



NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

19 Main Street
Townsend, MA 01469
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January, 2017

Principal's Message

It is with great pleasure that I present the updated *Program of Studies* for the 2017 - 2018 academic year. The courses you choose will help you to meet the North Middlesex Regional High School graduation requirements and, more importantly, allow you to develop your interests and broaden your academic understanding and skills base. We offer a wide range of courses at NM. I would ask that you think carefully about your choices so that your classes both satisfy your curiosity and help to prepare you for your college and career aspirations. It is important that you leverage every minute of your high school experience to help prepare you for life after NM. That means allowing yourself time to think and reflect, time to enjoy and achieve outside of the classroom, and time to work hard on your academics.

Please be mindful of the role your teachers, parents, and guidance counselors have in this process; they know you well, and have the experience and expertise to help guide you. It is important that you get the right balance between pursuing your interests through rigorous classes and by taking advantage of the numerous extra-curricular opportunities we offer.

The *Program of Studies* is constantly evolving and the faculty has added new electives and Advanced Placement classes to our rich course offerings. The faculty has played an invaluable role in this work, supported by the guidance department, and overseen by Assistant Principal Laurie Smith. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to this work, whether in a big or a small way, including the many students who took the time to talk with me about their experiences with the NM curriculum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Isaac Taylor'.

Isaac Taylor
Principal

Statement of Accreditation

North Middlesex Regional High School was accredited in 2014 by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., a non-governmental, nationally recognized organization whose affiliated institutions include schools through collegiate institutions offering post-graduate instruction. Accreditation of an institution by the New England Association indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of institutional quality periodically applied through a peer group review process. An accredited school or college is one which has available the necessary resources to achieve its stated purposes through appropriate educational programs, is substantially doing so, and gives reasonable evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Institutional integrity is also addressed through accreditation. Accreditation by the New England Association is not partial but applies to the institution as a whole. As such, it is not a guarantee of the quality of every course or program offered, or the competence of individual graduates. Rather, it provides reasonable assurance about the quality of opportunities available to students who attend the institution.

Discrimination Statement

It is the policy of the North Middlesex Regional School District not to discriminate against students, parents, employees, or the general public on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, homelessness, or age in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, national origin, sex, religion); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (disability); M.G.L. c. 76, § 5 (race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation); the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (homelessness); and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age[1]).

The Committee's policy of nondiscrimination will extend to students, staff, the general public, and individuals with whom it does business; No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town or in obtaining the advantages, privileges, and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, homelessness, or age. If someone has a complaint or feels that they have been discriminated against because of their race, color, national origin, sex, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, homelessness, or age, their complaint should be registered with the Title IX compliance officer. Inquiries regarding compliance with these laws may be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, North Middlesex Regional School District (978) 597-8713, or to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148 (state laws) or to the United States Department of Education, Region 1, Office of Civil Rights, John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse, Room 222, Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109 (federal laws).

2017-2018 Program of Studies

The administration of the North Middlesex Regional High School reserves the right to alter this *Program of Studies* as needed with notification and approval of the Superintendent of Schools and School Committee. Selection of a course during registration does not guarantee placement in a class.



District Office 45 Main Street Pepperell, MA 01463 978-597-8713 Fax: 978-433-6368

Superintendent of Schools

Joan Landers

Assistant Superintendent

Nancy Milligan

School Committee

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------|
| • Anne Adams | Pepperell | • Michael Morgan | At-Large |
| • Jonna Clermont | Pepperell | • Susan Robbins | Townsend |
| • William Hackler, Vice Chair | At-Large | • Randee Rusch, Chair | At-Large |
| • Lisa M. Martin | Pepperell | • Robert Templeton | Townsend |
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Ph: 978-597-8721 Fax: 978-597-0350

Administration

Principal
Isaac G. Taylor

Assistant Principal
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At North Middlesex Regional High School, our students:
GROW into respectful and responsible citizens,
PURSUE goals as they challenge themselves to learn and succeed,
ACHIEVE excellence as they progress toward their
personal and academic potential.

VALUES & BELIEFS ABOUT LEARNING

WE VALUE GROWTH.

We believe all members of our educational community GROW when we:

- Think critically and creatively
- Try new things and respond to change
- Collaborate with others to better draw on the strengths, differences, and perspectives of all
- Reflect regularly on our thinking and behavior to learn from our mistakes and celebrate accomplishments

WE VALUE THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE & EXCELLENCE.

We believe:

- Learning is a life-long pursuit
- All students can learn and attain excellence
- There are many different ways of learning and definitions of excellence
- Students need time to develop and take ownership of their learning
- Learning is an opportunity for students to pursue their interests and goals

WE VALUE ACHIEVEMENT.

We believe:

- All students will rise to high expectations
- There are many ways students can achieve and succeed
- We will maintain our tradition of academic excellence and service to others as we embrace innovative ideas and face new challenges

Graduation Requirements

Students will be required to earn a minimum of 140 credits to graduate. Students are required to register for a minimum of 8 courses per year.

Subject Area	NMRHS Graduation Requirements	Required By MA State Colleges & Universities	Recommended By Most 4-Year Colleges	Recommended By Highly Selective Colleges ^F
English Language Arts	4 full credit courses	4 courses	4 courses	4 courses
Mathematics	4 full credit courses	4 courses	4 courses	4 courses
Social Studies	3 full credit courses	3 courses <i>Including US History</i>	3 courses <i>Including US History</i>	4 courses <i>Including US History, World History, & Economics</i>
Science	3 full credit Lab courses	3 lab courses	3 lab courses <i>including Biology, Chemistry, & Physics</i>	4 lab courses <i>including Biology, Chemistry, & Physics</i>
World Language	2 high school credit courses <i>in the same language</i>	2 high school courses <i>in the same language</i>	2-3 high school courses <i>in the same language</i>	3-4 high school courses <i>in the same language</i>
Physical Education	4 half credit courses	Varies by college/university	Varies by college/university	Varies by college/university
Arts <i>(music, visual, drama)</i>	1 half credit course	Varies by college/university	Varies by college/university	Varies by college/university
Technology	Included as an elective	n/a	n/a	n/a
Electives	Any combination of offered electives such as business education, technology, arts, etc. [40-60 credits]			

Choosing Your Courses

North Middlesex Regional High School's courses are designed to challenge the unique talents of all students. This course catalog has been prepared to guide students through the planning of their high school experience. The course selection process is on-going and should involve students, parents, teachers, and school counselors.

Step 1: Consult Your School Counselor and Teachers

The North Middlesex school counselors can provide a broad overview of the entire curriculum and provide sound advice about planning a suitable program which will prepare students as they form their post-secondary plans. Classroom teachers have an in-depth knowledge of the content of the various courses and a strong sense of the academic expectations within each course. Knowing an individual's particular learning style, a teacher can make a valid recommendation for proper placement.

Step 2: Consider the Challenge

Selecting courses should be a thoughtful process with the ultimate goal of creating an appropriately balanced educational experience. It is important to find the best course fit for each student's strengths and challenges. North Middlesex allows students to choose from Advanced Placement, Accelerated, and College Preparatory courses. Every course level provides challenging options

for students over their four years of high school that are geared toward college and career preparation. Electives are at the college preparatory level.

Advanced Placement[®]

Advanced Placement (AP[®]) courses have the greatest degree of difficulty. These courses taught in compliance with an AP[®] curriculum approved by the College Board. All AP[®] courses require extensive summer work, assessed at the beginning of the school year. AP[®] courses provide a student with an opportunity to experience college-level work while still in high school. It is expected that students who enroll in AP[®] courses also register for the national AP[®] exam. For more information, please refer to each department's course offerings.

Accelerated

Curriculum topics are identical for accelerated and college preparatory courses; however, accelerated courses are intended to provide the student with deeper knowledge in the topic than standard college preparatory courses and delivered at a faster pace. Students who participate in accelerated courses are expected to complete work independently requiring higher-order thinking, comprehend complex texts, and regularly reflect on their learning.

College Preparatory (College Prep)

College Preparatory courses teach students the essential skills and important information that they will need to be ready for college. In college preparatory courses, assessments and class activities teach students to apply 21st Century Skills to new knowledge in order to solve real-world problems. Most electives are at the college preparatory level.

Step 3: Factor in College Admissions Requirements

When selecting courses, bear in mind that the decisions made earlier in high school will be meaningful when admissions officers consider college applications. In addition to coursework, colleges and universities weigh some or many of the following factors in their admission requirements.

- **Academic Record:** Grade Point Average (GPA), class rank, consistency, improvement, and difficulty of classes.
- **Variety in Coursework:** Broad and diversified transcript.
- **Test Scores:** Results of standardized tests such as the SAT or ACT.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Most colleges require an "Activities Resumé." Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of extracurricular offering from music, sports, or community service.
- **Letters of Recommendation:** The letters of recommendation serve to paint a broader, more personal picture of the student. These letters provide information of a personal nature that is not reflected on a student's transcript.
- **Honors and Awards:** Students who have received recognition for skills or talents should include these accolades on their Activities Resume or on college applications.
- **Essays:** Most applications for colleges will have an essay or personal statement requirement. The essay provides a personal voice and a snapshot of the student's ability to write.
- **Interviews:** While not always offered, interviews are another way to gain insight into the applicant.

Step 4: Go Online To NAVIANCE

Naviance is NM's college and career readiness software program that helps students connect their high school experience to after high school goals. If a student is unsure of which classes to select, he or she should consider going onto the district website, select the "Links" tab and find Naviance. Once on the software, students can find and take a series of career assessments. After completion of this step, the software will identify several career options that best fit with a student's personality and learning style. By investigating college majors and careers, students will have more knowledge in helping them choose their courses at the high school level that will also help them in their future college pursuits.

Step 5: Make Your Choices

The course selection process is one that should be a cooperative venture between the student, parent, teacher, and school counselor. Students should choose their classes carefully and realistically since changes to the schedule are made for academic reasons only. Any change to a student's course selection sheet or schedule must be approved by his or her parents/guardians, the teachers, and the school counselor. The reason for the change must be justified and the student must realize that change requests are not automatically honored.

When students feel it is absolutely necessary to change a course, under extraordinary circumstances, the student must follow the sequence below:

1. Meet with the class teacher to resolve concern(s).
2. If a resolution is not met with the first meeting, then a meeting with guidance, teacher, parents, administration, and the student will take place.
3. If the course can be changed (and it is advisable to do so), the rest of the form may be filled out.
4. The student must present parent/guardian, instructor, counselor and administration a signed schedule change form to the instructor and return textbook(s) and/or course materials and have the instructor provide written verification this has happened.
5. The student must present the completed and signed change of schedule form to the counselor.
6. Only after the above procedure has been followed will the request be processed.

Promotion, Credits, and Grading

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn the following minimum number of credits in order to be promoted to the next grade level:

Grade 9 35 credits	Grade 11..... 105 credits
Grade 10 70 credits	Grade 12 140 credits

GRADING SYSTEM

Transcripts and report cards reflect letter grades. The numerical equivalents are:

A+ 100-97	C+ 79-77
A 96-93	C 76-73
A- 92-90	C- 72-70
B+ 89-87	D 69-65
B 86-83	F 64-0
B- 82-80	I Incomplete
	P Passing

QUALITY POINT AVERAGE (QPA) is a cumulative computation of a student's academic class standing. It is a weighted ranking system in which both the levels and course grades are used to determine the average and class standing. This is used as a guide for the National Honor Society. Junior class rank is based on six semesters, and senior class rank is based on eight semesters. The **QPA** is used to determine the class valedictorian and salutatorian. The calculation of the **QPA** includes only academic courses, that is, courses at Advanced Placement, Accelerated, and College Prep Levels.

The **QPA** is computed by adding the weighted grade value of the final letter grade for each course, and multiplying the sum by the number of credits for each course, and dividing by the total number of credits.

$$\text{QPA} = \frac{\text{SUM OF WEIGHTED GRADES X NUMBER OF CREDITS}}{\text{TOTAL CREDITS}}$$

WEIGHTED GRADE VALUES

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	AP Course	Accelerated Course	College Prep Course	Introductory Course
A+	100-97	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0
A	96-93	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5
A-	92-90	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0
B+	89-87	4.3	3.8	3.3	2.8
B	86-83	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5
B-	82-80	3.7	3.2	2.7	2.2
C+	79-77	3.4	2.9	2.4	1.9
C	76-73	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5
C-	72-70	2.7	2.2	1.7	1.2
D	69-65	2.4	1.9	1.4	0.9
F	64-0	0	0	0	0
I	Incomplete	0	0	0	0

HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll program exists to recognize academic achievement. Honor Roll eligibility is as follows:

- HIGH HONORS:** A- or above in all subjects
HONORS: B- or above in all subjects

Pass/Fail (P/F) will not count towards the determination of honor roll.

Business and Computer Technology

Business and Computer Technology classes provide students with the opportunity to integrate academic and career-based instruction, preparing them for success in life and education. North Middlesex currently offers business, marketing, finance, accounting, computer technology, and plans to continue the growth of these pathways.

Students participating in these elective courses will hone essential skills for the 21st-century marketplace. Students will acquire in-depth understanding in business, accounting, economics, and computer sciences. They will utilize communication and teamwork to analyze, research, and solve real-world dilemmas while simulating a professional setting.

Business

ACCOUNTING 1

5 Credit Full Year Course

This first accounting course provides a foundation in the art of communicating financial information. This course addresses the needs of students who want to gain a strong working knowledge of basic accounting theory and procedures. Accounting principles will be explored so that the student will learn how to keep accurate records for businesses organized as sole proprietorships by exploring accounting principles. Students will become proficient in using journals, ledgers, and preparing primary financial statements. Students will also be exposed to designing and implementing automated/computerized accounting systems for record keeping and financial reporting. This class can complete a senior year math requirement.

Elective Course #: BU631

Recommended for grades 11-12

BUSINESS CONCEPTS

5 Credit Full Year Course

This course is an introduction to basic concepts of marketing, accounting, economics, service operations and organizational behavior. Development of skills necessary for the foundations of entrepreneurial thought, identifying key business opportunities, and formulation of appropriate well thought out business decisions are addressed. In conjunction with classroom study, students will be expected to plan and operate a small-scale business of their own with the purpose of earning a profit for a charity or school need.

Accelerated Course #: CS630

Recommended for grades 11-12

BUSINESS LAW

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Business Law explores the American legal system with a focus on contract law as relevant to both business and personal agreements. Topics of interest will include buyer-seller relations, employer-employee agreements, and consumer laws. Students are expected to study case law and also actively participate in situational analysis and mock trials, where students take on the roles of real courtroom participants. It is highly recommended that students enrolling in this course complete Justice and Law.

Elective Course #: BU635

Recommended for grades 11-12

FUTURE LEADERSHIP

5 Credit Full Year Course

This class focuses on developing students as leaders within the school community. Students will support the work of the school community in planning, preparing, and evaluating events defining school values. Students will, also, develop skills in planning, compromising, working with others towards a common goal, and time management.

Elective Course #: BU901

Recommended for grades 9-12

MARKETING

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Marketing focuses on what businesses do to influence consumers' buying decisions as they relate to the four principles of marketing: product, price, place, and promotion. Other topics include market research, personal selling, and product packaging. Students are expected to produce complete and detailed marketing plans. Class time is devoted to the analysis of both successful and unsuccessful marketing campaigns as well as the impact of technology on the marketplace.

Elective Course #: BU633

Recommended for grades 11-12

Computer Technology

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

2.5 Credit Semester Course

In this entry-level course, students will develop computer literacy in a Windows-based environment using the Microsoft Office Suite application software. Working in a hands-on environment, students will develop the skills associated with each software application (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint), along with individual component integration. This course is highly recommended for incoming grade 9 students.

Elective Course #: BU656

Recommended for grades 9-10

WEB PAGE DESIGN

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course provides students with an exposure to proper Website design and management techniques. Additionally, this course offers a comprehensive presentation of the Adobe Dreamweaver web authoring software. An exercise oriented approach acquaints students with the procedures to create Web sites suitable for coursework, professional purposes, and personal use.

Elective Course #: BU624

Recommended for grades 10-12

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING 1

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course provides a solid foundation of computer programming concepts. Students will design algorithms, learn correct syntax and style, and write computer programs using the sequence, selection, and repetition structures. Utilizing a student-focused approach, the primary objectives of the course are to develop the ability to correctly analyze a variety of problems, to instill the principles of top-down, modular programming, and to use structured program design techniques.

Elective Course #: BU662

Recommended for grades 11-12

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING 2

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course provides a continuation of fundamental concepts learned in Computer Programming I. Students will design algorithms, learn correct syntax and style, and write computer programs using value-returning and void functions, along with one-dimensional and two-dimensional arrays. Students will also learn how to manipulate functions, sequential access files, string, classes, and objects.

Elective Course #: BU663

Recommended for grades 11-12

English

The English department maintains a rigorous, rich, and diverse literacy program seeking to promote and enhance the development of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students at all grade levels will read traditional and contemporary works from world literature as they explore thematic issues, engage in critical analysis, and practice formal writing skills.

College prep and accelerated courses provide identical college-ready content. However, accelerated courses expect more depth of analysis and critical thinking at a faster pace with more extensive reading outside of school. Juniors and seniors have the additional offerings of Advanced Placement® courses that provide a college-level curriculum and culminate in AP exams. Electives are available at all grade levels for students who wish to continue exploring different forms of literacy.

“There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so.” - William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

ENGLISH

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 9

5 Credit Full Year Course
Grade 9

This course focuses on developing the skills of close reading, analysis, argument, and research-based writing. Units include the classical epic, introduction to argument, perspectives on society, introduction to research, Shakespearean drama, and literature as a mirror for society. Cornerstone texts include *The Odyssey*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Animal Farm*, and *Night*. Additional novels, short stories, and essays support the core skills. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through formal and informal writing, research, collaborative work, and independent projects.

College Prep Course #: EN139

Accelerated Course #: EN138

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 10

5 Credit Full Year Course

The tenth grade English curriculum celebrates a multicultural exploration of literature and incorporates the concepts of discrimination, identity, non-conformity, censorship, tragedy, and loss. Units incorporate literary genres including novels, short stories, fiction and non-fiction essays, poetry, and drama. Modern writers and traditional canonical authors are explored. In writing, students use the process approach to strengthening thesis development, textual support, focus, clarity, organization, style, and the conventions of Standard English. Reading selections include but are not limited to the following: *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* and/or *Taming of the Shrew*, *Oedipus* and/or *Antigone*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Chocolate War*, *Death Watch*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Lizzy Bright and the Buckminster Boy*, *Ethan Frome*, *Hawthorne's Short Stories (Rappaccini's Daughter, The Birthmark)*, *The Scarlett Letter*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Grapes of Wrath*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, and *The Good Earth*.

College Prep Course #: EN124

Accelerated Course #: EN127

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 11

5 Credit Full Year Course

This course develops students' understanding of what makes a work distinctively American. Students engage in critical analysis of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry as they strengthen their critical thinking through collaborative discussion, reflective writing, formal essay writing and individual and group presentations. Students develop their ability to communicate for diverse purposes and audiences. Thematic units include the personal journey and individual identity, the American dream, inequality, war, and the power of voice. Cornerstone texts include *The Great Gatsby*, *The Things They Carried*, American Romanticism, and contemporary American literature. Additional novels, short stories, and essays support the core skills. Major assessments include argument essay, persuasive speech, group and individual presentations, and analytical and reflective writing.

College Prep Course #: EN134

Accelerated Course #: EN135

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 12

5 Credit Full Year Course

Upon entering twelfth grade, students will read and discuss European literary classics across the major genres. Students will focus on European literature from the Middle Ages to the present: from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to Kafka's *Metamorphosis*. Units are arranged thematically; students will consider prominent themes for each time period; and students will see how earlier works influence later works and how forms and ideas have evolved over time. Writing assignments include essays and research papers. By

College Prep Course #: EN143

Accelerated Course #: EN142

the end of twelfth grade, students will have become familiar with some of the major works and ideas of European literature, honed their skills of literary analysis, and effective writing of a research paper.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

5 Credit Full Year Course

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses provide an opportunity for students to experience a college course while still in high school. AP courses follow a syllabus that has been approved by the College Board and teachers must receive specialized training to teach the course. Students are expected to take the AP exam offered by the College Board in the spring, for which they could earn college credit. AP English Language and Composition is intended to be comparable to a college composition course. This intensive writing course requires students to analyze and critique all facets of rhetorical techniques found in non-fiction, image-based texts, and fiction. Students will learn how to write nuanced synthesis essays and persuasive arguments applying the elements of rhetoric. Students will engage in all steps of the writing process and critique their work as well as the work of their peers. Major assessments include persuasive speeches and essays, analytical and reflective writing, timed writing, oral presentations, and research and synthesis projects.

AP® Course #: EN173

Grade 11

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

5 Credit Full Year Course

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses provide an opportunity for students to experience a college course while still in high school. AP courses follow a syllabus that has been approved by the College Board and teachers must receive specialized training to teach the course. In this course, students will participate in a thematic and stylistic study of British literature of the sixteenth through the twenty-first centuries incorporating philosophical, political, and literary perspectives. The writing assignments require critical analysis of texts as well as incorporation of sophisticated vocabulary and sentence structure. Classes involve seminar discussions requiring daily preparation, the ability to infer theories and draw conclusions, and higher level abstract thinking. Extensive outside reading, homework, and preparation are required.

AP® Course #: EN171

Grade 12

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

AMERICAN CINEMA

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course explores American Cinema from the early 1900s to present day. Students will examine the elemental power of film as a literary genre, drawing conclusions about differences in plot, character, setting, theme, and tone. Students will study the four major areas of film: Editing, Sound, Camera-Work, and Mise-en-Scène. Students will discover how the major areas of film create and enhance meaning in the work. Critical viewing, thinking, and reading are integral elements of the course. Dramatic films, documentaries, and social commentaries will be explored as well. The featured films that will be viewed are: *The Shining*, *The Green Mile*, *Slumdog Millionaire*, and *The Island*. All other film viewing will be in the form of short clips.

Elective #: EN220

Recommended for grades 11-12

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

2.5 Credit Semester Course

In this course, modern authors explore issues facing young adults. Students will examine the conventions of contemporary fiction from 2000-present day. This class focuses on reading a selection of texts by a diverse group of cutting-edge writers that appeal to a wide audience. In addition to reading and discussing the texts, we will engage in hands-on creative projects and various reflective writing assignments, which help us to understand the text more deeply. The class will frequently hold "book club" style discussions, wherein students elect and evaluate texts considering themes, style, and form.

Elective #: EN221

Recommended for grades 9-10

CREATIVE WRITING

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This elective course is intended for the dedicated writer who currently writes independently and wants to learn to express imagination and creativity in the writing of fiction and poetry. Creative writing is shaped through emotions, imagination, ideas, humor, curiosity, intellect, history, and personal experience. In this course, the student will learn to explore and write from the true self. Students will examine various techniques of pre-writing, writing, editing and revision, various creative genres, and several styles of storytelling. Through the examination of selected literature, students will isolate elements of style that contribute to the writer's craft. Students should be willing to share their work with classmates and to try new approaches to writing by attempting to write

Elective #: EN151

Recommended for grades 9 - 12

such works as a short story, a fantasy or adventure story, poetry, and/or an original screenplay. The class will culminate in a final writing portfolio in which the students will display their semester work.

GOTHIC LITERATURE

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Students will examine the conventions of gothic fiction from the late 18th century to the present day and explore the historical evolution and appeal of fear, horror, romance, and death in literature. We will read a wide variety of texts, primarily short stories, from diverse groups of authors to explore how gothic horror has evolved over the past three hundred years. These readings will be supplemented with critical texts that outline the psychological, social, and historical foundations of fear and horror in this genre. The course will focus on analytical and comparative reading and writing skills. Primary authors include Edgar Allan Poe, Flannery O'Connor, and Stephen King.

Elective: EN225

Recommended for grades 11- 12

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

2.5 Credit Semester Course

In this course, students will discover and examine the philosophical, moral, and ethical underpinnings of various literary works. A wide variety of literature will be considered to identify basic principles of morality and critical thinking about moral judgments. Themes explored include relationships to others and relationships to the world. Why is there evil in the world and who determines what is right from wrong? Are human actions free or pre-destined? How can the study of classical and modern thinking help me achieve my goals in life? These are some of the questions the course attempts to seek answers to through the readings of major philosophical texts and through reflective writing.

Accelerated Elective #: EN160

Recommended for grades 11-12

WRITING FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS

2.5 Credit Semester Course

In this highly practical course offered to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, students will learn writing and communication skills necessary for success in today's competitive academic and business world. The course begins with students identifying personal goals, writing a vision statement, and exploring potential careers likely to fulfill their goals. Students will learn practical entry-level job search skills, including writing resumes and business letters, practicing mock job interviews, and engaging in informational interviews. Students will investigate types of post-secondary education and training, exploring which educational path may be a good fit. In the final project, students will embark on an extensive exploration of one potential career, creating an informative presentation for classmates and polishing their public speaking skills. Students will leave this class with concrete, marketable communication skills and a personal plan of action that will help achieve college and career goals.

Elective #: EN199

Recommended for grades 9-10

Engineering & Technology

Beginning with the class of 2020, students will be able to elect to complete an engineering concentration, which will be recognized on their high school transcript and diploma. Students wishing to pursue the concentration must formally declare their intent between June 1 of their freshman year and September 30 of their sophomore year by submitting a declaration form, signed by the student, their parent or guardian, and their guidance counselor.

The engineering concentration is designed to prepare students for a career in engineering. Through a multidisciplinary approach, students will examine the dynamics of life on Mars. Students will consider the implications of technology and human interaction, the logistics of space travel, and colonization and establishment of a sustainable culture on Mars. Enrollment in a requisite list of classes will allow students to access the curriculum that will help them design solutions to the challenges facing future generations as they seek to expand our footprint in the solar system.

What is the Engineering Concentration?

Engineering Concentration is a three year program culminating in a capstone project examining one of the challenges we face as our society considers colonization of Mars. This project will include a model, a research paper, oral defense of the topic, and an electronic component of the presentation (e.g. website, film).

What are the benchmarks for the program?

There will be a 'benchmark' project related to the question posed for each course. For example, in Chemistry the benchmark question will be, "How will fuel be produced and stored on Mars?" Students will create a Product Brief at the completion of each required course. This Product Brief will address the Mars-related question for that course, and will include a written portion and a visual component: such as a 3D rendering or a photograph/picture. Detailed information on the project brief will be discussed with students in each class.

What classes do students have to pass in order to meet the requirement of the program?

Below is a list of classes that students will need to pass in order to meet the program requirements.

Science requirements:

Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Technology and Engineering requirements:

Engineering

The Internet of Things **or** Robotics and Advanced Robotics

CADD **or** Drafting Technology **or** Architectural Drafting and Design

Humanities requirements

Students must pass two of the following: American Government, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Justice & Law.

Capstone requirement

Humans to Mars Capstone

Potential topics of investigation for the Senior Capstone: The following list is not comprehensive. Rather, it is designed to demonstrate the breadth of the capstone. Next to each potential topic is a link to the class(es) most relevant to the topic.

- Medical issues on Mars (biology and engineering involved in producing medication)
- Hierarchy of a new society (Social studies)
- Sustain life: water, food, shelter, energy (biology, chemistry, environmental science, physics) considerations)
- Communication: (IoT)
- Transportation (Engineering)
- Protection of equipment from weather, environment (CADD)
- Physiological concerns (Anatomy and Physiology)
- Post travel: How do we acclimate once we arrive? (Bio)
- Limitations: How do we deal with the limited amount of space on the vehicles bringing us there? (physics, social studies)
- What will the second generation be called? (sociology)

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

5 Credit Full Year Course
Lab Course

This course is an introductory project-based learning experience focusing on the engineering design process. Students will develop their design and problem-solving skills. The goal of the course is to build technological literacy for every student. The course is designed to cover the seven standards set in the Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework: engineering design, manufacturing, construction, communication, and energy systems: fluid, thermal and electrical. Teamwork and problem-solving techniques will be stressed throughout the course.

College Prep Course #: SC787
Accelerated Course #: SC784
Recommended for grade 9-10

CADD

5 Credit Full Year Course

(COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING AND DESIGN) This course offers students the opportunity to explore the Computer Aided Drafting industry with emphasis placed on providing realistic mechanical drafting and design problems. This course will require students to solve problems through the creation of computer generated drawings using technical drawing skills and CAD software including Inventor. Drawings will be completed to scale and will include 2D and 3D modeling drawings. This course is recommended for students interested in pursuing careers in engineering and computer aided drafting. Competence in algebra, fractions, and drafting is essential.

Elective Course #: SE726
Recommended for grade 10-12

ENGINEERING

5 Credit Full Year Course
Lab Course

This course is a project-based learning experience focusing on the engineering design process and how students will use the process to develop their design and problem-solving skills. Technical sketching using CAD software as well as other engineering software will be components of each project. In this course, students will explore various engineering areas to further their knowledge of the engineering field. Teamwork and problem-solving techniques will be stressed throughout the course. Major projects in this course include CO₂ cars, bridges, projectiles, and biotech.

College Prep Course #: SC786
Recommended for grade 11-12

DRAFTING TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course offers students the opportunity to explore a variety of drafting related careers. It provides students with knowledge and skills in drafting techniques, technical sketching, and computer aided drafting, dimensioning, geometric construction, orthographic projection, pictorials, architecture, engineering, and designing to scale. Projects will be given in order of complexity exposing students to a variety of drafting experiences. This course is recommended for students interested in pursuing careers in engineering, architecture, building construction industry, commercial and interior design, computer aided drafting (CAD), and other occupations requiring drafting experience. Competence and aptitude with fractions and Algebra are necessary for success. The major assessments for this include hand and CAD drawings, as well as individual and small group projects. This course can be used to fulfill the Fine Arts requirement.

Elective Course #: SE720
Recommended for grade 9-12

ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTING AND DESIGN

5 Credit Full Year Course

This course offers students the opportunity to explore the residential architecture industry with emphasis placed on providing realistic drafting and design problems. This course will require students to solve problems through the creation of a set of house plans using technical drawing applications, architectural textbook, and CAD software. Drawings will be completed to scale and will include basic sectionals, floor plans, elevations, and electrical. This course is recommended for students interested in pursuing careers in engineering, architecture, building construction industry, interior, and commercial design, computer aided drafting, and other occupations requiring drafting experience. Major assessments for this course include traditional quizzes and tests; hand drawings; and computer (CAD) drawings.

Elective Course #: SE724
Recommended for grade 10-12

ADV ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTING AND DESIGN

5 Credit Full Year Course

This course offering will further explore residential architectural careers as they relate to the construction industry. Design and prepared drafting drawings will be developed by students for additions or original designs. Students will further master their drafting and CAD skills using software. Students must have completed the Architectural Drafting and Design course, and be self-motivated to complete projects in a timely fashion. This course is recommended for students interested in pursuing careers in engineering, architecture, building construction industry, or who are otherwise interested in learning about this field of interest. Major assessments in this course include traditional quizzes and tests, drawings, and projects.

Elective Course #: SE725

Recommended for grade 11-12

ROBOTICS

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Since the first industrial robot was installed at a U.S. automotive plant in 1961, robotics technology has become an important factor in most types of manufacturing. In this entry-level course, students will study basic electronics, as well as the fundamental principles, systems, programming and history of robotics. This is a project-based experience where students will build and control robotic devices. Students will use computers to create programs to control robotic "arms" and vehicles. Major assessments for this course include traditional quizzes as well as group project work building and programming various robots.

Elective Course #: SE742

Recommended for grades 9-12

ADVANCED ROBOTICS

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course will be project-based and build on the skills learned in the introductory course. Students will further develop their programming, mechanical building, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills by applying them to more complex robotics applications with the use of sensors. Students will expand their knowledge and capabilities with the RobotC programming language and Vex robot system. Major assessments for this course include a group project and programming.

Accelerated Course #: SE741

Recommended for grades 9-12

INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT)

5 Credit Full Year Course

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of electronics. They will investigate simple circuitry and more complex analog and digital sensory components utilizing the Arduino Uno microprocessor. Students will develop an understanding of binary counting and Boolean logic, as well as implications and applications of Ohm's Law. Circuits will be developed, built, and tested using solderless breadboards. Students will learn to write computer code to program their microprocessors, allowing for the eventual creation of unique projects. The course includes a workbench laboratory environment where students unleash their creativity using Raspberry Pi3 units to create smart connected products that operate within the *Internet of Things*.

Elective Course #: SE744

Recommended for grades 10-12

Mathematics

The mathematics department is committed to reaching all students with a curriculum that is designed to present mathematics as a fluid, coherent body of knowledge. We offer incoming freshmen the alternative of learning Algebra as a single discipline, or Algebra 1 / Geometry, which blends the two disciplines together to experience mathematics as a mathematician would.

Our traditional Algebra 1 course formalizes and extends the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. This College Prep course is comprised of standards selected from the Massachusetts Frameworks and was written to encompass the scope of content and skills to be addressed throughout grades 9-12. Algebra 1 is followed by Geometry and Algebra 2 in 10th and 11th grades, respectfully.

Our Algebra 1 / Geometry courses are offered as College Prep (CP) and Accelerated (Accel). These courses are comprised of standards selected from the high school conceptual categories, and were written to encompass the scope of content and skills to be addressed throughout grades 9-12. Students will experience the mathematics of Algebra and Geometry, while making connections across traditional domains of Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus and Statistics. Algebra 1 / Geometry (CP or Accel) are traditionally followed by Algebra 2 / Geometry and Pre-Calculus / Trigonometry in grades 10 and 11.

All students must take four years of mathematics. Our courses provide students with the body of knowledge needed to study advanced mathematic courses. Upperclassmen have the option of enrolling in Advanced Placement[®] classes in Calculus (AB or BC) as well as AP Probability and Statistics. Additional offerings such as Mathematics Applications, Probability and Statistics, Calculus, and Accounting are available. It is highly recommended that students discuss their senior year mathematics' goals with their guidance counselors in order to make informed decisions when entering high school.

The use of graphing calculators is an integral part of all mathematics courses in the high school. The Texas Instruments TI-84+ Silver Edition calculator is strongly suggested for our courses. This graphing calculator will continue to benefit our students in college, trade schools, and the military.

MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA 1 / GEOMETRY

5 Credit Full Year Course

College Prep Course #: MA101

Accelerated Course #: MA102

Grade 9

The fundamental purpose of the Algebra I / Geometry course is to formalize and extend the Mathematics that students learned in middle school. This course is comprised of the standards found in the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. It encompasses the scope of content and skills required for college preparation and focuses on mathematical concepts that allow students to apply real-world situations within five critical areas of instruction:

- *Extend understanding of numerical manipulation to algebraic manipulation;*
- *Synthesize understanding of function*
- *Deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships;*
- *Apply linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend;*
- *Summarize, represent, interpret, and display data on two categorical and quantitative variables.*

ALGEBRA 1

5 Credit Full Year Course

College Prep Course #: MA100

Grade 9

The fundamental purpose of the Algebra I course is to formalize and extend the Mathematics that students learned in middle school. This course is comprised of the standards found in the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. It encompasses the scope of content and skills required for college preparation and focuses on mathematical concepts that allow students to apply real-world situations within four critical areas of instruction:

- *Extend understanding of numerical manipulation to algebraic manipulation;*
- *Synthesize deeper understanding of function;*
- *Deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships;*
- *Apply linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend.*

ALGEBRA 2 / GEOMETRY

5 Credit Full Year Course

College Prep Course #: MA337

Accelerated Course #: MA347

Grade 10

The fundamental purpose of the Algebra II / Geometry course is comprised of the standards found in the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. It encompasses the scope of content and skills required for college preparation and focuses on mathematical concepts that allow students to apply real-world situations within five critical areas of instruction:

- *Extend the laws of exponents to rational exponents;*
- *Compare key characteristics of quadratic functions with those of linear and exponential functions;*
- *Create and solve equations and inequalities involving linear, exponential, and quadratic expressions;*
- *Establish criteria for similarity of triangles based on proportional reasoning;*
- *Establish criteria for similarity of triangles based on proportional reasoning; summarize, represent, interpret, and display data on two categorical and quantitative variables*

GEOMETRY

5 Credit Full Year Course

College Prep Course #: MA333

Grade 10

The fundamental purpose of the Geometry course is to formalize and extend the Mathematics that students learned in middle school. This course is comprised of the standards found in the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. It encompasses the scope of content and skills required for college preparation and focuses on mathematical concepts that allow students to apply real-world situations within six critical areas of instruction:

- *Establish criteria for congruence of triangles;*
- *Establish criteria for similarity of triangles based on dilations and proportional reasoning;*
- *Informally develop explanations of circumference, area, and volume formulas;*
- *Apply the Pythagorean Theorem to the coordinate plan;*
- *Prove basic geometric theorems.*

INTEGRATED MATHEMATICAL MODELING 3 (IMM3)

5 Credit Full Year Course

College Prep Course #: MA352

Accelerated Course #: MA356

Grade 11

The fundamental purpose of the Integrated Mathematical Modeling 3 Course is to extend the mathematics that students learned in IMM2. The algebraic scope IMM3 includes exposure to logarithmic expressions and functions, as well as advanced topics involving polynomial expressions and functions, rational expressions and functions, exponential expressions and functions, and complex numbers. The geometric topics covered in this course include using previous knowledge of similarity and right triangles to develop various trigonometric concepts, continuing to prove geometric facts by using coordinate geometry, and visualizing the relationships between two and three dimensional objects. Students will continue to explore the 6 trigonometric functions as they will make connections between the unit circle and the domain of the trigonometric functions. Students will also use the trigonometric functions and their graphs to model various periodic phenomena. The statistics component of this course will include interpreting categorical and quantitative data, making inferences about a data set or the results of surveys and justifying these conclusions, and using probability to make proper statistical decisions.

PRE-CALCULUS ACCELERATED

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Accelerated Course #: MA332

Grade 11

This course is a required course in conjunction with IMM3 Accelerated for any junior wishing to enroll in either AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC during their senior year. This course will introduce various topics students must be exposed to before beginning their study in an advanced calculus course. The expected topics for this course include, but are not limited to: conic sections, curve sketching, limits, continuity, the difference quotient, DeMoivre's Theorem, polar graphing, and a graphing calculator. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for their experience in AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC.

CALCULUS

5 Credit Full Year Course

Course #: MA430

Grade 12

This course is an introductory course in Calculus for students with a good aptitude for mathematics and who may pursue a course study in mathematics, computer, science or engineering. This course will cover many of the topics normally studied during the first semester of college calculus including limits, methods of differentiation, applications of derivatives, techniques of integration and applications of the integral. It is recommended that students feel confident with previous math classes, IMM3 concepts, and a graphing calculator.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS AB

5 Credit Full Year Course

Advanced Placement Courses provide an opportunity for students to experience a college course while still in high school. AP courses follow a syllabus that has been approved by the College Board and teachers must receive specialized training to teach the course. Although it is not required, it is expected that students who take AP courses will also register and take the national AP exam in May at their own expense. This course is a college-level course in calculus for grade 11 and 12 students with strong skills in mathematics and an above average achievement level who plan to pursue a course study in mathematics, physics or engineering at a four-year college. It is recommended that students feel confident with previous math classes, IMM3 concepts, and a graphing calculator. This course will cover limits, differential and integral calculus and their applications. A graphing calculator is required (TI-84+ is strongly recommended).

AP® Course #: MA371

Grade 12

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS BC

7.5 Credit Full Year Course

Advanced Placement Courses provide an opportunity for students to experience a college course while still in high school. AP courses follow a syllabus that has been approved by the College Board and teachers must receive specialized training to teach the course. Although it is not required, it is expected that students who take AP courses will also register and take the national AP exam in May at their own expense. This course is a college level course in calculus for grade 12 students with strong skills in mathematics and an above average achievement level who plan to pursue a course study in mathematics, physics or engineering at a four-year college. This course will cover limits, differential and integral calculus and their applications. Additionally, students will learn series, sequences, parametric equations and advanced integration techniques. A graphing calculator is required (TI-84+ is strongly recommended).

AP® Course #: MA373

Grade 12

MATHEMATICAL APPLICATIONS

5 Credit Full Year Course

This grade 12 course is designed to give students a firm foundation in problem-solving. Students will be provided with new, imaginative and creative techniques to solve real world problems. Students will be encouraged to think and work together, present solutions orally and in written form. The course will review and expand the students' knowledge of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry and will explore the relationships between the topics. This course is also designed to prepare students for taking college related exams, as well as providing some skills necessary to become financially literate.

College Prep Course #: MA351

Grade 12

PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS

5 Credit Full Year Course

This course for students in grades 11 and 12 is about the collection, display, summarization, analysis, interpretation of data, and concepts from the mathematic disciplines of *probability* and *statistics*. The probability portion will include such topics as the basic rules of counting, permutations, combinations, discrete distributions (binomial, Poisson, geometric), and continuous distributions (normal, t-distribution, chi-square, F-distribution). The statistics portion topics consists of sampling, estimation, correlation, regression, confidence intervals, one-sample and two sample hypothesis testing, and (time permitting) non-parametric hypothesis testing. Emphasis is placed on the interpretation and critical evaluation of the numbers and statistics encountered outside of school.

College Prep Course #: MA344

Recommended for grades 11-12

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS

5 Credit Full Year Course

The course is equivalent to a college level statistics class. Students who successfully complete this course are prepared to take the AP Statistics exam and have the ability to earn college credit and advanced standing by passing the exam. This course for students in grade 12 is about the collection, display, summarization, analysis, interpretation of data, and concepts from the mathematic disciplines of *probability* and *statistics*. The probability portion will include such topics as the basic rules of counting, permutations, combinations, discrete distributions (binomial, Poisson, geometric), and continuous distributions (normal, t-distribution, chi-square, F-distribution). The statistics portion topics consists of sampling, estimation, correlation, regression, confidence intervals, one-sample and two sample hypothesis testing, and (time permitting) non-parametric hypothesis testing. Emphasis is placed on the interpretation and critical evaluation of the numbers and statistics encountered outside of school. A graphing calculator is required (TI-84+ is strongly recommended).

AP® Course #: MA375

Recommended for grade 12

Media Arts

Now more than ever, media is all around us! The media arts curriculum is designed to support students in improving their media literacy, both in terms of having a better understanding of the media around them, and in creating their own meaningful media.

DIGITAL FILM PRODUCTION

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Students will gain competency in producing film video. Students will learn the fundamentals of concept planning, storyboarding, cinematography and sound recording, and post-production editing. Students will work with their peers and the teacher to produce two to three short films.

Elective Course #: EN161

Recommended for grades 9-12

TV STUDIO PRODUCTION

2.5 Credits Semester Course

Students will learn how to operate equipment typically used in a commercial television studio. This hands-on class also exposes students to technical and organizational challenges of creating media content. Students who take this class may have the opportunity to volunteer to film school film school events.

Elective Course #: EN162

Recommended for grades 9-12

MEDIA LITERACY

2.5 Credits Semester Course

This semester class takes students through the process of deconstructing media in order to gain a greater understanding of the techniques used in various forms of media to manipulate our emotions, feelings, and thought. Students in this semester course will analyze a range of media to think about questions such as: How are films able to manipulate my emotions? How can the print media influence the way I think about an issue? What can I do to be more influential when I am producing my own media? Students will be expected to take part in group discussions, reflect on their learning through journaling, and produce their own influential media as their final project.

Elective Course #: EN226

Recommended for grades 11-12

Performing and Visual Arts

The Visual and Performing Arts Department provides a curriculum that enriches academic and cultural learning. At the heart of this curriculum is the creation and performance of various types of art as well as respect for the vast diversity of art across genres and time periods.

Our Performing Arts courses range from beginning instruction in piano and guitar through the advanced study of choral and instrumental literature. Our diverse course offerings are designed to meet the needs, experience levels, and career goals of all students. Students without prior experience can begin study; students who have been in choir or band, or have had previous art courses can continue their study; and students who wish to study the Arts in college can be challenged at the highest levels of rigor.

Our Visual Arts courses range from introductory courses in traditional and digital media through Advanced Placement offerings. Graphic Design students gain real-world experience as their work is featured throughout the community through logo design, poster displays, and other forms of media.

Performing Arts

CONCERT BAND

5 Credit Full Year Course

Concert Band is a large ensemble for students who play band instruments. Emphasis will be on the preparation and performance of grade III-IV wind literature. Students will hone individual playing techniques as well as develop ensemble skills throughout the course of the year. Although the focus will be full ensemble performance, chamber music, music theory, and music history will be studied. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the Central District Music Festival. Although it is not required, private study is highly recommended for students enrolled in this course. This course is open to all students who have two years playing experience. Students are required to perform in all band concerts at the high school and the MICCA Festival. Unless directed otherwise by the high school director, all entering freshman should enroll in concert band.

Elective Course #: VP830

Recommended for grades 9-12

WIND SYMPHONY

5 Credit Full Year Course

Wind Symphony is an accelerated large ensemble for students who play band instruments. Emphasis will be on the preparation and performance of grade IV-VI wind literature. Students will hone individual playing techniques as well as develop ensemble skills throughout the course of the year. Although the focus will be full ensemble performance, chamber music, music theory, and music history will be studied. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the Central District Music Festival. Although it is not required, private study is highly recommended for students enrolled in this course. Students are required to perform in all band concerts at the high school and the MICCA Festival. *Admission to this class is by audition only.*

Accelerated Course #: VP883

Recommended for grades 9-12

INSTRUMENTAL TECHNIQUES

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Instrumental Techniques is for those students who would like an opportunity for more individualized instruction in addition to performing in a large ensemble. Topics addressed in this course may include, but are not limited to, audition preparation, jazz techniques, chamber music, and general musicianship strengthening.

Elective Course #: VP863

Recommended for grades 9-12

TREBLE CHOIR

5 Credit Full Year Course

Treble Choir is for freshmen treble voices as well as students for whom this is their first choral experience at the high school level. Vocal registers and transitions, breathing technique, diction, and sight singing skills will be some of the areas worked on in this course. Repertoire appropriate to treble voices will be studied and performed throughout the year. Students are required to participate in all 3 evening choral concerts at the high school as well as the MICCA Choral Festival.

Elective Course #: VP845

Recommended for grades 9-12

CONCERT CHOIR

5 Credit Full Year Course

Concert Choir is for treble voices in grades 10-12 who have previously participated in a high school choral ensemble and all bass voices in grades 9-12. In Concert Choir, students will perform music in a variety of styles, genres, and time periods and will gain an understanding of what makes musical periods different from one another. Emphasis will be placed on personal musical development; including the study of the voice as an instrument, music notation, and performing with others. Students are required to perform in 3 evening concerts at the high school as well as the MICCA Choral Festival. No audition is required, but students must be able to match pitch and sing a simple song.

Elective Course #: VP842

Recommended for grades 9-12

CHAMBER CHOIR

5 Credit Full Year Course

This is an accelerated course in which the vocal and musical development begun in Concert Choir is continued with a higher level of proficiency. Emphasis is placed on solo singing, vocal technique, and full ensemble performance. Students will have the opportunity to audition for Central District and All-State Choruses. Students will be selected to participate in this ensemble based on musical ability and responsibility toward the preparation and performance of many musical styles. The singers perform many times throughout the year in school and the community. Students are required to perform in 3 evening concerts at the high school as well as the MICCA Choral Festival. Although not required, private study is highly recommended for students enrolled in this course. *Admission to this class is by audition only.*

Accelerated Course #: VP846

Recommended for grades 9-12

MUSIC THEORY

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Music Theory introduces students to the analysis of music. Through the examination of classical era music, students will learn how to construct melodic and harmonic structures and explore how composers use those structures. This course requires music reading fluency in at least one clef and is designed for students who have basic music reading skills gained through either playing an instrument or singing.

Elective Course #: VP859

Recommended for grades 10-12

CLASSICAL GUITAR

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course is designed for the beginning guitar student looking to learn the basics of the instrument. Emphasis will be placed on proper technique, tuning, musical notation, chords, and introductory music theory. As well, the students are expected to develop their performance skill by developing a basic repertoire of solos and duets.

Elective Course #: VP862

Recommended for grades 9-12

PIANO 1

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course is designed for students with no prior piano playing experience. Through individualized and group instruction, students will learn how to play simple pieces on the piano, as well as basic music reading and music theory skills.

Elective Course #: VP869

Recommended for grades 9-12

STAGE CRAFT

2.5 Credit Semester Course

In this course, students will engage in activities and projects specifically geared to the production of the high school's spring musical. Topics will include backstage workings, theater terminology, lighting, sound, set design construction, costuming, and make-up. Students will also take time to explore the duties and responsibilities of "running the house" for the spring musical. These include ticket design and sales, public relations, program layout, and intermission activities. Attendance at the spring musical is required.

Elective Course #: VP861

Recommended for grades 9-12

Visual Arts Courses

FOUNDATIONS OF ART

2.5 Credit Semester Course

The focus of this course is to develop the artistic skills and techniques required for further study in the visual arts. In this combined academic/studio art course, student will be introduced to the fundamental components of visual art through the study of the elements of art and principles of design. Through project-based experiences, students will explore a variety of materials while learning skills in areas of observational drawing, color theory & painting, linear perspective, and sculptural activities. Sketchbooks will be used for practice and proficiency activities. Student will be required to: use the course textbook to read and complete supplemental course work; complete homework assignments; and conduct research. This course is necessary for those who plan to continue their study of art in the upper level courses such as Drawing & Painting, Ceramics and/or Graphic Design.

Elective Course #: VP826

Recommended for grades 9-12

DRAWING & PAINTING 1

5 Credit Full Year Course

This course is open to students who completed Foundations of Art. The Foundations of Art requirement can only be waived through portfolio review. Using skills and techniques acquired in Foundations of Art, students will continue to develop their technical abilities in drawing from observation and imagination. Students will be introduced to drawing and painting styles and methods, both traditional and contemporary, with an emphasis on expressing ideas through various media. The mediums used in this class may include graphite, pen & ink, ink wash, charcoal, pastels, colored pencils, acrylics, oils, watercolors, and mixed media. Learning will occur within the context of art history/culture, and criticism. Students will be required to maintain a sketchbook within and outside the classroom, complete homework assignments, and conduct research.

Elective Course #: VP829

Recommended for grades 10-12

DRAWING & PAINTING 2

5 Credit Full Year Course

This course is open to students who completed Drawing & Painting I (“2D Art I”). This course furthers the development of skills and techniques learned in Drawing & Painting I. Students will focus on the development of a personal style and originality of concepts and images through more involved and advanced assignments, with an emphasis on higher level thinking skills and aesthetics. Traditional and experimental techniques will be explored using a wide variety of drawing and painting media. Learning will occur in the context of art history/culture and art criticism. Students will be required to maintain a sketchbook within and outside the classroom, complete homework assignments, conduct research, and participate in written and oral critiques.

Elective Course #: VP840

Recommended for grades 11-12

CERAMICS 1

5 Credit Full Year Course

This course is open to students who have completed Foundations of Art. The Foundations of Art requirement can only be waived through portfolio review. Students in Ceramics 1 will explore three-dimensional design using clay as the medium, with an emphasis on the fundamentals of formation, surface design, and glaze applications. Students will create both functional and decorative sculptural pieces through traditional hand-building techniques (pinch, slab, coil, and press/drape molds) with a focus on technique and craftsmanship. Learning will occur within the context of art history/culture, and criticism. Students will be required to: know and use art and ceramics terminology; maintain a sketchbook for drawing practice and project planning activities; complete homework assignments; and conduct research.

Elective Course #: VP860

Recommended for grades 10-12

CERAMICS 2

5 Credit Full Year Course

This course is open to students who have completed Ceramics 1. This course continues the progressive development of technical skills learned in Ceramics 1 with a focus on advanced hand-building techniques and introduction to wheel-throwing. Students will be expected to demonstrate initiative, commitment, and experimentation with an emphasis on the development of personal style. Students will explore conceptual problem-solving through more involved and complex assignments, and will experiment with slips, resists and layered finishing techniques. Learning will occur within the context of art history/culture, and criticism. Students will be required to know and use art and ceramics terminology; maintain a sketchbook for drawing practice and project planning activities; complete homework assignments; and conduct research.

Elective Course #: VP864

Recommended for grades 11-12

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART – 2D Design Portfolio**ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART – 3D Design Portfolio**

5 Credit Full Year Course

Admission to this course is by Portfolio Review only. Students taking AP 2D Design must have completed Drawing & Painting 1 and 2. Students taking 3D Design* must have completed Ceramics 1 & 2 and Wheel Throwing. (*Note: Students who select any 3D approach other than ceramics must provide their own materials.)

AP® Course #: VP839

AP® Course #: VP866

Recommended for grades 11-12

This rigorous portfolio course is designed for students seriously interested in the study of visual art and who anticipate entrance to college with a major or minor in the visual arts. Students are asked to demonstrate mastery of 2D or 3D design through visual thinking, purposeful decision-making, progressive technical skill development and critical analysis. Students will work independently on the interpretation of visual and conceptual issues, and will develop their own artistic voice and expression through a variety of media. Portfolio work is expected to fulfill the College Board's portfolio requirements of QUALITY -- the development of a sense of excellence in art; BREADTH -- a variety of experiences in the formal, technical and expressive means available to an artist; and CONCENTRATION -- an in-depth commitment to a particular artistic concern. Additionally, students are required to: complete summer work (including summer reading); make presentations/give critiques; and organize a final exhibit of studio work at the end of the course. This course has the rigor of a college-level course and all assignments require significant additional time/work beyond class time to complete. AP Studio Art is not based on a written exam; instead, students submit portfolios for evaluation to the Advanced Placement Board, and all are strongly encouraged to submit their portfolio at the conclusion of this course. **Student enrolled in this course must meet with instructor during the fourth quarter of the preceding school year to discuss requirements and receive summer assignment.**

FOUNDATIONS OF GRAPHIC DESIGN

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This is an introductory course where students will learn the basic principles of design, composition, form making and color foundation. Projects and class meetings will be structured to help students develop a design concept using the elements of art. The goal of this course is to provide a rigorous understanding of these foundational principles and skills, which will then serve as a strong base for all future graphic design work.

Elective Course #: VP733

Recommended for grades 9-10

GRAPHIC DESIGN 1

5 Credit Full Year course

This course is for students who have successfully completed Foundations of Graphic Design, Visual Literacy or Digital Imaging I. Students will engage in a continuing examination of elements of design, spatial relationships, typography and imagery as they apply to practical visual solutions for print and web. Color theory and composition techniques are explored and practiced. Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop are used as the design media for all projects.

Elective Course #: VP731

Recommended for grades 11-12

GRAPHIC DESIGN 2

5 Credit Full Year course

This course is for students who have successfully completed the full year Graphic Design course. This course is designed for students with an interest in art and design as a career choice. Emphasis is on the development of strong concepts, to communicate persuasively and effectively integrate type and image.

Elective Course #: VP732

Recommended for grades 11-12

Physical Education

The Health, Nutrition, and Fitness, courses are designed to educate students in promoting their personal health and encourage them to practice healthy habits, reduce unhealthy risk taking and make informed decisions. The comprehensive health curriculum is aligned with both the State and National health and physical education standards. The Physical Education program encourages students to learn about their physiological development and to properly maintain a practical use of fitness in everyday life. The department offers a variety of courses that encompass the wellness paradigm of physical, mental and social health. Students will attain the attitude, knowledge and skills to achieve health literacy, practice health-enhancing behaviors, and make health-promoting decisions for life.

During freshmen year, students take **Fundamentals of Fitness**, a physical education class in which they learn the core elements of developing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. **Wellness**, taken by all sophomores, prepares students to acquire, manage and promote their physical, psychological, social and sexual health.

Upperclassmen have the opportunity to take a wide range of elective courses that were created to meet the needs of every student with their unique talent, ability, and interest. Elective courses include opportunities to participate in team sports, to compete, or to explore alternative opportunities in physical education.

Physical Education

FUNDAMENTALS OF FITNESS

2.5 Credit Semester Course

The Fundamentals of Fitness course provides the foundation of knowledge necessary to improve all components of physical fitness: flexibility, cardio-respiratory fitness, muscle fitness (including balance training, endurance training and strength training) and body composition. Through personal goal setting, use of the FIT parameters of overload and other training principles, students create an individualized fitness program that includes cardio-respiratory and resistance training components in compliance with the state and national standards. Emphasis is placed on training the core and developing balance, proper body mechanics and safety when using the resistance training equipment and cardio machines in the Fitness Center/Weight Training facility. This course also offers an introduction to the health and wellness continuum by including a brief overview of nutrition principles including the essential nutrients and dietary choices as they relate to body composition and lifelong physical fitness.

Required Course #: PE921

Grade 9 Requirement

WELLNESS

2.5 Credit Semester Course

The Grade 10 Wellness course focuses on the relationship between physical fitness, mental and social well-being, disease prevention, and personal health promotion. Major themes include human sexuality, stress management, mental health and human relations, teen dating violence, cyberbullying, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular health and fitness, nutrition, public health, alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention. The course is structured around cooperative learning, discussion, role-playing, and a research project. The course will also center on teamwork, cooperation, movement and exercise, active participation and healthy group dynamics. Guest speakers in the field of healthcare and prevention services will make presentations.

Required Course #: PE913

Grade 10 Requirement

COOPERATIVE TEAM SPORTS

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This team sports class will include instruction of skills and active participation in a variety of sports and alternative team based games. This class stresses the importance of team cooperation and sportsmanship. It is a competitive class so participation and effort is heavily graded.

Elective Course #: PE928

Recommended for grade 11

LIFETIME FITNESS

2.5 Credit Semester Course

The Lifetime Fitness Course is an elective course that is intended to follow the Fundamentals of Fitness Course in the department continuum. This course is based on the four aspects of Physical Fitness: cardio-respiratory fitness, muscle fitness, flexibility, and body composition. Students will design their own personal workout programs and the majority of class time will be spent exercising according to these personal plans. Students will apply systematic aerobic conditioning concepts to find heart rate training zones and

Elective Course #: PE910

Recommended for grades 11

F.I.T. (frequency, intensity, and time) measures for their cardio-respiratory plans. Students will learn and apply many muscle fitness principles and will also employ the F.I.T. measures for their personal program goals. An opportunity for Body Composition Analysis will also be available, but not mandatory. We will use the Fitness Center, including the cardio machines, free standing weight machines, stability balls, weight balls, Bosu trainers, and resistance tubes.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

2.5 Credit Semester Course

The Stress Management course exposes students to a multi-disciplinary approach to reducing and controlling negative stress. Among the strategies that students will acquire and practice for stress reduction are physical exercises such as yoga and walking as well as mindfulness activities such as meditation, journal writing, music, and art therapies. Students will learn to identify and recognize early warning signs of stress and the connection between stress and illness. With a holistic approach to stress management and health promotion, teens can adopt these essential lifelong skills to maintain and improve their personal health and wellness.

Elective Course #: PE923

Recommended for grades 11

COMPETITIVE TEAM SPORTS

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Team sports will include instruction of skills and active participation in a variety of sport units. Some of the units will include traditional sports such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, and softball. Other units will include alternative team centered games such as triangle ball, speed ball, tchoukball, pickleball, badminton, and nitro ball. This course is a competitive course and promotes sportsmanship, effort, attitude, and team cooperation. Physical participation is mandatory.

Elective Course #: PE919

Recommended for grade 12

MOTIONS

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course is designed to give students experience with different forms of physical fitness. Units include Pilates, yoga, barre, functional fitness training, as well as outside exercise such as walk to jog for fitness. The goal is to encourage students to try different forms of exercise and to be more confident and open to trying fitness classes beyond high school. This class is suited for our diverse student body to enjoy the many benefits of physical fitness.

Elective Course #: PE924

Recommended for grades 12

EXERCISE FOR STRESS MANAGEMENT

2.5 Credit Semester Course

The stress management course exposes students to a physical approach to reducing and controlling negative stress focusing on physical exercises such as yoga and walking as well as art therapies. Students will learn to identify stress as well as the triggers that can promote it. Learning healthy outlets to stress will help students establish life skills that are extremely beneficial for their futures in balancing life's many responsibilities.

Elective Course #: PE929

Recommended for grade 12

Science

The science department offers courses that are designed to accommodate both the academic needs as well as the interests of our students. Our courses teach students the knowledge and skills necessary to ask questions, make observations, design experiments, gather and analyze data, and draw conclusions that can be shared and communicated with others. Laboratory courses in particular provide an opportunity for students to utilize the technological tools of the scientist in developing the practices and skill necessary for graduation and beyond.

The graduation requirement in science coursework is the successful completion of three laboratory science classes (15 credits). It is recommended that college-bound students take courses in biology, chemistry, and physics beginning with biology their freshman year. Students may enroll in more than one full credit science course in any given academic year as well as any electives they are interested in, individual schedules permitting. We offer Advanced Placement[®] (AP) courses in biology, chemistry, physics and environmental science as well as a wide range of electives such as Earth and Space Science, Genetics and Biotechnology, Forensics and Nutritional and Exercise Science.

SCIENCES

BIOLOGY

5 Credit Full Year Course
Lab Course

This course is designed to teach biological concepts and laboratory skills that will equip students for further study in the scientific disciplines. Students will learn biological technology, terminology, and the scientific method. Course topics include biochemistry, cell biology, reproductive biology, genetics, microbiology, taxonomy, evolution and the structure and function of both plants and animals. These topics are taught within a developmental framework stressing the relationship between structure and function in living things.

College Prep Course #: SC523

Accelerated Course #: SC522

Recommended for grades 9-10

ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY

7.5 Credit Full Year Course
Lab Course

Advanced Placement Courses provide an opportunity for students to experience a college course while still in high school. AP courses follow a syllabus that has been approved by the College Board and teachers must receive specialized training to teach the course. Although it is not required, it is expected that students who take AP courses will also register for the national AP exam at their own expense. The course is an in-depth study of the fundamentals of biology and focuses on four major themes: 1) the process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life. 2) Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, reproduce, and maintain dynamic homeostasis. 3) Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes. 4) Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties. A series of inquiry-based laboratories will be completed during the year which will involve a considerable amount of data analysis. Students should expect a summer assignment. Students who enroll in this course should have demonstrated the ability to gather and analyze large amounts of data in a timely fashion, think clearly and express ideas orally and in writing with clarity and logic. It is recommended that the student has a background in Biology.

AP[®] Course #: SC571

Recommended for grades 10-12

CHEMISTRY

5 Credit Full Year Course
Lab Course

Topics in this course include matter, energy, scientific measurements, solutions, atomic structure, periodic law, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, nuclear chemistry and gasses. This course is fast-paced; math application is advanced; lab techniques will be developed; and digital technology is used extensively. Students electing the Accelerated version of this course should possess *very strong* math skills.

College Prep Course #: SC533

Accelerated Course #: SC532

Recommended for grades 10-12

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY

7.5 Credit Full Year Course

Lab Course

Advanced Placement Courses provide an opportunity for students to experience a college course while still in high school. AP courses follow a syllabus that has been approved by the College Board and teachers must receive specialized training to teach the course. Although it is not required, it is expected that students who take AP courses will also register for the national AP exam at their own expense. AP[®] Chemistry is a rigorous math-based course, with a strong laboratory component that is intended to develop the student's ability to apply mathematical skills to solve chemistry problems. The pace, depth and amount of material covered exceeds the standard high school chemistry course, as does the college-level textbook, laboratory experiments and analysis, and time and effort required of students. Students should plan on spending at least eight hours per week in independent study. Topics include states and structure of matter, chemical reactions, thermodynamics, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, electrochemistry, and colligative properties. It is recommended that the student has a background in Chemistry.

AP[®] Course #: SC581

Recommended for grade 11- 12

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

5 Credit Full Year Course

Lab Course

This course combines the study of local ecosystems with that of current environmental issues. Human use and misuse of the environment is emphasized. Topics range from tree identification, soil, and water ecology, water quality, mammal tracking to habitat destruction, human population growth, global warming, and solid waste issues. The course involves a variety of hands-on labs and projects, as well as long-range research assignments relating to environmental issues. Frequent trips outdoors, even in cold weather, should be expected.

Elective Course #: SC556

Recommended for grades 11-12

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

5 Credit Full Year Course

Lab Course

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses provide an opportunity for students to experience a college course while still in high school. AP courses follow a syllabus that has been approved by the College Board and teachers must receive specialized training to teach the course. It is expected that students who take AP courses will also register for the national AP exam. The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college course in environmental science. In this course, students will be studying modern environmental issues integrating concepts from biology, earth science, and chemistry. The course is designed to provide students with scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and man-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Students will participate in field studies to collect and analyze authentic data and to evaluate specific environments.

AP[®] Course #: SC583

Recommended for grades 11-12

PHYSICS

5 Credit Full Year Course

Lab Course

Relying on their math skills, diligent lab work, and the scientific method, students will complete lab and project work to recognize and solve problems in these classic topic areas: light, sound, wave theory, linear and circular motion, projectile and 2-dimensional motion, freefall, forces, universal gravitation, work, power, and energy, impulse and momentum, magnetism and electricity.

College Prep Course #: SC543

Recommended for grade 11-12

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS 1

5 Credit Full Year Course

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of Physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. The course is based on six Big Ideas, which encompass core scientific principles, theories, and processes that cut across traditional boundaries and provide a broad way of thinking about the physical world. It is expected that students who take AP courses will also register for the national AP exam.

AP[®] Course #: SC544

Recommended for grades 11-12

SCIENCE ELECTIVES

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

5 Credit Full Year Course

The aim of this content-driven elective course is to introduce the student to the structure and function of the human body. Presentation is via lecture, problem-based projects, learning activities, and laboratory experiences, including careful dissection of the fetal pig, and other relevant dissections. This course will be of particular interest to those students intending to follow careers in any of the medical and health fields as well as careers in physical education, science, and biology. Students who have a demonstrated interest in the biological sciences will also tend to do well in this course.

Elective Course #: SE553

Recommended for grades 11-12

ANATOMY: SYSTEMS

2.5 Credit Semester Course

(Anatomy and Physiology: Systems) This content driven survey course is designed to introduce students to the major body systems needed for survival and homeostasis. This course supports students who are currently in Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, or AP Biology, or simply wish to know more about their bodies and how they work. The two sections of the course will cover different body systems; students may sign up for one or both of them. Body systems covered in the course will include Nervous, Endocrine, Immune, Circulatory, Respiratory, Digestive, Excretory, and Reproductive. Content will be explored through dissection, lecture, projects, and multimedia presentations.

Elective Course #: SE554

Recommended for grades 11-12

FORENSIC SCIENCE

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Forensic science is an elective course for those who wish to study the application of science to law. This is a project-based course involving all areas of science including biology, anatomy, chemistry, physics, and environmental studies. There is an emphasis on complex reasoning and critical thinking. Topics will include forensic science versus investigation and other scientific processes, fingerprint recovery and identification systems, lip and bite print identification, hair and fibers, body tissues and parasites, documentation, bombs, arson, and profiling. Guest speakers, when available, will share their expertise with the students. Due to the nature of the material, a certain level of maturity is required, as well as the ability to work in a safe manner. Note: Forensic Science will not replace college entry requirement of Chemistry.

Elective Course #: SE587

Recommended for grades 11-12

GENETICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This elective course uses a variety of laboratory experiences, lectures and projects to introduce students to the growing field of genetics. It includes the study of basic Mendelian genetics, gene action, genetic mutations, genetic diseases and abnormalities, genetic engineering and manipulation, biotechnology, and genetic counseling.

Elective Course #: SE585

Recommended for grades 11-12

NUTRITION & EXERCISE SCIENCE

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This content driven semester-long course investigates the basic, scientific principles of human nutrition and exercise, emphasizing the function and metabolism of macronutrients and their utilization in the body for growth and health. This will be applied to the process of energy production for exercise, through biomechanics, motor behavior, fitness management, and optimal fitness performance. This course will be of particular interest to student interested in career in the exercise science, nutrition, and medical fields. This course utilized introductory biology and physics concepts.

Elective Course#: SE588

Recommended for grades 9-12

EARTH & SPACE

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Space and Earth Science is an elective that exposes students to a variety of topics including geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy. This course is designed to build upon previously gained understandings with life science and the physical world. Through the study of earth and space, students learn about the nature and interactions of oceans and the atmosphere, earth's processes including plate tectonics, changes in topography over time, and the place of the earth in the universe.

Elective Course #: SE568

Recommended for grades 9-10

Social Studies

The Social Studies curriculum is designed to teach and engage students in the history of the modern world as well as in our own nation's diverse cultural and political heritage. It is through the study of the world and American history that students will begin to recognize how our nation's ideals and world-wide events have influenced the issues, institutions, and practices of modern day.

As freshmen, students will explore topics in World History such as the Renaissance, Enlightenment, and the American and French Revolutions. The creation of the Constitution will be introduced this year. Students will examine historic events, literature, art and music, and will demonstrate their knowledge through independent research, collaboration, and projects.

Sophomores will take US History I exploring the beginnings of the nation through the Civil War and Reconstruction with focus on the issues that slowly divided the new nation. Juniors will continue their study of history with US History II. In this course, students will dive into post-Civil War America stressing the political, economic, cultural and social changes that defined America for the next century. Student in these classes will demonstrate their understanding through presentations, essays, projects, and a research paper. Juniors also have the choice to take Advanced Placement US History, which culminates with an AP exam in May.

All students are encouraged to take advantage of the wide range of electives offered in the Social Studies department. Popular electives offered include Sociology, Psychology, Justice and Law, Contemporary Issues, and 1960s and 1970s America. The Social Studies department also offers two new Advanced Placement courses: AP Seminar and AP Psychology.

SOCIAL STUDIES

WORLD HISTORY 1600 - 1800

5 Credit Full Year Course

College Prep Course #: SS257

Accelerated Course #: SS258

Grade 9

This 9th grade history course will cover the years of 1600-1800 in a thematic nature incorporating society, history and cultures from around the globe. Students will learn philosophies and ideas about government evolved and eventually led to the creation and evolution of American Democracy. Learning about the history of different societies through a thematic approach will allow for students to make connections and see how events and trends are connected at the local, state, national, and global levels. Units of study include The Renaissance and Protestant Reformation, Age of World Exploration, Age of Absolutism, The Enlightenment, Global Revolutions, and Nationalism.

U.S. HISTORY 1

5 Credit Full Year Course

College Prep Course #: SS233

Accelerated Course #: SS232

Grade 10

This grade 10 course will examine the role of notable people and events from the period of the American Revolution through the reconstruction of the country after the Civil War. Students will also study the basic framework of government established by the Constitution and the basic concepts of the American political system. Major assessments include an independent research paper, group and individual projects and presentations, and a final research project reflecting the essential questions.

U.S. HISTORY 2

5 Credit Full Year Course

College Prep Course #: SS235

Accelerated Course #: SS234

Grade 11

This grade 11 course includes a comprehensive study of the growth and development of the United States since 1877, stressing political, economic, cultural, and social changes. Topics will include industrialization, the age of reform, imperialism, World War 1, America between the World Wars, World War II, foreign policy and America since World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam War, and Watergate. Major assessments include a research paper and numerous individual and group projects.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT® U.S. HISTORY

5 Credit Full Year Course

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses provide an opportunity for students to experience a college course while still in high school. AP courses follow a syllabus that has been approved by the College Board and teachers must receive specialized training to teach the course. AP courses follow a syllabus that has been approved by the College Board. This course is organized as a survey of United States history. Students will improve their analytical skills and will be expected to make use of a variety of supplementary reading materials and write essays. This course is a fast-paced and involves considerable textbook reading and note-taking. Reading selections include *Enduring Voices*. It is expected that students who take AP courses also register for the national AP exam.

AP® Course #: SS270

Recommended for grades 11-12

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES**ADVANCED PLACEMENT® PSYCHOLOGY**

5 Credit Full Year Course

This year-long course will introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. By the end of this course, students will be able to understand the human mind and behavior and be able to figure out why people think, feel, and do what they do. Students will be prepared to take the AP exam in the spring by taking the class. The goal of this course is to provide an overview of the theory and empirical research in the field of psychology. Students learn the various methods psychologists use in their practice. Students will follow in the footsteps of psychologists and be asked to question, develop theories, and conduct experiments to better understand human behavior.

AP® Course #: SS259

Recommended for grade 12

ADVANCED PLACEMENT® SEMINAR

5 Credit Full Year Course

In AP Seminar, students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives, gathering and analyzing information from various sources in order to develop credible and valid evidence-based arguments. AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments. This course will help students develop the skills to succeed in a variety of disciplines. Students who take this course must take the AP Exam offered in May.

AP® Course #: CS123

Recommended for grades 10-11

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course is designed to engage students and develop their understanding of the structure and function of American government. Study will focus on three major areas: the Constitution (specifically the Bill of Rights), how power is divided between the national and state governments, and the roles and responsibilities of citizens. An ongoing practice will be exploring the ideas and institutions that shape politics in the United States today. Ultimately, the goal of this course is to help each member of the class arrive at a greater, more comprehensive understanding of American government and politics so that he or she may be both a more informed and active participant in it.

Elective #: SS255

Recommended for grades 9-10

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

2.5 Credit Semester Course

In this elective, students will examine current national and global issues that are relevant to the world today. Students will critically examine modern forms of media and be expected to present their findings in front of an audience of their peers. Major assessments include leading small group discussions on contemporary issues of their choice, a research-based persuasive essay, identifying propaganda and bias in movies, documentaries, and other forms of media. Examples of contemporary issues to be examined are (but not limited to): injustice, race, discrimination, global politics, genocide, terrorism, and school violence.

Elective #: SS268

Recommended for grades 11- 12

ECONOMICS

5 Credit Full Year Course

This course introduces students to the building blocks of our economy. Students will learn how individuals and businesses interact in the marketplace. Key concepts include supply and demand, the labor market, money and banking, and the role of individual businesses in our economy. In addition, this course provides an introduction to key concepts of economics as a whole. Students will study how GDP, unemployment and income are measured in our country. Students will also learn about economic booms and busts and policies that are used to reduce the negative impact of those fluctuations. Finally, the course will study the impact of globalization on the world economy. Student will learn these concepts in both theory and real world applications.

Elective #: SS254

Recommended for grades 11- 12

JUSTICE AND THE LAW

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Justice and Law serves as an introductory course for students interested in the law and the American legal system. Topics include criminal law, torts, family law, housing laws, consumer laws, and finally individual rights and liberties.

Elective Course #: SS251

Recommended for grades 9-10

1960s and 1970s AMERICA

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course will concentrate on the social, cultural, and political history of the United States in the 1960s and 1970s. The 1960s will remain one of the most dynamic periods in American history, but it is less defined by a decade than by the social protest movements that took place within the 1960s and 1970s. These issues include the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movements, and the Women's Liberation Movement, the consumer and environmental movements and student movements on college campuses. At the same time, many Americans opposed and resisted these movements: coupled with the cynicism developing in the United States in the early 1970s, the roots of conservative politics emerged in response to the developments of the 1960s. Students will investigate these and other issues in a mix of printed, visual, audio, and multimedia sources.

Accelerated Elective #: SS237

Grade 12 only

PSYCHOLOGY

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course is a general introduction to psychology, the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. Major topics will include origins of psychology and research methods, biological psychology, learning, memory, altered states of consciousness, and sensation and perception. This is an engaging, interactive, project-based course. Group interaction, discussion, and reflection are core expectations.

Elective #: SS249

Recommended for grades 11- 12

SENIOR PROJECT

5 Credit Full Year Course

This Senior Project course is designed to be an accelerated, student-driven, teacher guided course where students have the unique opportunity to select an area of their own interest to pursue for further research and the application of their research into action. Throughout the course, students develop the following skills: independent learner, time management, responsibility, problem solving, public speaking, and written and verbal communication.

Accelerated Elective #: SS287

Grade 12 only

SOCIOLOGY

2.5 Credit Semester Course

This course is a general introduction to sociology, the scientific study of our society. Sociology can help us to understand ourselves better, since it examines how the social world influences the way we think, feel, and act. The quest to understand society is important, for if we do not understand the social world, we are more likely to be overwhelmed by it. Major topics will include origins of sociology & research methods, culture, socialization, deviance & social control, and social inequality & stratification. This is an engaging project-based interactive course. Group interaction, discussion, and reflection are core expectations.

Elective #: SS248

Recommended for grades 11-12

Special Education

All students at North Middlesex Regional High School, including students identified with special learning needs, are enrolled in courses aligned with the academic standards in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The Special Education Department at North Middlesex Regional High School implements the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks by providing active student involvement in subject matter directly connected to the common core of learning. Students identified with special learning needs through the evaluation process will access instructional materials and information through various means in order to proactive targeted skills. Specific classes for each individual student will be determined by the Special Education TEAM. If you have any specific questions pertaining to your child's schedule, please contact Margaret Desilets, Special Education Department Chair at mdesilets@nmrsd.org or call 978-597-8721 and ask for Margaret.

Specialized Programs

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

2.5 Credit Semester Course

5 Credit Full Year Course

Course #: SP957

Course #: SP955

This course is designed to provide students with a structured learning environment based on individual strengths and needs. Specific instruction focuses on the development of student and comprehension and retention strategies, and organizational skills needed to improve performance in content area classes. A variety of methods including breaking assignments into manageable steps, and re-teaching and guided practice are incorporated into the daily curriculum. Students will not be eligible for as many elective course offerings due to the placement of the Academic Support class.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING 1 - Foundational

Course #: EN187

5 Credit Full Year Course

This course introduces Foundational level English Learner (EL) students to basic structures and vocabulary of the English language through the skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. EL students learn strategies in order to advance their reading, listening, and pronunciation skills. They expand oral comprehensibility and write complete sentences, a standard paragraph, and short content-based essays. They utilize level-appropriate conventions of grammar and punctuation with a minimum of errors. This course contributes to skills needed in mainstream classes.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING 2 - Transitional

Course #: EN188

5 Credit Full Year Course

In this course, Transitional English Learner (EL) students discover how to use and extend their vocabulary, grammar, and communication skills more consciously and effectively for academic purposes. This course is similar to a mainstream English course in that students analyze classic literature and write multi-draft essays of various forms. Students participate in whole-class and small-group academic discussions. This course contributes to skills needed in mainstream classes and universities.

INTERNSHIP

Elective Course #: CS264

Credits: varies

Recommended for grade 12

This program is an occupational internship which provides students with a “hands-on” work experience. Students are encouraged to locate a site related to their career interests. Educational and professional, as well as occupational experiences are the responsibility of the student. Students must complete proper paperwork with the assistant principal and guidance counselor prior to signing up for the course.

VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL (VHS)

Credits:

Recommended for grades 11-12

Virtual High School is a rigorous online learning opportunity. Over 250 semester, full year, and Advanced Placement courses are offered. To see the entire list of courses, go to: www.govhs.org and click on the Program Catalog. Courses follow a set academic calendar, but students can complete their work online at any time of day or night, as long as they meet their specified due dates. Online learning is tailored to self-motivated, dedicated, hard-working students who are interested in challenging themselves. Paperwork is available in the library and spots are limited.

DEPARTMENT TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Grade 12 only

2.5 Credit Semester Course

Elective Course #: CS300

5 Credit Full Year Course

Elective Course #: CS301

Students may apply to become a teaching assistant for a specific department. They will be overseen by a specific staff member, but may do work for the entire department. For example, Science Department Teaching Assistants may set up for class lab experiments, rotate around a class helping students problem solve, inventory supplies or other tasks as needed. This subject specific teaching assistant option will allow students to gain further exposure and experience in a field of interest. Program requirements will include: a work log, reflections, teacher mentor feedback, as well as a final Capstone Presentation. Applications will be approved by: parents/guardians, guidance, specific departments, as well as the internship coordinator.

EXTERNSHIP

2.5 Credit Semester Course

5 Credit Full Year Course

Grade 12 only**Elective Course #: CS991****Elective Course #: CS990**

Juniors with a "C" average or better may apply to complete an External Internship (outside of NMRHS) in their senior year. This is an opportunity for students to gain valuable experience in a potential college major field of study. Students will propose the location of the external internship and submit appropriate documentation showing approval by the prospective company. Interested students must have reliable transportation. Program requirements will include: work logs, reflections, site check in, as well as a final Capstone Presentation. Students will be expected to intern for four hours per week. Due to the rotating schedule at NMRHS, hours may be completed after school or on weekends. Approved students may then sign in late, sign out early or use the designated block as a study time in the NMRHS Library. Applications will be approved by: parents, guidance, as well as the internship coordinator.

World Languages

Students must earn a minimum of 10 credits in the same World Language (at the high school level) in order to fulfill MassCore and college admissions requirements. However, it is strongly recommended if a student is planning on attending college, that the student continue to study the same language for all four years of high school. When a student enrolls in a World Language course, he or she is able to view the world with a broader mindset. The study of language and culture allows students to appreciate the rich diversity of the world in which they live and will work. Students who intend to pursue a language related career should study an additional language.

“Language learning is never just about words. Language is the medium in which human beings think and by which they express what they have thought. The study of language—any language— is therefore the study of everything that pertains to human nature, as humans understand it.” (Massachusetts Foreign Language Frameworks)

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1

5 Credit Full Year course

This learner-centered course is designed for students with little or no previous knowledge of American Sign Language. Students acquire basic lexical and grammatical skills that will enable them to communicate in routine social situations within an authentic cultural context. The course promotes an understanding of the differences and similarities among Deaf and Hearing communities and fosters critical thinking through linguistic analysis and the comparison of ASL to English. Tests and quizzes are assessments used for receptive and expressive skill development. Research projects, papers, and presentations are assigned throughout the year. Upon successful completion of ASL 1, students may enroll in ASL 2.

College Prep Course #: WL460

Recommended for grades 9-12

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 2

5 Credit Full Year course

Students will continue to build on the language skills acquired in ASL1 by further developing expressive and receptive skills at an intermediate level, acquiring more grammar and lexical skills to enable them to communicate in more complex social and academic situations within an authentic cultural context. Through the integration of receptive and expressive language skills as well as important cultural concepts, students learn to communicate in the target language with progressively more linguistic competence. Tests and quizzes are assessments used for receptive and expressive skill development. Research projects, papers, and presentations are assigned throughout the year.

Accelerated Course #: WL464

Recommended for grades 10-12

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 3

5 Credit Full Year course

This learner-centered course is designed for students who have taken American Sign Language 1 and 2. Students continue to acquire more complex features of grammar and lexical skills that will enable them to communicate with more fluency and competency in social, academic and professional situations within an authentic cultural context. Using the target language, students will debate and exchange information and opinions on a variety of topics and explore and discuss topics relevant to deafness today. Tests and quizzes are assessments used for receptive and expressive skill development. Research projects, papers, and presentations are assigned throughout the year. This course prepares students for further study and professional careers requiring competence in ASL and the understanding of Deaf culture.

Accelerated Course #: WL486

Recommended for grades 11-12

FRENCH

FRENCH 1

5 Credit Full Year course

This course is designed to introduce students to the French language and culture. Students practice vocabulary and grammar concepts in guided and structured exercises, both oral and written. In addition to homework assignments and class participation, student assessments include written and oral quizzes and tests, conversation, presentations and projects. The instructional pace is designed to develop students' second language skills in order to prepare them for a successful transition to French II. Students are expected to use familiar vocabulary and expressions to communicate in the target language.

College Prep Course #: WL410

Recommended for grades 9-12

FRENCH 2

5 Credit Full Year course

Students continue the development of communication skills in listening, reading, writing and speaking using practical and current vocabulary. New grammatical concepts focus on enhancing communication in everyday life. Students practice new vocabulary and grammar concepts through guided and structured exercises, both oral and written. Homework and classroom assignments include exercises designed to improve the students' speaking, listening, reading and written competence while exploring the culture of several Francophone nations. In addition to homework and class participation, students' assessments include written and oral quizzes and tests, conversations and presentations, and projects focusing on unit objectives. Students are expected to use the target language to communicate with their teacher and their classmates.

Accelerated Course #: WL424

Recommended for grades 10-12

FRENCH 3

5 Credit Full Year course

Students who enroll in this course continue to develop second language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing while developing cultural sensitivity to the activities of French-speaking people throughout the world. Through group and pair activities, oral presentations, and guided writing activities, students use the skills they have learned to communicate in authentic, real life situations. Assessment focuses on listening and speaking skills, and interaction in the target language with peers and the teacher. Students will begin to read adapted and original French literature in order to increase proficiency. Reading selections include poetry and short stories from various Francophone authors.

Accelerated Course #: WL430

Recommended for grades 11-12

FRENCH 4

5 Credit Full Year course

This course offers students an in-depth study of contextual communication, grammar, culture, and literature. Students actively participate in the functional uses of the language by interacting with their peers and the teacher on a daily basis; by listening to native speakers of French; by reading authentic literature from the Francophone world; and by writing compositions and critiques. Students also study French cinema and music. This class is conducted mainly in French. Reading selections include various extracts of Francophone authors.

Accelerated Course #: WL440

Recommended for grade 12

SPANISH

SPANISH 1

5 Credit Full Year course

This course is intended for students who have never studied Spanish or who have studied another World Language. It is designed to introduce students to the Spanish language and culture. In this entry level course emphasis is placed on the important role that Hispanics play in the United States today. Students practice vocabulary and grammar concepts in guided and structured exercises both oral and written. In addition to daily homework assignments and class participation, student assessments may include written and oral quizzes and tests, conversation, presentations, and projects. The goal of this course is to develop students' second language skills in order to prepare them for a successful transition to Spanish II. Students are expected to use familiar vocabulary and expressions to communicate in the target language.

College Prep Course #: WL411

Recommended for grades 9-12

SPANISH 2

5 Credit Full Year course

Students who enroll in this course continue to develop their communication skills in listening, reading, writing and speaking by acquiring and using modern vocabulary. In this beginning level course, new grammatical concepts continue to focus on basic communication. Students participate in structured and guided exercises, both oral and written, to practice new vocabulary and grammatical concepts. Assessments, both daily and long-term, are designed to strengthen and improve language skills. A variety of assessments may include written and oral quizzes and tests, conversations, presentations and projects focusing on unit themes. Students are expected to use level-appropriate language to communicate.

College Prep Course #: WL421**Accelerated Course #: WL425**

Recommended for grades 9-12

SPANISH 3

5 Credit Full Year course

Students who enroll in this course begin to apply their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing while developing cultural sensitivity to the everyday activities of Spain and Mexico. Students improve their skills through individual, pair or group activities, conversations, presentations, and guided writing activities, in order to communicate in authentic, real-life situations. A variety of cultural materials supplement the curriculum. Assessments focus on listening and speaking skills, daily class participation and interaction with peers and the teacher, and written and oral presentations, tests, quizzes and project (s). The focus of this course is international travel. Part of the final assessment will include a variety of tasks completed at the end of each unit culminating with an oral presentation of the project. Reading selections include *Historietas en español, Susana y Javier en España*.

College Prep Course #: WL434**Accelerated Course #: WL431**

Recommended for grades 10-12

SPANISH 4

5 Credit Full Year course

Spanish is the primary language of instruction in this course. Discussions, note taking, writing samples, and extemporaneous conversations in Spanish are requirements. Students expand their vocabulary, participate in authentic oral/aural situations, and practice advanced grammatical concepts. Students read a variety of literature which may include poetry, short stories, biographies, and legends. Listening comprehension activities, oral presentations, and writing assignments are some of the criteria used to assess a student's progress. Effective communication is the major goal of this course. Reading Selections include *Leyendas Norteamericanas* and *Lazarillo de Tormes*.

Accelerated Course #: WL441

Recommended for grades 11-12

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

5 Credit Full Year course

The AP Spanish Language class covers the equivalent of a third-year college level course in advanced Spanish reading, writing, and conversation. It encompasses aural/oral skills, reading comprehension, grammar, and composition. Emphasizing the use of Spanish for active and effective communication, the students will have the following goals:

AP® Course #: WL490

Recommended for grades 11-12

- 1) To comprehend formal and informal spoken Spanish
- 2) To express ideas orally with accuracy and fluency
- 3) To acquire vocabulary and to understand grammatical structures
- 4) To compose expository and creative passages
- 5) To read critically

Assessment is an ongoing process that focuses on the language skills evaluated on the AP Spanish Language test. Students will write essays, prepare speech samples, and engage in listening and audiovisual comprehension activities.

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