same sorts of evaluations that they will see in a classroom: tests, quizzes, daily grades, papers, projects, and experiments. Students are held accountable for organization and preparation, and the teachers provides support to help build these skills as needed. Merit has made careful concessions to ensure that the most important tenets of each subject will overlap with what is offered in the traditional class.

9. Merit classes mean a student will not be prepared for college.

Merit classes help a student to succeed academically, and that involves several realms: communication skills, organizational skills, and study skills. Teachers encourage and promote students learning to be proactive in managing academic affairs while simultaneously providing guidance on how to do so. Coupled with learning from the rigorous curriculum, students can leave ready for college.

10. Merit classes mean students can do whatever they want, including be late, be out of uniform, use cell phones, eat and drink, chew gum, and be disrespectful to their teacher.

Merit follows the rules of ELCA and students who do not fall into accordance will experience consequences.