

As part of the curriculum at the Rathdrum STEM Charter Academy, I have been able to work on higher level classes since I first enrolled in 2012. Not only has having these opportunities enabled me to spend more time on difficult subjects, but also to go beyond the required credits in other classes.

After four years at the school and meeting the qualifications to begin dual credit, I was encouraged to start taking college level classes at STEM Charter, online, and even on the North Idaho College campus. This year, I have transitioned to a schedule almost exclusively filled with dual credit classes.

Our school requires additional credits in STEM courses to the ones currently required by the state of Idaho. While most schools require a total of 46 high school credits—with 17 going towards electives—STEM Charter puts these to the best use by repurposing them to fit our STEM-driven modern world.

Students who decide that dual credit and after-school classes are not for them, graduate with four math credits to the three required by a by-the-book institution. Additionally, these students take part in project classes designed to teach vital teamwork skills for future careers. Moreover, many students are on track to graduate above and beyond the STEM Charter bar.

An Idaho high school diploma emphasizing additional STEM credits would recognize the extra skills and knowledge gained by students who work hard in the technology age. STEM major students in schools statewide would benefit from this acknowledgement.

I strongly believe that students who excel in the STEM subjects will help create a more technology oriented Idaho.

Sincerely,

Justin Kugler
Junior at North Idaho STEM