

WYOMING VALLEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE CATALOG

MATHEMATICS

MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PART 1 ADVANCED ALGEBRA

Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit

Part 1 Advanced Algebra 1 is the first part of the Advanced Algebra 1 course. The content of this course is based on the Pennsylvania Algebra 1 Core standards which are necessary to be successful on the Algebra 1 Keystone exam. Students will take the Algebra 1 Keystone exam at the end of the next course, Part 2 Advanced Algebra 1.

ADVANCED ALGEBRA 1 **ALGEBRA 1 KEYSTONE EXAM TAKEN DURING THIS COURSE**

Grade 9 or 10, Full Year, 1 Credit

Advanced Algebra 1 is an accelerated course in Algebra 1. The content of this course is based on the Pennsylvania Algebra 1 Core standards which are necessary to be successful on the Algebra 1 Keystone exam. Students will take the Algebra 1 Keystone exam at the end of this course.

PART 2 ADVANCED ALGEBRA 1 **ALGEBRA 1 KEYSTONE EXAM TAKEN DURING THIS COURSE**

Grade 10 or 11, Full Year, 1 Credit

Part 2 Advanced Algebra 1 is the second part of the Advanced Algebra 1 course. The content of this course is based on the Pennsylvania Algebra 1 Core standards which are necessary to be successful on the Algebra 1 Keystone exam. Students will take the Algebra 1 Keystone exam at the end of this course.

- **Prerequisites: Part 1 Advanced Algebra 1**

ADVANCED ALGEBRA 2

Grade 10 or 11, Full Year, 1 Credit

Advanced Algebra 2 is a second course in Algebra designed for students with college in their future plans. Topics include linear and non-linear equations and inequalities and other advanced topics.

- **Prerequisites: Advanced Algebra 1 or both Part 1 Advanced Algebra 1 & Part 2 Advanced Algebra (with teacher recommendation)**

HONORS ALGEBRA 2 **ALGEBRA 1 KEYSTONE EXAM TAKEN DURING THIS COURSE**

Grade 9 or 10, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

Algebra 2 (Honors) is a course for students in the Honors math sequence. Topics include linear and non-linear equations and inequalities, complex numbers, logarithms and series and sequences. The pace is advanced, topics are covered in-depth and additional topics are also covered. Students will take the Algebra 1 Keystone exam halfway through this course.

- **Prerequisites: Algebra 1 (8th Grade) at the Wyoming Valley West Middle School.**

GEOMETRY

Grade 11, Full Year, 1 Credit

Geometry is a course that addresses topics including points, lines and planes, deductive reasoning, properties of polygons and circles, similar figures, area and volume, and coordinate geometry.

- **Prerequisites: Advanced Algebra 1 or both Part 1 Advanced Algebra 1 & Part 2 Advanced Algebra 1**

ADVANCED GEOMETRY

Grade 11, Full Year, 1 Credit

Advanced Geometry is an accelerated course in Geometry. This course includes topics such as points, lines, segments, planes, and angles, deductive reasoning, triangles, quadrilaterals, properties of polygons and circles, similar figures, area and volume, and coordinate geometry. This course typically follows after completion of Advanced Algebra 2, but it can be taken in conjunction with Advanced Algebra 2, for the student who is interested in taking Calculus before graduating high school (with teacher recommendation).

- **Prerequisites: Advanced Algebra 1, or completion of the sequence Part 1 Advanced Algebra 1 & Part 2 Advanced Algebra 1.**

HONORS GEOMETRY

Grade 10, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

Geometry (Honors) is a course for students in the Honors math sequence. This course covers all the topics in Advanced Geometry, as well as other advanced topics. Emphasis throughout the course is on the development of deductive reasoning and logical thought through formal geometric proofs.

- **Prerequisites: Algebra 2 Honors**

SAT PREP

Grade 10, 11, 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

SAT Prep is a half year elective course designed for college bound students who will be focusing on the content, format, and scoring methods of the SAT. Successful completion of the course will have a positive effect on the SAT mathematics section (and verbal section). Half the semester will be math and the other half verbal (reading and writing).

- **Prerequisites – Advanced Algebra 1 or both Part 1 & Part 2 Advanced Algebra 1, (may be taken simultaneously with a Geometry course)**

PRE-CALCULUS WITH TRIGONOMETRY

Grade 11 or 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry is a course designed for the college bound student. Topics in Pre-Calculus (Functions and Graphing, Exponentials, Logarithms, Analytic Geometry) and Trigonometry are covered.

- **Prerequisites: Advanced Algebra 2 and Advanced Geometry.**

HONORS PRE-CALCULUS WITH TRIGONOMETRY

Grade 11, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry (Honors) is a course for students in the Honors math sequence. Topics in Pre-Calculus (Functions and Graphing, Exponentials, Logarithms, Analytic Geometry) and Trigonometry are covered. The pace is advanced, topics are covered more in-depth than the non-honors course. Additional math topics in preparation for Calculus were also covered.

- **Prerequisites: Algebra 2 Honors and Geometry Honors.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) CALCULUS

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

AP Calculus is a course for students in the Honors math sequence designed for students who are considering a major in engineering, sciences and/or mathematics. The course will prepare students for the Calculus AB Advanced Placement exam developed by The College Board. Topics include local linearity, limits, rates of change, derivatives, existence theorems, Riemann Sums, integrals, area under a curve, volume, and other applications of limits, derivatives, and integrals. The pace is advanced, topics are covered in-depth. Students may elect to take the AP Examination for AP Calculus AB, typically administered in May.

- **Prerequisites – Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry (Honors)**
- **Requirement: Students are required to have a graphing calculator.**

CALCULUS

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Calculus is a course designed for college bound students who intend to major in the science, business, statistical or mathematical areas. Topics include limits, derivatives and integrals and their applications.

- **Prerequisites – Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry**
- **Requirement: Students are required to have a graphing calculator.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) STATISTICS

Grade 10, 11, 12 Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

AP Statistics is a college level course that follows the curriculum set forth by College Board. This class will introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. The course will prepare students for the AP Statistics exam typically administered in May.

- **Prerequisites: Algebra 2 Honors, or Advanced Algebra 2 with a minimum grade of A, or B (with teacher recommendation).**
- **Requirement: Students are required to have a graphing calculator.**

ALGEBRA 2

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Algebra 2 will build upon the concepts from Algebra 1 and provide a solid background for students planning to attend college. The course covers topics including linear equations, functions, systems of equations, inequalities, factoring, radical functions, exponents and exponential equations, complex numbers, analyzing and solving quadratic equations, variation, rational expressions, probability, logarithmic functions, sequences and series and various problem-solving skills.

- **Prerequisites: Advanced Algebra 1 or both Part 1 Advanced Algebra 1& Part 2 Advanced Algebra 1, Geometry**

ALGEBRA 3

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Algebra 3 is a course designed for senior students who have completed Algebra 2 and are looking to expand their Algebra skills to prepare for college. Topics include complex numbers, logarithms, matrices, and Trigonometry.

- **Prerequisites: Advanced Algebra 2**

APPLIED MATHEMATICS 12

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit 1

Applied Mathematics is a practical mathematics course for seniors. The year will be spent on personal finance topics including interest rates, salary, taxes, renting vs. buying a home, various types of accounts and loans, and other practical applications of mathematics. There is no prerequisite for this course.

COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit

This course is an introduction to the broad and dynamic field of computer science. Students will be introduced to a wide range of issues, such as limitations of computing, and ethical questions in computing. The course will also provide an overview of the most current programming languages. The computer languages to be introduced may include Alice, Visual Basic, C++, Java, and others as they become available.

- **Prerequisite:** 8th grade Pre-Algebra or 8th grade Algebra 1, all with a minimum grade of C.

PYTHON- COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Grade 10, Full Year, 1 Credit

This course provides a step-by-step introduction to the concepts and skills of programming. Student work will focus on solving problems involving programming concepts and design. Projects and exercises will be utilized to reinforce skills learned using a powerful industry-standard programming language.

- **Prerequisite:** Introduction to Computer Programming 1 or Advanced Algebra 1 or Algebra 2, all with a minimum grade of C.

JAVA- COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Grade 11, 12 Full Year, 1 Credit

Students will learn how to plan and create well-structured programs in the Java programming language. Students will write programs using sequence, selection, and repetition structures, as well as creating and manipulating functions, arrays, and strings.

- **Prerequisite:** Python- Computer Programming or Algebra 2 or both part 1 and 2 Advanced Algebra 1, all with a minimum grade of C.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COMPUTER SCIENCE

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

AP Computer Science A is an introductory college-level computer science course. Students cultivate their understanding of coding through analyzing, writing, and testing code as they explore concepts like modularity, variables, and control structures.

- **Prerequisite: Java- Computer Programming with a minimum grade of C or course instructor approval.**

ENGLISH

ENGLISH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ACADEMIC ENGLISH 9

Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit

The course provides instruction in standard written and spoken language, literature, composition, the writing process, and formal speaking and listening skills. Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions, figurative language, and literary genre to create, critique and discuss print and non-print texts. The emphasis on multi-genre literature helps students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. Composition instruction assists students to adjust the use of spoken and written language for different audiences and purposes through a wide range of strategies utilizing different writing process strategies and elements. Students will conduct research by gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing data from a variety of sources including technological and informational resources (e.g., print and non-print texts, libraries, databases, computer networks, video), to create and communicate knowledge culminating in a multi-step research project. Students are required to generate a research project orally and in writing through the use of notetaking and the writing process.

HONORS ENGLISH 9

Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

Course encourages the students to participate in society as a knowledgeable, reflective, creative, and critical user of language. The student develops a command of language for reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. The student learns a range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate a variety of complex texts including newspaper, magazine, essay, novel, short story, poetry, and drama. Vocabulary and composition assignments are developed in direct connection with the study of literary genres as well as real-life experiences. Technology is utilized to further enhance the reading and writing experience. Students entering English 9 Honors should have a strong command of the English language as demonstrated through grammatically correct, concise, coherent, structured sentences, paragraphs, and essays formatted in the MLA style. Students are expected to be familiar with the MLA style of documentation including works cited pages and internal documentation practices. Previous knowledge of analytical literary skills, the writing process, independent reading skills, and thesis writing are all expected. Students can expect to move beyond remembering, understanding, and applying knowledge into more demanding critical thinking skills including analyzing, evaluating, and creating. The reading of long literary masterpieces outside of class and the completion of research-based writing projects with a focus on the MLA style are central to the course. All students enrolled in the English 9 Honors course must successfully complete an independent reading of the required summer reading.

- **Prerequisite: Honors English 8 or an “A” Average in English 8 with teacher recommendation**

ACADEMIC ENGLISH 10

Grade 10, Full Year, 1 Credit

This course provides instruction in standard written and spoken language, literature, composition, the writing process, and formal speaking and listening skills. The course is designed to improve student skills based on national and state standards and prepare them for national and/or state mandated standardized tests. Building on English 9 skills, students re-apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions, figurative language, and genre to create, critique and discuss print and non-print texts. Emphasis on multi-genre literature helps students apply a wide range of reading and writing strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. Composition practice reinforces the ability to adjust the use of spoken and written language for different audiences and purposes. Students will conduct research by gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing data from a variety of sources including technological and informational resources (e.g., print and non-print texts, libraries, databases, computer networks, video), culminating in a research paper. Students must complete this required research paper according to the guidelines or they will fail this course for the year and must retake it.

HONORS ENGLISH 10

Grade 10, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

This is an extension and intensification of Honors English 9. As such, this course is designed to sharpen and/or put in place skills which will be needed to move successfully through the Honors level English offerings in the 11th and 12th grades. It is an eclectic literature course with a fast pace and an emphasis on personal development and responsibility, moving the learner toward self-directed inquiry and ever-increasing depth and scope of knowledge introduced on the ninth-grade honors level. Students must have attained a cumulative average of 3.4 or better and his or her prior instructor's approval to enter this course. The basic text is an anthology, but multiple reference books and novels will also be distributed. During the year, students review and refine previously acquired skills with an eye toward discerning the subtle similarities and differences between poetry and prose, fiction /non-fiction, and in composing description, narration, exposition, and argumentation. Research skills as well as presenting and documenting information are treated in depth. Some of the genres explored include short stories, novels, novellas, poetry, essay, biography, history, and drama. In this course, the student uses a variety of informational resources to gather and synthesize information and to communicate knowledge through oral and written presentations. The student works independently and cooperatively with others to increase reading and writing fluency through the completion of multiple projects and out-of-class readings of full-length literary masterpieces. All students enrolled in the English 10 Honors course must successfully complete independent readings of and formal writings for the required summer reading assignments prior to the start of the course.

- **Prerequisite: Honors English 9 or an "A" Average in English 9 with teacher recommendation**

COMMUNICATION ARTS

Grade 11, Full Year, 1 Credit

This is a standard-level, eleventh grade English course designed to provide instruction in standard written and spoken language, literature, composition, the writing process, formal speaking and listening skills and technological skills to students who do not plan to pursue their education in a four-year college or university immediately following high school. While the course emphasizes American-based literature, the composition skills are designed to aid the student in the transition from the classroom to the workplace. The selections covered relate to personal experiences and struggles people experience in daily life. The goals of this course include reading closely, thinking critically, writing appropriately, listening carefully, speaking well, working collaboratively, and an understanding of the connections of literature to life and work. Students read a wide range of literature in many genres to build understanding of the many dimensions of human experience. Composition instruction assists students to adjust their spoken language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate utilizing different writing process elements. Students complete a research-based project by gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing data from various sources, including technological and informational resources (e.g., print and non-print texts, libraries, databases, computer networks, and video) to create and communicate knowledge through the use of notetaking and the writing process.

ACADEMIC ENGLISH 11

Grade 11, Full Year, 1 Credit

This is a college preparatory eleventh grade English offering that provides instruction in standard written and spoken language, literature, and composition through various processes. Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions, (spelling and punctuation), figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and non-print texts. Surveying America's historical periods and literature unique to each, helps students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. Students read a wide range of literature in many genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions of the human experience. Composition instruction assists students to adjust their use of spoken language (conventions, style, and vocabulary) to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes through a wide range of strategies utilizing different writing process elements. Students conduct research by gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing data from various sources including technological and informational resources to create and communicate knowledge. Students are required to generate a research project orally and in writing through the use of notetaking and the writing process. The research project must be completed to successfully complete the course.

HONORS ENGLISH 11

Grade 11, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

This is an honors English course in which students who qualify may elect to fulfill their eleventh-grade English requirement. The aim of the course is to improve students' skills in accordance with national and state academic standards. The course focuses on selected American authors, traditional and contemporary, who have had a significant impact on the various genres of the literary canon. Students examine a variety of texts, including their own, in terms of theme, style, and structure. To increase their ability to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, create, and appreciate texts, students also complete a year-long independent study of a self-selected contemporary author by using research and writing skills in order to generate four properly formatted and documented writing portfolios. The portfolios are a mandatory part of the course and are required for successful course completion.

- **Prerequisite: English 10 Honors or an A average in Academic English 10 with teacher recommendation**

LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This is designed to provide instruction in standard written and spoken language, literature, composition, the writing process, and formal speaking. Building on Communication Arts skills, students reapply knowledge of language structure, language conventions, figurative language, and genre to create critique and discuss print and non-print texts. With emphasis on British and World literature, the reading, writing, speaking, listening, and technological skills are designed to connect classroom experiences with those of life and work. Composition practice reinforces the ability to adjust the use of spoken and written language for different audiences and purposes. Students will conduct research by gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing data from a variety of sources including technological and informational resources (e.g., print and non-print texts, libraries, databases, computer networks, video), culminating in a research project. Students will generate a research project orally and in writing through the use of notetaking and the writing process.

CLASSICAL LITERATURE

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This is a college prep course that utilizes and refines the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills students have previously acquired and focuses them on analyzing and appreciating literature. The primary source paper serves as the culminating activity which allows students to demonstrate mastery of these skills. This course explores the relationship between language and literature and the dynamic interplay of these with life from which both flows. It is, therefore, survey oriented and chronologically organized. Course content includes representative works from appropriate literary periods of British Literature and related mythologies. All vocabulary and writing are generated by the study of literature. This course requires the learner to demonstrate a mature level and command of language skills, personal study habits, and responsibility. It is constructed to meet the needs of students who plan to further their formal education at a four-year college or university after high school graduation.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

This course concentrates on teaching college-bound students how to read and analyze all aspects of various literary works, and then how to critically write about them. Historical context and the author's life provide a background for understanding the works of literature. The focus is upon the work itself, its characters, action, themes, structure, tone, mood, and literal and figurative language. The reading includes various literary genres such as novels, drama, poetry, short story, and expository literature. In class discussion and in analytical writing, the student is responsible for formulating opinions about literature, comparing and contrasting various works, and supporting opinions with appropriate textual evidence in formal and informal writing situations. The student is required to not only demonstrate an understanding of language, structure, and various themes of a piece of writing, but also to develop precision in organizing and expressing themselves in a mature style using effective writing techniques. Students may elect to take the AP Examination for English Literature and Composition upon completion of the course.

- **Prerequisites: Honors English 11 and Honors Great Books**

ACTING

Grade 10, 11, 12 Full Year, 1 Credit

This class offers an introduction to theater to provide students with the opportunity to learn about the stage, understand basic terminology, and develop skills to improve performance ability. Students will participate in numerous tasks to develop acting skills. Various activities including character development, relaxation exercises, vocal and articulation drills, pantomime, and improvisation will be utilized to prepare students for actual scene presentations. Memorization, role-playing, and presentations are emphasized in class. Students will complete in-depth character studies and critique styles of acting legends of the past and present. Individual and group performances which require memorization are mandatory and include the following: monologues, scenes, and one-act plays. Written performance reviews are required monthly to successfully complete the course.

JOURNALISM I

Grade 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This is an advanced writing elective which introduces students to the various types of journalistic writing including news, features, sports, critiques and editorial styles. It also covers the history of journalism and the laws governing student work and the importance of the First Amendment. Students learn the parts of the newspaper as well as newspaper terminology and jargon. Students also learn the components needed to create and upkeep digital news sites. Emphasis is placed on skills needed for interviewing, observing, reporting, critically analyzing material, evaluating, and synthesizing information. There is a demanding writing component where students write to different types of audiences. Lessons include writing articles, captions, alternative copy, and headlines. Students learn the ethics of journalism and the importance of accuracy and fairness when writing articles for publication. They learn the importance of deadlines. They also learn photography skills and design tools needed.

- *This course is a pre-requisite for working on newspaper and yearbook.*

ADVANCED JOURNALISM

Grade 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This is an elective course in which students apply the skills learned in the journalism course to the practical aspects of producing a school publication. Students master skills necessary for the workplace environment including time management, prioritizing assignments, teamwork and producing a final product. They learn the business end of production by going out into the community seeking advertisements to fund the publications. Students develop marketable technology skills through programs including InDesign and Photoshop. They take pictures of the various school events and learn cropping skills and picture enhancement to prepare photos for the newspaper and yearbook. The course operates as a real-world newsroom where they take on roles from editor to writer to photographer to advertiser to designers and salespeople.

- **Prerequisite: Journalism I**

PHOTOJOURNALISM/BROADCAST AND MULTIMEDIA

Grade 10, 11, 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

This is an English elective which focuses on the role photography and multimedia play in telling a story within publications. Students will learn about the practical aspects of digital photography and videography by studying composition and having hands-on practice with camera equipment, lenses, and lighting. This course also reviews the journalistic protocol for writing cutlines or captions to accompany each photo as well as the planning, preparing, and editing of various multimedia (videos and podcasts) for publication.

CREATIVE WRITING

Grade 10, 11, 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

This is a writing intensive English elective open to students in grades ten through twelve who have completed the necessary prerequisite. The course offers students the opportunity to use and develop interest and skill in descriptive, narrative, poetic and dramatic forms of writing. Students read and discuss a variety of published material, and they write employing various imaginative forms and concepts. Students submit three portfolios (Descriptive/Narrative, Poetic and Dramatic), and they are required to compose a multi-genre term project and to present the project publicly as their final examination. Students break free from the constraints of traditional and formal writing to approach pieces with unique and original interpretations on classic characters, themes, techniques, points of view, etc.

- **Prerequisite: Writing Workshop**

GREAT BOOKS

Grade 10, 11, 12 Full Year, 1 Credit

This is an English elective for students in grades ten through twelve. This course is designed to enrich the knowledge of the student and to supply a necessary background that the humanities student will need in order to understand and appreciate great works of literature. Students will read, interpret, analyze, write, and draw life lessons from works of classical world literature. Texts are selected to provide insight, inspiration, and enrichment for not only broadening the student's classical literature base but also for improving the student's reading comprehension. A variety of instructional methodologies ensures maximum opportunities for every learning style.

HONORS GREAT BOOKS

Grade 10, 11, and 12 Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

This is an English elective for students in grades ten through twelve. It is a prerequisite for any student planning on taking A.P. English in their senior year. This course is designed to enrich the knowledge of the student and to supply a necessary background that the humanities student will need in order to understand and appreciate great works of literature. Students will read, interpret, analyze, write, and draw life lessons from works of classical world literature. Texts are selected to provide insight, inspiration, and enrichment for not only broadening the student's classical literature base but also for improving the student's reading comprehension. Students will complete either a critical analysis paper, project or presentation each marking period based on the literature read.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Grade 9, 10, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

This is an elective course that is designed to improve your communication skills and knowledge for both formal and informal speaking situations. The course focuses on several types of public speaking experiences. As a foundation, you will first deal with basic communication theory, including verbal and nonverbal communication, listening skills, and language. Through direct experience, discussion, lecture, and readings, you will increase awareness of the vital roles that the principles of communication play on levels of human interaction. You will develop and practice standards of good oral and aural communication in order to communicate comfortably, clearly and effectively with specificity and precision in all academic, social and professional situations. With this basic knowledge you will then progress to the practical aspects of public speaking through a step-by-step building process that culminates in a variety of presentations. Formal speech presentations will be enhanced by a number of informal presentations that begin at the onset of the course.

SAT PREP

Grade 11, 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

This half year course is for students who intend to take the College Board SAT. The course will focus on the content, format, and scoring methods of the SAT. Half the semester will be spent on mathematics and the other half on English. This course will emphasize test taking skills, familiarity with the testing format and grading and review of relevant topics in Math and English.

WRITING WORKSHOP

Grade 10, 11, and 12 Half Year, 0.5 Credit

This is a pass/fail writing intensive English elective open to students in grades ten through twelve. Writing Workshop aims to improve student writing skills through a series of technical essays and planned writing activities. An intensive grammar study introduces the course, where students are expected to demonstrate their prior knowledge and application of parts of speech, context clues, sentence construction, and paragraph construction. The course is based on the philosophy that a student learns to write through frequent practice in writing about a variety of topics for various purposes and audiences. Students move from writing personal essays with an informal tone to writing formal, analytical essays involving more complex and abstract ideas and interpretations. Students also improve writing skills through self and peer revising and editing, teacher and peer conferences, and formal and informal oral readings.

- **Writing Workshop is a prerequisite for the Creative Writing course.**

SCIENCE

SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIOLOGY

Grade 10, Full Year, 1 Credit

General Biology is an introductory course developed for high school students. The course contains selected biological topics and activities that provide students with the opportunities to gain the necessary knowledge and skills needed to demonstrate mastery of course standards. There is no lab period scheduled, however, numerous lab activities are utilized to supplement course concepts. The course content will focus upon: (1) An introduction to biology, (2) Chemistry of life, (3) Cell biology, (4) Flow of energy, (5) Mechanisms of genetics and heredity, (6) Ecology, (7) Evolutionary relationships. Students will experience learning strategies such as inquiry, cooperative-learning and modern technology in developing necessary skills and knowledge. This is a keystone course and curriculum is driven by instructional material given by PDE.

HONORS BIOLOGY

Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit

General Biology Honors is an introductory course developed for high school students with exceptional skills. The course contains selected biological topics and activities that provide students with the opportunities to gain necessary knowledge and skills needed to demonstrate mastery of course outcomes and standards. The course content will focus upon: (1) An introduction to biology, (2) Chemistry of life, (3) Cell biology, (4) Flow of energy, (5) Mechanisms of genetics and heredity, (6) Ecology, (7) Evolutionary relationships. Students will experience learning strategies such as inquiry, cooperative learning, and technology to assist them in developing necessary skills and knowledge. Cross curriculum activities such as reading, writing, research, and math computations will be assessed within the course. The pace of coverage and depth of content provide exceptional rigor to this course along with a double lab period. This is a keystone course and curriculum is driven by instructional material given by PDE.

CHEMISTRY CP

Grade 10, 11, Full Year, 1 Credit

Course Description: Chemistry CP is designed to be a first-year high school chemistry course and gives the student a rigorous foundation in chemistry, in order to prepare him or her for a college level course. This course is necessary for any student to prepare for careers dealing with science, health care or engineering. It is also recommended to students who want to maintain high academic vigor to enhance study skills. This course does not have an assigned laboratory period.

Students who select this course should have demonstrated the maturity of purpose, independent study skills and the possession of capable math skills.

HONORS CHEMISTRY

Grade 10, Full Year, 1 Credit

Honors Chemistry is designed to be a first-year high school chemistry course and gives the student a rigorous and more thorough foundation in chemistry, in order to prepare him or her for a college level course. A weekly double period is assigned with this course for the purpose of performing laboratory experiments. This course is necessary for any student who plans to pursue a subsequent chemistry course (such as AP chemistry or chemistry in college) in preparation for careers dealing with science, health care or engineering. It is also recommended to students who want to maintain high academic vigor to enhance study skills.

Students who select this course should have demonstrated the maturity of purpose, independent study skills (3.4 QPA) and the possession of capable math skills (2.2 Avg.).

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

AP Chemistry is a second-year chemistry course that is designed to offer a rigorous and challenging curriculum typical of a college general chemistry course, as well as, to prepare a student to be successful in the national Advanced Placement Exam administered by the College Board. The course utilizes a college level text to meet the demands of the curriculum and laboratory experiments to enhance the understanding of theoretical concepts. Students should expect the application of theoretical concepts to be rooted in a significant amount of mathematical calculations.

The course outline published by The College Board, pages 35-37, is adapted to the WVV facilities and calendar.

Students who select this course must have successfully completed one year of chemistry, preferably Honors Chemistry. Students should have a strong aptitude for mathematics and independent study skills.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This course covers the fundamental and principle concepts of human anatomy and physiology. This course is designed to make anatomy and physiology engaging, accurate, and relevant for the students. Essential principles of human anatomy and physiology are presented, including basic chemistry, cell and tissue studies, and an overview of all the body systems. Specific topics include the integumentary, skeletal, muscular and nervous systems endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary and reproductive systems, as well as the concepts of development and metabolism. Throughout the course the interrelationships of body organ systems, homeostasis, and complementarity of structure and function are explained. Students will acquire the knowledge necessary to understand how the body is functioning and how the body works to maintain balance.

Prerequisites: Chemistry if taking this course in 11th grade.

ASTRONOMY

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Astronomy is an elective course created for high school students. The course is a comprehensive study of the cosmos. The course contains content and activities that are conducive to the mastery of state standards. The course will focus upon: (1) Astronomy and the Universe, (2) Our Planetary System, (3) Stars and Stellar Evolution, (4) Galaxies and Cosmology. Although the course focuses upon the physical science, chemistry, and physics academic standards, many other standards are addressed.

PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This course is designed to teach students basic Newtonian mechanics and physics concepts which are included in the attached course outline. The approach to the class is to teach the students about a particular concept and then have them apply the knowledge to a challenging problem. Students will often work in teams to build large, fully functioning models that serve a specific purpose. The course at times incorporates KNEX to help simulate real world machines, bridges, cars, etc. The first semester revolves around physical laws and how they apply to bridges, towers, cars, and amusement park rides. The second semester focuses on work, power, simple machines and the electromagnetic spectrum. All students who take the course must have a minimum requirement of Algebra 1. The course is designed to integrate hands-on-learning, experimentation, investigation, facilitation, and the development of critical thinking skills, while making concepts applicable to the real world.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS 1

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

It is the objective of this course to prepare each student to become an accomplished problem solver by developing an advanced understanding of the principles of the science that explains the physical world. Students will use both classroom and laboratory experiences to explore concepts of kinematics, dynamics, energy, momentum, harmonic motion and waves. Students apply mathematical concepts in this course by using advanced skills in algebra, geometry, and trigonometry to express these physical relationships. As an advanced placement course, AP Physics 1 is designed to provide a college-level introduction to Physics without the inclusion of calculus in the course. Trigonometry is not a pre-requisite but can be taken concurrently with this course to ensure the mathematical properties are effectively applied. While students are not required to take the AP exam in May, this course will prepare students who choose to do so.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS C

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

As a second-year course, the objective of AP Physics C is to develop an advanced understanding of the fundamentals of mechanics and prepare students for college-level coursework with the inclusion of calculus concepts such as limits, derivatives, and integrals. This is not an entry-level course, and therefore students must have completed one year of physics prior to taking this course, though the first year need not be in an honor or AP class. Due to the content and pace of this course, students will be expected to solve challenging and complex problems daily. Laboratory work will supplement the content learned in the classroom and help strengthen student understanding of the concepts with hands-on experiences. While students are not required to take the AP exam in May, this course will prepare students who choose to do so.

HONORS PHYSICS

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Honors Physics is an academic elective. Its main focus is to prepare students to become accomplished problem solvers by developing an advanced understanding of the principles of the science that explain the physical world and of the mathematical models that explain those principles. The student will develop problem solving skills by working independently to solve word problems of real-life situations and working in groups to investigate physical laws and principles. A strong background in the basic principles of Algebra is highly recommended.

REGULAR PHYSICS

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Regular Physics is an academic elective. Its main focus is to prepare students to become accomplished problem solvers by developing a basic understanding of the principles of the science that explain the physical world and of the mathematical models that explain those principles. The student will develop problem solving skills by working independently to solve word problems of real-life situations and working in groups to investigate physical laws and principles. A strong background in the basic principles of Algebra is highly recommended.

EARTH SCIENCE

Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit

Earth/Space Science is a course that integrates the study of Earth as a planet with the characteristics of the solar system. Topics from the disciplines of astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, and geology are explored to develop an appreciation of our planet as an integrated system. The study of the Earth will include its history, interior and exterior, composition, structure, atmosphere, astronomical surroundings and place in the universe. The characteristics of the solar system include the motion of the universe and its structures. The course aims to develop students' skills of solving problems in a logical scientific manner with knowledge of environmental awareness and the responsibility that surrounds them.

The second semester students will change pace and focus on Environmental Science. Environmental Science is a course of study of how the natural world works, how our environment affects us, and how we affect our environment. Students will focus on understanding the interactions between humans and the environment and focus on solving environmental problems. They will study issues that are important to our world and its future such as Ecology, Evolution, biomes, population growth, resource management and our dynamic climate.

METEOROLOGY/GEOLOGY

Grade 11,12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Geology is the study of earth materials and processes. Included is an introduction to geochemistry, geophysics, the earth's interior, and magnetism. The earth's setting in space, minerals, rocks, structures, and geologic processes are also included.

Meteorology is an introductory course that treats the composition and structure of the atmosphere, thermodynamic processes, forces and related small- and large-scale motions, air masses, fronts, tropical cyclones, solar and terrestrial radiation, general circulation and weather forecasting.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Environmental Science is a curriculum that is designed to introduce students to major ecological concepts and the environmental problems that affect the world in which we live. This interdisciplinary approach to our world emphasizes the history of environmental concerns, the environmental impact of population growth on natural resources, mineral and resource extraction, water pollution, air pollution, climate change, and conventional and sustainable energy supplies.

The course will also focus on government and the impact of human actions on natural systems and their interaction leading to the study of watersheds, threatened and endangered species, pest management and the development of environmental laws and regulations including environmental and ecological principles.

SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AMERICAN HISTORY II/CIVICS

Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit

This is a course in the study of the history, people, and events in the United States. This course will focus on the Industrial Age through the Great Depression. The goal of this course is to develop a knowledge of and comprehension of the movements, issues and conflicts that propel the nation during the twentieth century. Students will focus on the development of the American culture, expansionism, political, social, and economic conflicts. In addition, they will study resolutions, industrialization and urbanization and our nation at war and abroad. Civics focuses on the functions of state and local government. Also, covering an introduction to the U.S. political system and justice system.

HONORS AMERICAN HISTORY II/CIVICS

Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

This is a course in the study of the history, people, and events in the United States. This course will focus on the Industrial Age through the Great Depression. The goal of this course is to develop a knowledge of and comprehension of the movements, issues and conflicts that propel the nation during the twentieth century. Students will focus on the development of the American culture, expansionism, political, social, and economic conflicts. In addition, they will study resolutions, industrialization and urbanization and our nation at war and abroad. Civics focuses on the functions of state and local government. Also, covering an introduction to the U.S. political system and justice system. In addition, students will be required to analyze several Supreme Court case studies, complete current events and creative projects.

AMERICAN HISTORY III

Grade 10, full year, 1 Credit

This course is a thorough analysis and study of the history, people, and events in the United States from WWII to the present. This course will focus on the development of the American history, culture, and expansionism, and political social, and economic conflicts. In addition, students will study resolutions, industrialization, urbanization, and our nation at war and its impact on American history and culture. Students will learn how our government and its people worked to rebuild and strengthen this country after many hardships.

HONORS AMERICAN HISTORY III

Grade 10, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

This course is a thorough analysis and study of the history, people, and events in the United States from WWII to the present. This course will focus on the development of the American history, culture, and expansionism, and political social, and economic conflicts. In addition, students will study resolutions, industrialization, urbanization, and our nation at war and its impact on American history and culture. Students will learn how our government and its people worked to rebuild and strengthen this country after many hardships. Honors students will be required to complete several inquiry-based research and writing assignments, supplemental readings and marking period projects during the course of the school year.

WORLD HISTORY

Grade 11, Full Year, 1 Credit

This course is designed to analyze the development of human society and culture by examining great revolutions throughout history. More specifically, students will examine the time period from the Renaissance through the Cold War. Emphasis is placed on the skills needed to develop systematic ways of analyzing attitudes and values of other societies in comparison to his or her own society.

HONORS WORLD HISTORY

Grade 11, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

This course is designed to analyze the development of human society and culture by examining great revolutions throughout history. More specifically, students will examine the time period from the Renaissance through the Cold War. Emphasis is placed on the skills needed to develop systematic ways of analyzing attitudes and values of other societies in comparison to his or her own society. Honors students will be required to complete several inquiry-based research and writing assignments, supplemental readings and marking period projects during the course of the school year.

AMERICAN LAW

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This course is designed to provide practical information and problem-solving techniques. In relation, it is intended to develop a knowledge-based and specific skill set necessary for citizens to succeed in our law driven society. The methodologies employed to meet the stated objectives may include the analysis of the United States Supreme Court cases, role playing activities, small group exercises and visual analysis activities.

HONORS AMERICAN LAW

Grade 12, Full year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

This course is designed to provide practical information and problem-solving techniques. In relation, it is intended to develop a knowledge-based and specific skill set necessary for citizens to succeed in our law driven society. The methodologies employed to meet the stated objectives may include the analysis of the United States Supreme Court cases, role playing activities, small group exercises and visual analysis activities.

Students in honors are required to participate in writing intensive activities such as a research paper on current and past legal issues, research a case and present and prepare a defense or prosecution, and other independent projects may be assigned.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Grade 9, 10, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

This class will focus on central issues and character virtues that are pertinent in the lives of our school aged students. It will construct and build character and skills that will be applicable for use in the students' everyday lives. The ultimate goal of the program is to provide students with education and information so they can make wiser choices and not fall victim to the toxic nature of their present culture.

PHILOSOPHY/SOCIOLOGY

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This course will be an introduction to the different themes and central questions of philosophy and sociology. In keeping with this description of philosophy as an activity rather than a subject matter, the class should encourage critical inquiry, debate, and reflection upon the discipline's fundamental questions. The social issues that are studied include but are not limited to: gender, race relations, social stratification, and contemporary topics. In addition to searching for patterns in society, student development, self-awareness by analyzing how these social institutions have socially affected them and their behavior.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This course is designed to educate students on the continuous interplay of the five themes of geography including places, location, human-environmental interaction, and movement and regions. More specifically, students learn to utilize geographic tools and current technology to analyze the physical and human characteristics of places and regions as well as the interaction between people and places.

POLITICAL SCIENCE/ECONOMICS

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This is a full year course for 11th and 12th grade students. This course is designed to help students achieve a better understanding of the impact of economic principles on day-to-day life, and to properly evaluate a variety of political systems, including our own. It will also help students make better personal economic and political choices and prepare them to live in a global economy. Studies will focus on economic systems, American free enterprise, supply and demand, market structure, money and banking, gross domestic product and growth, taxes and government spending. Political topics will include political theory, government structure, the role of the electorate, political parties, interest groups and their influence, comparative parties and international political relations.

PSYCHOLOGY

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

The purpose of Psychology is to teach about the field of psychology through an in-depth and hands on method which will prepare a high school student for an entry level college psychology course. The course will emphasize the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and animals. Within the content focus will be on the psychological facts, principles, and phenomenon associated with the major subfields within psychology.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

This is a full year course offered to 11th and 12th grade students. The purpose of Psychology is to teach about the field of psychology through an in-depth and hands on method which will mirror an entry level college psychology course. The course will emphasize the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and animals. Within the content focus will be on the psychological facts, principles, and phenomenon associated with the major subfields within psychology.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

This course is offered to 11th and 12th grade students. The Advanced Placement American History course has been correlated to the College Board Topic Outline for the Advanced Placement Examination. The Main topics covered include Discovery and Settlement of the New World (1491-1607), America and the British Empire (1607-1754), The American Revolution and its Aftermath (1754-1800), The Age of Jefferson, Nationalism, Sectionalism, Economic Expansion and the Age of Jackson (1800-1848), Territorial Expansion and Sectional Crisis, The Creation of American Culture, The Civil War, Reconstruction (1844-1877), The New South, Closing of the Frontier, Industrialization, Urban Society, Intellectual and Cultural Movements, The Gilded Age (1865-1898), Imperialism, The Progressive Era, The First World War, The Roaring 20s, The Great Depression and the New Deal (1890-1945), World War II, Truman and the Cold War, Eisenhower and Modern Republicanism, Kennedy's New Frontier, Johnson's Great Society, Nixon and the US After 1974 (1945-1980), The Reagan Revolution, Crisis Abroad, The New Liberalism, The Bush Years, The Obama Administration (1980-present).

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grades, 9, 11 and 12 (.25 credit per year)-Graduation Requirement

Students will actively explore lifetime activities while gaining efficient motor ability through team and individual recreational activities.

***PHYSICAL EDUCATION 10/HEALTH 10 (WELLNESS)**

Grade 10, Full Year, .75 Credit Graduation Requirement

This course focuses on empowering students to make informed lifestyle choices concerning their personal health. This course requires the participation in a yearlong fitness program utilizing recreational activities combined with student discovery of healthy choices that lead to a better psychological and physical well-being throughout a person's lifetime.

***This course fulfills Pennsylvania State requirements for Health and Physical Education.**

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Grade 10, 11, 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

Child Care and Development provides the student with an introduction to the study of children. This course gives the student a background of how and why children develop so that they can relate to children more easily and understand themselves better. It includes the characteristics of development from the fetus through school age. Students will learn that many factors influence a developing child and will become familiar with the parenting skills needed to properly care for a child. They will recognize that having a child affects all aspects of their lives.

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Grade 11, 12, Full year, 1 Credit

Independent Living provides instruction in nutrition, food preparation, food contamination, and dining out. Independent living skills are introduced through instruction in the area of campus/apartment living/furnishing, job acquisition, and the expenses associated with purchasing and operating a car. Students will be given information on the basis of financial security. Career exploration is introduced in this course. Students will use sewing skills to complete a sewing project.

INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Grade 9, 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

Introduction to Family and Consumer Science provides instruction in four areas: Food Science and Nutrition, Financial and Resource Management, Child Development, and Balancing Family, Work and Community Responsibility. The students will have limited hands-on activities in food preparation. This course is the basis for the Child Care and Culinary Arts courses.

CULINARY ARTS

Grade 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

Culinary Arts provides instruction to seniors in the area of food preparation. The course is designed to give information about nutrition, food safety and sanitation, basic equipment, and table manners. Emphasis is placed on basic food preparation techniques from appetizers to desserts. A variety of ethnic dishes are prepared throughout the course.

TEEN LIVING

Grade 10, 11, Full year, 1 Credit

Teen Living provides useful information on meal preparation using the Food Guide Pyramid. Students will develop consumer skills in the areas of shopping, advertising, clothing care, and table manners. Students will complete a required sewing project.

YES (Youth Employment Skills)

Grade 12, Full year, 1 Credit

The YES Program was started in the Pottsville area by the Northeast Manufacturers and Employers Council and is now spreading northward. The goals are to prepare students for the workforce by providing a foundation of basic skills for all career path opportunities and to aid the students in acquiring important soft skills highly desired by employers. Students can earn a certificate which will recognize them as “preferred applicants” by employers. Topics include: Communications, Health and Safety, Personal Development, Quality and Technology, and Teamwork. Four field trips are part of this course.

WORLD LANGUAGE

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SPANISH 1

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This course will introduce students to Spanish language and culture. Students will gradually acquire a limited proficiency in pronouncing, comprehending, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. They will gain a knowledge and appreciation for Hispanic culture. Various aspects of Spanish grammar for the beginning student will be emphasized.

HONORS SPANISH 1

Grade 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

This course will introduce students to Spanish language and culture. Students will gradually acquire a limited proficiency in pronouncing, comprehending, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. They will gain a knowledge and appreciation for Hispanic culture. Students seeking honors credit are required to study this level of language in greater depth. The honors course will move at a more accelerated pace utilizing written and spoken activities. Students should expect more challenging classwork assignments, as well as an individual research project.

SPANISH 2

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Spanish 2 continues the development of the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills that were taught in Spanish 1. Basic grammatical structures using the present and past tenses will be taught. The cultures of the Hispanic world will also be emphasized.

- **Prerequisite: Spanish 1**

HONORS SPANISH 2

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

Honors Spanish 2 continues the development and integration of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as comprehension of the language. The students will review structures learned in the first level of Spanish and develop mastery of thematic vocabulary in context and new grammatical structures. The honors course will be conducted at an accelerated pace. Concepts will be presented in greater depth and assessment procedures will be more rigorous.

- **Prerequisite: Spanish 1 or Honors Spanish 1 (with GPA requirement)**

SPANISH 3

Grade 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Spanish 3 emphasizes the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. The course is differentiated by more challenging reading and a marked increase in conversation and writing practice. Cultural information and modern literary selections are integrated into the readings.

- **Prerequisite: Spanish 2**

HONORS SPANISH 3

Grade 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

Honors Spanish 3 emphasizes the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. The course is differentiated by more challenging reading and a marked increase in conversation and writing practice. Cultural information and modern literary selections are integrated into the readings. Students study this level of language in greater depth with additional daily work and more rigorous testing procedures.

- **Prerequisite: Spanish 2, Honors Spanish 2 (with GPA requirement)**

HONORS SPANISH 4

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

Honors Spanish 4 applies the advanced skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Various aspects of grammar are reviewed. Literary selections expose students to a variety of styles and genres. Culture is also integrated with the readings.

- **Prerequisite: Spanish 3, Honors Spanish 3 (with GPA requirement)**

HONORS SPANISH 5

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

Honors Spanish 5 offers an introduction to modern Hispanic literature through a wide variety of selections. The course aims to instill in students a love of literature while aiding them in their very real desire of self-expression. The four skills of communication should reach a reasonable degree of refinement.

- **Prerequisite: Spanish 4, Honors Spanish 4 (with GPA requirement)**

SPANISH CULTURES

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Students will study the development and construction of Spanish culture and civilization from pre-Roman times, the expansion of the Spanish Empire, to the present-day Latino culture. This course will focus on history, geography, art, literature, and other cultural manifestations. Students will examine the cultural threads of distinct identities that have been woven together throughout history to visibly influence the design of contemporary Spanish society. (Pass-Fail)

FRENCH 1

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

French I students will learn basic structure, grammar, and vocabulary, with an emphasis on conversation. French culture is also an integral part of this class as students look at differences and similarities between American and French culture. The course will provide the linguistic base as well as speaking and listening skills for the basic communication in French.

HONORS FRENCH 1

Grade 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

Honors French 1 emphasizes a functional, communicative approach to language learning within the francophone world. Students gradually acquire limited proficiency in listening speaking, reading and writing while developing cultural sensitivity to the activities of French-speaking people. The honors course will move at a more accelerated pace with expanded materials and more rigorous testing.

FRENCH 2

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

French 2 continues to build on the basic grammatical patterns and vocabulary introduced in French 1. The students will be provided with language skills (grammar, spelling, sentence structure, capitalization skills) and reading skills (vocabulary and comprehension). Students will be able to communicate with greater fluency in the present and past tenses and write with greater accuracy and understand simple conversations related to survival needs. They will also acquire a greater understanding of the differences between their culture and the Francophone cultures. Students will increase skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as cultural awareness.

- **Prerequisite: French 1**

HONORS FRENCH 2

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

Honors French 2 continues to build upon the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills developed in French 1. Basic vocabulary and grammar are reviewed and augmented in thematic units with an emphasis on comprehension and more rigorous testing.

- **Prerequisite: French 1, Honors French 1 (with GPA requirement)**

FRENCH 3

Grade 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

In French 3, proficiency activities involve all language modalities from listening and reading to speaking and writing. Students are able to function at an increasingly higher level of accuracy. They are able to summarize, rewrite, rearrange, and paraphrase readings from the text. Culture is naturally integrated into each language task.

- **Prerequisite: French 2**

HONORS FRENCH 3

Grade 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

Honors French 3 enhances the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills developed in French 2 with more in-depth vocabulary and grammar structures. The thematic units provide a forum for more verbal interaction and communication along with informative, interesting narrative, poetic and cultural readings. The honors course will move at a more accelerated pace with more challenging content and testing.

- **Prerequisite: French 2, Honors French 2 (with GPA requirement)**

HONORS FRENCH 4

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

French 4 students function at an advanced level of proficiency as they interact with others using their speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills. They begin to negotiate meaning in French and can use the language to solve language tasks. They read literary passages and are able to discuss and appreciate their importance in French culture and history.

- **Prerequisite: French 3, Honors French 3 (with GPA requirement)**

HONORS FRENCH 5

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit

In Honors French 5, activities are student-centered, with the teacher serving as the facilitator of the language. Students practice more sophisticated oral and written communicative patterns. They read for pleasure and information. They recognize literary devices and interpret poetry. Students are required to study this level of language in great depth. They complete additional daily work and rigorous testing procedures. Individual projects involving independent research are mandatory.

- **Prerequisite: French 4, Honors French 4 (with GPA requirement)**

FRENCH CULTURES

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

The course is an examination of the various patterns of living of French-speaking people throughout the world. Areas to be explored include everyday expressions, current events, social functions, geography, fashion, foods, English derivatives, educational system, sports, holidays, transportation and careers. (Pass-Fail)

BUSINESS

BUSINESS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ACCOUNTING

Grade 9,10,11,12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Students will learn the basic concepts, formulas, and practices used by accountants to evaluate and manage common business practices. Course coverage includes mastery of the concepts of the accounting cycle and multiple applications of accounting practices to business operations like merchandising, inventory, payroll, and the tracking and management of business assets. Students will also learn the accounting applications required for the structuring of partnerships and corporations and how to create and evaluate financial statements, as well as financial management of departments and manufacturing accounts.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

Grade 9 or 10, Full Year, 1 Credit

Explore modern business practices and examine the following topics: business and its environment; operation and interrelationships with government and society; the place of business in the economy and global economy; management and organization; finance; marketing; production and personnel functions; statistics; budgets; and consumer economic problems.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Grade 11 or 12, Semester Course, 0.5 Credit

A lifetime responsibility that covers the most current and relevant topics, including goal setting, banking, buying a new or used car, renting or buying a house/apartment, stock market, and much more. Real-life examples, documents, and forms are used to capture the interest and imagination of today's consumer-oriented teens.

INTRODUCTION TO MARKETING

Grade 11 or 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Students find out what it takes to market a product or service in today's fast-paced business environment. They learn the fundamentals of marketing using real-world business examples. They learn about buyer behavior, marketing research principles, demand analysis, distribution, financing, pricing, and product management.

COMPUTER GOOGLE APPLICATIONS

Grade 9,10,11,12, Full Year, 1 Credit

In this course, students will learn the essentials designed to provide them with the most important concepts of Google Applications and Microsoft Office. Applications include, but are not limited to, Google Docs, Slides, Forms, Drawing, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FUNDAMENTALS OF TECHNOLOGY

Grade 9, 10, 11, Full Year, 1 Credit

Fundamentals of Technology is an introductory course which gives students an opportunity to learn about the different areas of technology. Students complete a series of module lessons designed to give a brief understanding in the areas of communication, manufacturing, construction, transportation, and energy and power technologies. The modules provide students the opportunity to learn through a series of hands-on projects and computerized lessons.

ENGINEERING CONCEPTS 1

Grade 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Students enrolled in Engineering Concepts 1 will explore disciplines of the engineering field. Students will study and use basic design principles as they explore the field of engineering. Students will participate in a variety of activities involving teamwork, hands-on projects, experimentation, research and analysis, and problem solving using the design process. Throughout the course, students will complete several innovation and building challenges to implement and test their designs.

Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Technology

ENGINEERING CONCEPTS 2/ROBOTICS

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Students will utilize the engineering design process to take a project from conception to completion. Students will use the skills and knowledge acquired from previous courses to innovate a patented design of a putt-putt boat. During the process, students will study concepts of energy transfer, fluid systems, gas laws, and heat engines. The culmination of this project involves redesigning an existing boat for improved performance, completing the construction of the design and testing of the boat.

During the second half of the course, students will apply knowledge of the engineering design process and team work to construct and program robotics to perform tasks that will enable students to better understand concepts of physical sciences and mathematics. LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 Curriculum and robotics equipment will be utilized throughout the robotics course.

Prerequisites: Fundamentals of Technology and Engineering Concepts

ADVANCED ROBOTICS

Grade 11 (with teacher approval), 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Students will utilize LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 and TETRIX robotics to continue learning to construct and program robots and automated machines to perform specified tasks. Students will incorporate knowledge of programming, designing, and building along with knowledge of the engineering design process to complete a series of team and individual projects including developing a robot that can create a map of an unknown terrain, developing a robot that will serve as a security device, and designing a robotic arm.

- **Prerequisites: Fundamentals of Technology, Engineering Concepts1 & 2 (Robotics)**

INTRODUCTION TO DRAFTING AND DESIGN (INTRODUCTION TO CADD)

Grade 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Students enrolled in Introduction to CADD will learn mechanical drawing techniques. Students will learn to properly measure and draw items to scale. Students will complete a series of projects in mechanical drawing beginning with line types, labeling and showing dimensions. Initially, students will sketch basic shapes working toward more complex views containing angles, circles, and arcs. Students will learn how to complete scale multi-view drawings in the three basic views. Students will also learn to draw isometric, oblique, orthographic and perspective views of items.

- **Prerequisite: Passing final grade in Fundamentals of Technology**

ARCHITECTURE

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Students enrolled in Architecture will learn about the construction, function, style, and history of various types of structures. Students will also learn the construction processes and materials involved in building or remodeling a structure. Students will gain basic knowledge of foundations, lumber and framing, roofing, and exterior finishes including siding, doors, and windows. Students will be able to understand basic floor plans and building designs. Students will have the opportunity to create their own plan for a shed which will then be utilized to construct a scale model.

ADVANCED ARCHITECTURE

Grade 11 (with teacher approval), 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Students in Advanced Architecture will continue to study the building process with a focus on interior finishes and systems. Students will learn about basic plumbing, heating, and electrical systems. Projects include the complete design of the house including plot, foundation, floor, and all utility systems plans along with elevation plans for all views of the property. Students will also complete a building project of a scale model house.

- **Prerequisite:** Passing final grade in Architecture

VISUAL ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

VISUAL ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

INTRODUCTION TO ART

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

This is an introductory course that offers a wide variety of drawing, painting, and three-dimensional experiences. Assignments are based on the PA State Standards for Arts and Humanities (*9.1 Production, 9.2 Art History, 9.3 Art Criticism, 9.4 Aesthetics*) and center around the elements and principles of Design. Students will create artwork using various mediums including pencil, charcoal, pastel, colored pencils, watercolor, acrylics, markers, and plaster. Subject matter for the different projects will include still life, linear perspective, landscape, figure drawing and abstract art. This course is designed to give the students a strong foundation in drawing, painting and sculpture as well as an introduction to Art History, Art Criticism and Aesthetics.

INTRODUCTION TO PAINTING

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

An introduction/intermediate course in painting that offers a wide variety of techniques and printing mediums that focus on the elements and principles of Design. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, and art-related technology skills in art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. All lesson plans are based on the PA State Standards for Arts and Humanities (*9.1 Production, 9.2 Art History, 9.3 Art Criticism, 9.4 Aesthetics*).

- **Prerequisite: Introduction to Art, Two-Dimensional Design/ Illustration or Digital Media**

2-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION

Grade 10, 11, 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

Students will continue to develop the skills and drawing concepts covered in the Introduction to Art Course. There is a high concentration in drawing and 2- Dimensional design/illustration as well as deepening the student's knowledge and respect for other cultures. This course engages in sequential learning experiences that encompass the PA State Standards for Arts and Humanities (*9.1 Production, 9.2 Art History, 9.3 Art Criticism, 9.4 Aesthetics*). Students will study art history, criticism, aesthetics, and production and begin to develop a portfolio of work based on the elements and principles of Design.

DIGITAL MEDIA/PHOTOGRAPHY

Grade 10, 11, 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

This is a project-based course that develops career and communication skills in print and graphic design using Adobe Tools. The students will develop key digital communication skills: design, communication, project management, graphic and print technologies. Each project will be based on the PA State Standards for Arts and Humanities (*9.1 Production, 9.2 Art History, 9.3 Art Criticism, 9.4 Aesthetics*) and will cover the elements and principles of design. Project designs will include logo and CD design, advertising, digital photography as well as a wide variety of Adobe Photoshop tools. This course will prepare students for post-Secondary programs as well as prepare students to enter the workforce in a Technology Design and Communication field. This course could also satisfy prerequisite skills for Technology Education Courses.

ADVANCED ART

Grade 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This course continues to develop skills related to concept creations and execution of fully produced artworks. Portfolio production and development continues based upon the studies undertaken in 2-D design/illustration and Digital Media. This course covers the full range of PA Standards for Art and Humanities (*9.1 Production, 9.2 Art History, 9.3 Art Criticism, 9.4 Aesthetics*) as well as the elements and principles of design while deepening student's respect and appreciation of other cultures and historical perspectives. Students will interpret art through various visual thinking strategies fostering cross curricular development.

- **Prerequisite: Introduction to Art, Two-Dimensional Design/Illustration or Digital Media**

COLLEGE PREP ART

Grade 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

This is the highest-level art course open to any senior student who is serious about pursuing art as a career. This course will help students produce a portfolio that reflects their artistic strengths and personality as well as culminating their four-year experience in Art. The students will have a strong understanding of the PA State Standards for Arts and Humanities (*9.1 Production, 9.2 Art History, 9.3 Art Criticism, 9.4 Aesthetics*) and the elements and principles of design. They will continue to study cultures of the world and gain historical knowledge and deeper meanings of these cultures. Students will have gained various technical and communication skills that could be used in post-Secondary programs of study. Students will continue to interpret art through various visual thinking strategies fostering cross curricular development.

- **Prerequisites: Introduction to Art, Two-Dimensional Design/Illustration or Digital Media**

MUSIC

MUSIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MUSIC LITERATURE

Grade 10, 11, 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

This course is designed as an “advanced music appreciation” course. The main motivation of the class is the historical analysis of music from our first written music of Gregorian chant from 600 A.D. to the contemporary classical music of today. We examine what function music served in society and what effects socio-economic changes had on the art of that period. The class offers a firm foundation of music historical time periods.

MUSIC THEORY

Grade 10, 11, 12, Half Year, 0.5 Credit

This is a class which addresses the technical aspects of how music is put together. It is designed for advanced music students who want to gain a deeper understanding of the structure of music. All potential music majors are encouraged to take the class as it is a comprehensive introduction to most of the subject materials they will study in music school.

ADVANCED MUSIC THEORY

Grade 11, 12, Full Year Course, 1 Credit

This is an applied theory class, where students apply their knowledge from theory class and learn to compose in basic forms, for example, a fugue, an art song, a jazz arrangement, etc.

- **Prerequisite: Music Theory**

BAND

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year Course, 1 Credit

This is a class where, through performance, students apply the musical skills they accumulated to this point. Through standard band literature they gain an understanding of musical devices as well as the historical and cultural context in which the piece was composed. In addition to improved musicianship the students gain leadership, team building and creative skills which will help all of the students in the ensemble in their future endeavors.

ORCHESTRA

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit

Rehearsal activities in the string orchestra program provide a conceptual understanding of the basic properties of melody, rhythm, harmony, form, and dynamics to help the student become proficient on his/her instrument. The string class curriculum is classified into 6 main components: 1.) Tone quality. 2.) Rhythm and bowing. 3.) Finger patterns and scales. 4.) Ear training. 5.) Music reading and vocabulary. 6.) Music theory and music history. Standard orchestra literature used in class reinforces the skills and concepts being taught and presents technical challenges for all instruments.

CHORUS

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit, and Half Year, 0.5 Credit

Chorus is a performance-based class. Throughout the year the students develop skills in vocal techniques such as consonant and vowel articulation, breath support, tone placement, phrasing, and flexibility. These skills are applied to the performance of multiple music genres which include but are not limited to multi-cultural, historic, patriotic, musical theatre and pop music literature. Our chorus students at Wyoming Valley West have had great success outside our school in participating in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association district, regional and state choruses. The students are expected to participate in all concerts that are scheduled for chorus classes. Students interested in additional performance opportunities can-by audition-participate in extra-curricular chorus which meets after school and performs 15-20 concerts in the community for various functions including civic group meetings and events such as the Cherry Blossom Festival.