

Fitzgerald

Virtual Academy

FPS
EDUCATING
OUR FUTURE

FOCUSED

PROGRESSIVE

SUCCESSFUL



MISSION

INSPIRING, EMPOWERING
AND PREPARING TODAY'S
LEARNER TO BECOME
TOMORROW'S LEADER



Course Offerings 2023-2024

INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been prepared by the staff to be used by you and your parents in the selection of the courses you will take to keep you on track.

Finally, once you have determined your schedule, do your best to put forth the time and effort, which will guarantee a successful year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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FITZGERALD VIRTUAL ACADEMY

MAIN OFFICE 586-757-4620

Sharron Yoshonis, Program Director
Kaitlyn Stanley, Program Success Specialist
Amanda Clor, Principal

DISTRICT POLICY FOR NONDISCRIMINATION

Fitzgerald Public Schools supports and adheres to the principles, rules and regulations of Title IX of the Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Michigan Law. The District hereby notifies all employees, residents, and students, that it does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, creed, political affiliation or beliefs, age, height, weight, marital status, against qualified handicapped individuals, or any other condition covered by law with respect to the district educational programs, activities, and employment practices.

The Fitzgerald School District has established a grievance procedure to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of any complaint alleging to discrimination. A copy of the policy is available to all residents.

Inquiries related to the discrimination on the basis of disability should be directed to:

Dawn Bruley, Director of Student Services
Section 504 Coordinator
Neigebaur Administration Building
Fitzgerald Public Schools
23200 Ryan Road
Warren, MI 48091
586-757-4044

Direct all other inquiries related to discrimination to:

Regan Galloway, Director of Human Resources
Civil Rights Coordinator
Neigebaur Administration Building
Fitzgerald Public Schools
23200 Ryan Road
Warren, MI 48091
586-757-1751

FITZGERALD BELIEFS

- Lifelong learning is a basic right.
- Given proper instruction in a positive environment, all people can learn what is expected of them.
- Early achievement is the foundation of continuing success.
- All people have talent.
- Parental involvement enhances a child's success.
- There is a direct relationship between self-concept and behavior; and self-concept and achievement.
- A willingness to risk failure precedes success.
- People support what they help to develop.
- People are our most important asset.
- Each person has intrinsic worth and, therefore, should be treated with dignity.
- Everything can be improved.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Program Information (9-12) 4

State Testing 5

Graduation Requirements (9-12) 6

Grading Guidelines/GPA (9-12) 7-8

Testing Out Policy (9-12) 9

Xello Profile/EDPs 9

Schedule Changes (9-12) 9

High School Courses (9-12)

 English Language Arts 10-14

 Foreign Language 15-17

 Mathematics 18-20

 CTE-Career Education 21-23

 Performing Arts Department 24

 Physical Education and Health 25

 Science 26-27

 Social Studies 28-29

 Electives 30-32

FITZGERALD VIRTUAL ACADEMY PROGRAM INFORMATION

Imagine Learning

Online Material, Teachers and Courses are provided by Imagine Learning

Imagine Learning's award-winning courses combine rigorous content with direct-instruction videos from experts, on-screen teachers with interactive learning tools and resources to engage and motivate students. Our online courses for core curriculum, AP, elective, Career and Technical Education (CTE), dual credit, and credit recovery are based on the rigor and high expectations of state, Common Core, NGSS, and iNACOL standards.

Imagine Learning gives schools the flexibility to offer the right courses for your students' needs. Our online courses are available for credit and concept recovery, initial credit, and as honors courses for students who want to further challenge themselves. Designed to inspire lifelong learning, Imagine Learning's courses can be used in any blended or online learning model. Imagine Learning gives schools the flexibility to offer the right courses for your students' needs. Our online courses are available for credit and concept recovery, initial credit, and as honors courses for students who want to further challenge themselves. Designed to inspire lifelong learning, courses can be used in any blended or online learning model.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Fitzgerald Virtual Academy is an approved virtual alternative education program. Students may be considered for entry for a number of reasons, which will be reviewed at our intake meeting. Learning is robust and expectations are identical to a face-to-face school model.

Virtual Secondary Program (9-12)

- Instruction will be provided via Imagine Learning with a Michigan Certified Teacher. FPS will provide a district mentor to assist students with their learning and other needs that arise.
- Students may need to come into a school in small groups for assessment and key instruction. The 9-12 FVA mentor will be housed at the FHS Technology Building.
- Students will be provided with a Chromebook and Internet access, if needed.

Parents/guardians will have a two week window to make an enrollment change if FVA is not a fit for their student. After that two week trial period, students must stay in the virtual option and will be able to switch back to face-to-face during the second semester window in January only. Students may not voluntarily or arbitrarily drop out of a full-year class after completing the first semester with a passing grade. Unless otherwise noted, all classes may be taken only once. An online student contract is required to sign committing to 30 hours of online time a week for courses. Physical attendance to the lab is required once a week unless otherwise notified. If a student has 14 consecutive days of inactivity, this could result in dismissal of the program.

STATE TESTING

Fitzgerald Board of Education require all high school students must attempt all parts of the 11th Grade Spring State Assessment in order to be eligible for graduation, unless indicated otherwise in an IEP (Individualized Education Program).

NWEA Grades 9-12

9th Grade PSAT 8/9

10th Grade PSAT 10

11th Grade Spring Testing - SAT, WorkKeys and M-STEP

The information available from the school-testing program can be most useful in making educational and vocational decisions. The results of these tests are available to students at their request and are specifically used during the planning of a student's educational program.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (9-12)

All students are required to complete the required credits outlined for each class to be eligible for graduation.

	Class of 2019 +
English Language Arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Foreign Language	2*
Physical Education	0.5
Health	0.5
Electives	2
Fine Arts – Visual/Performing/Applied Arts (VPAA/CTE)	(1)
Required Credits	20

*One credit of Foreign Language can be waived for successful completion of a CTE course.

*Credits earned at previous accredited high school programs will be accepted as transfer credits and count toward the above graduation requirements.

ALL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UPON BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL.

ELECTIVE COURSES THAT FULFILL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Art History, Career Planning and Development, Creative Writing, Exploratory Reading and Writing (A & B), Financial Math (A & B), Human Geography (A & B), Introduction to Art, Introduction to Business (A & B), Introduction to Entrepreneurship (A & B), Introduction to Speech and Communication (A & B), Medical Terminology, Psychology (A & B), Sociology, Personal Finance, Social Media: Our Connected World, Sports Management and Marketing.

Other courses may qualify. Please see the Program Director if you have any questions.

FPS GRADING GUIDELINES

Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage
A+	100.5% and above	C	72.5%-76.4%
A	92.5%-100.4%	C-	69.5%-72.4%
A-	89.5%-92.4%	D+	66.5%-69.4%
B+	86.5%-89.4%	D	62.5%-66.4%
B	82.5%-86.4%	D-	59.5%-62.4%
B-	79.5%-82.4%	F	59.4% and below
C+	76.5%-79.4%		

GRADE POINT AVERAGES (9-12)

Student GPA is calculated by using grades received in grades 9-11, and first semester of the 12th grade. Grades are valued as follows:

Traditional Grade Point Scale		Honors** Grade Point Scale	
A+	4.33	A+	5.33
A	4.00	A	5.00
A-	3.67	A-	4.67
B+	3.33	B+	4.33
B	3.00	B	4.00
B-	2.67	B-	3.67
C+	2.33	C+	3.33
C	2.00	C	3.00
C-	1.67	C-	3.67
D+	1.33	D+	3.33
D	1.00	D	2.00
D-	0.67	D-	1.67
F/NC	0.00	F/NC	0.00

****HONOR POINTS**

It is the belief of the Fitzgerald School Board that students should strive to take the most rigorous classes of which they are capable. Students who take certain courses that meet Advanced Placement standards or would be considered Honors courses will be awarded an extra grade point for each of the following classes: *Honors English 9, 10; Honors Algebra II; Pre-Calculus; AP Calculus; AP Biology; Chemistry II; Principles of Engineering; Honors Geometry; AP Government; AP English Literature; AP English Language; Physics.*

A student's GPA is calculated by adding the course grade values and dividing by the number of grades added together.

HONOR ROLL

To be listed on the Honor Roll, a student must have a Grade Point Average of 3.00 with no grades of D+, D, D-, F, or NC.

TESTING OUT POLICY (9-12)

The Fitzgerald Public Schools Board of Education recognizes the need to provide alternative means by which students can complete the graduation requirements prescribed by the state and Fitzgerald Public Schools.

Any high school student who wishes to test out of a Michigan Merit core curriculum course in which he/she is not currently enrolled/attending (or previously taken) may do so by taking the test out exam for the course and receiving a grade of at least C+. The grade on the assessment will not be used to determine a student's GPA. Credit for a course earned by a student through this process may be used to fulfill a course or course sequence requirement, and may be counted toward the required number of credits needed for graduation.

XELLO/EDPs

Xello is an internet-based career exploration and college planning tool that you will use to explore career and college options to develop a career plan. Xello software bridges the gap between young people and the working world. It shows every student their future possibilities and equips them with the knowledge, skills, and insights to make informed decisions and build actionable plans.

EDP (Educational Development Plan) is required by each student and must be completed every year. Xello is accessible via Google app in the student account or at <https://xello.world/en/>.

SCHEDULE CHANGES (9-12)

Schedules will only be changed for those students who have failed a course or who are missing a course required for graduation. It is important that all students and parents understand that course selection is important and the necessary time should be given to this process. The number of academic credits a student needs to demonstrate successful completion of graduation requirements depends on several factors including:

- Staff expectations
- Potential courses available to a student during enrollment
- Chosen career path
- State mandates
- Post-secondary prerequisites

The Board of Education provides the minimum number and distribution of necessary credits a student must meet to receive a diploma.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES (9-12)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ELA Sequence 4 Credits Required

Grade Courses

9th English 9 A and B OR Honors English 9

10th English 10 A and B OR Honors English 10

11th English 11 A and B OR Honors English 11

12th English 12 A and English 12 B OR Honors English 12

English 9 A (Literature)

Course Number: VC1001

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 9

Literature will lay the foundation for all Literature Courses at Fitzgerald. An emphasis will be placed on literary elements, reading skills, and written communication skills. Students will be required to read selected short stories, and will choose a “choice novel” from a list pre-selected by the instructor. All of the required reading and writing assignments must be completed for a student to earn a passing grade in the course. Grammar and vocabulary instruction will be integrated in reading and writing activities.

English 9 B (Composition)

Course Number: VC1002

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 9

Literature will lay the foundation for all Literature Courses at Fitzgerald. An emphasis will be placed on literary elements, reading skills, and written communication skills. Students will be required to read selected short stories, and will choose a “choice novel” from a list pre-selected by the instructor. All of the required reading and writing assignments must be completed for a student to earn a passing grade in the course. Grammar and vocabulary instruction will be integrated in reading and writing activities.

Honors 9 A/B

Course Number: VC1009/VC1012

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 9 (*By teacher recommendation*)

This course is designed to immerse students into classic literature while applying various reading strategies and making personal connections. The classic works that the students will be reading are as follows: Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Jungle*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Crucible*, and *Killer Angels*. Supplementary pieces such as poetry, short stories, and informational text will be used to enhance these works. Students will also be required to write thematic, comparison, and persuasive essays. Proper research and presentation techniques will also be a part of instruction.

English 10 A (Literature)**Course Number: VC1003****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 10

This course consists of the various elements to study the English Language and elements of literature, grammar, and writing. The course focuses on argumentative and rhetorical analysis writing. Along with various informational texts, students will read excerpts of the play *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. Students also complete and present a historical fiction research project. Students will read a novel of their choosing in student groups to reinforce reading strategies for comprehension.

English 10 B (Composition)**Course Number: VC1004****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 10

This course consists of the various elements to study the English Language and elements of literature, grammar, and writing. The course focuses on argumentative and rhetorical analysis writing. Along with various informational texts, students will read excerpts of the play *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. Students also complete and present a historical fiction research project. Students will read a novel of their choosing in student groups to reinforce reading strategies for comprehension.

Honors 10 A/B**Course Number: VC1013/VC1016****Length of Course:** 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 10 (*By teacher recommendation*)

This sophomore-year honors English course provides engaging and rigorous lessons with a focus on academic inquiry to strengthen knowledge of language arts. Honors reading lessons require analyzing complex texts, while concise mini-lessons advanced writing and research skills to craft strong, compelling essays and projects. Students will write argumentative and analytical essays based on literary texts, as well as an informative research paper using MLA style. Throughout the course, students read a range of classic and contemporary literary texts including Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, and Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*. In addition to reading a wide range of literary texts, students read and analyze complex informational and argumentative texts including Sonia Sotomayor's "A Latina Judge's Voice," Niccolò Machiavelli's *The Prince*, and the contemporary informational text *Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science*.

English 11 A (Literature)**Course Number: VC1005****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11

This course is designed to provide students with the tools necessary to improve and enhance reading skills. Students will read selections from literature and informational texts and draw on their own knowledge and experiences. Students will also choose grade level and reading level appropriate texts in order to apply higher order thinking skills such as making connections and making inferences. These skills, along with instruction in grammar and mechanics, will prepare students for the SAT/MME standardized tests.

English 11 B (Composition)**Course Number: VC1006****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11

This course is designed to enhance a student's reading and writing skills by studying various types of reading and writing structures. Students will partake in narrative, persuasive, and analytical writing intended to develop and refine their writing skills. Students will read selected literary and informational texts and apply higher order thinking skills in making assumptions, interpreting figurative language, and Fitzgerald Virtual Academy Course Offerings Page 16 drawing conclusions based upon evidence in those readings and their own knowledge and experiences. Students will have the opportunity to choose a literary work from the selected novels for this course and participate in literary discussion groups and Socratic circles. Grammar is reviewed as it relates to writing. Select test preparation lessons will also take place as related to the SAT.

Honors 11 A/B**Course Number: VC1017/VC1018****Length of Course:** 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 11 (*By teacher recommendation*)

This junior-year honors English course invites students to delve into American literature from early Indigenous voices through contemporary works. Students will engage in literary analysis and inferential evaluation of great texts, including the full length novel *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and expository nonfiction, honors students will master comprehension, use evidence to conduct in-depth literary analysis, and examine and critique how authors develop ideas in a variety of genres. Interwoven throughout the lessons are activities that encourage students to strengthen their oral language skills, research and critically analyze sources of information, and produce clear, coherent writing. To round out the course, students will read a range of short but complex texts, including Henry David Thoreau's essay "Civil Disobedience," Floyd Dell's drama *King Arthur's Socks*, and works by Emily Dickinson, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Martin Luther King, Jr., F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sandra Cisneros, Amy Tan, and Dave Eggers.

English 12 A (Literature)**Course Number: VC1007****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 12

The focus of this one semester class is to expose students to several genres of text while incorporating methods of analytical writing in preparation for college. These text genres include: drama, sci-fi fantasy, gothic, informational, realistic/historical fiction, and poetry. The writing styles that will be included are: personal narrative, memoir, persuasive, and argumentative. All essays will be taught with the pairing of literary articles or text in which the topics of the essays will be based. The main texts that will be covered are Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* and Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. The majority of the course work is devoted to synthesizing, analyzing and writing throughout mini genre units. Grade level and post secondary grammar, usage and vocabulary are also incorporated into this trimester.

English 12 B (Composition)**Course Number: VC1008****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 12

During this one semester course, students are introduced to the expository writing style of the critical analysis essay. Students will write several literary criticism essays, research various professional and critical materials available, and work in a more independent framework, culminating in a term paper of 17-20 pages in length paired with a creative oral presentation. APA style and format is introduced and practiced with each essay. Students will select an author of literary merit which will serve as their basis for each critical analysis paper as well as a formal presentation.

Honors 12 A/B**Course Number: VC1021/VC1022****Length of Course:** 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 12 (*By teacher recommendation*)

This senior-year honors English course invites students to delve into British literature, from ancient texts such as the epic of Beowulf through contemporary works. Students will engage in a variety of rigorous lessons with a focus on academic inquiry, literary analysis, and inferential evaluation. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and expository nonfiction, honors students will master comprehension, use evidence to conduct in-depth literary analysis, examine and critique how authors develop ideas in a variety of genres, and synthesize ideas across multiple texts. In addition to activities offered to students in core courses, honors students are given additional opportunities to create and participate in project-based learning activities, including creating a time travel brochure and an original interpretation of William Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Hamlet*. Honors students will read a range of classic texts, including Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, "Politics and the English Language" by George Orwell, and William Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Hamlet*. In addition to full length works, students will read a variety of excerpts, including readings from *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Smithsonian's History of America HONORS*, *CONTINUED Imagine Learning Course Catalog 2023–2024 49 in 101 Objects*, and Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, as well as a variety of short fiction, speeches, and poetry.

Creative Writing**Course Number: VC1060****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 10, 11, 12

Creative Writing is a one semester course designed to introduce students to the creative writing process. Students will participate in a semester-long writer's workshop, working to build a portfolio of writing under a pen name. Over the course of the semester, students study writer's strategies in various genres -- including poetry, fairy tales, short stories, and creative non-fiction -- and apply those skills to portfolio projects. Peer review & feedback will be essential elements of the seminar style writer's workshop. Students will also research careers in writing. Each student writer is required to prepare one piece of writing for submission to a national writing contest, scholarship, or publisher.

Expository Reading and Writing**Course Number: VC1030****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 12

This elective English course is designed to develop critical reading and writing skills while preparing high school students to meet the demands of college-level work. While students will explore some critical reading skills in fiction, poetry, and drama the focus of this course will be on expository and persuasive texts and the analytical reading skills that are necessary for college success. Students will read a range of short but complex texts, including works by Walt Whitman, Abraham Lincoln, Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King Jr., Langston Hughes, Julia Alvarez, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Gary Soto.

Introduction to Speech and Communication**Course Number: VC1020****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12

Beginning with an introduction that builds student understanding of the elements, principles, and characteristics of human communication, this course offers fascinating insight into verbal and nonverbal messages and cultural and gender differences in the areas of listening and responding. High school students enrolled in this one-semester course will be guided through engaging lectures and interactive activities, exploring themes of self-awareness and perception in communication. The course concludes with units on informative and persuasive speeches, and students are given the opportunity to critique and analyze speeches.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Two Credits Required (OR 1 credit of foreign language and successful completion of one CTE Course)

Chinese I A/B

Course Number: VC6020/VC6021

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12

The objective of this course is to establish a foundation of Chinese in four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). Students learn to use the language meaningfully and begin to develop the facility to communicate in the context of the Chinese-speaking world. Basic grammar and vocabulary are taught in terms of function and application to real-life situations. Students listen to tapes recorded by native speakers, participate in daily speaking and listening activities, and write simple, guided sentences. Using the Chinese dictionary and typing Chinese with a computer will also be introduced so that students become self-learners throughout their lives.

Chinese II A/B

Course Number: VC6022/VC6023

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 Credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12 **Prerequisite:** *Must have passing grade in Chinese I or earned Middle School credit*

This course is a continuation of the development of the four language skills of Chinese: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will gain language and cultural knowledge through more complex themes and topics. Some selected readings are studied for increasing comprehension. Writing practice is limited to structural drills and some short compositions with specific criteria for structure and content. Speaking skills are practiced daily in class discussions and prepared conversations. Students will be able to express themselves and understand others in increasingly complex situations.

French I A/B

Course Number: VC6010/VC6011

Length of course: 2 semesters **Credits earned:** 1 credit **Grade:** 9, 10, 11, 12

Students in high school begin their introduction to French with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major French-speaking areas in Europe and across the globe.

French II A/B

Course Number: VC6012/VC6013

Length of course: 2 semesters **Credits earned:** 1 credit **Grade:** 10, 11, 12 **Prerequisite:** *Must have passing grade in French I A and B*

Students continue their introduction to French in this second- year, high school language course with review of fundamental building blocks in four key

areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations covering major French-speaking areas across the globe, and assessments.

French III A/B

Course Number: VC6014/VC6015

Length of course: 2 semesters **Credits earned:** 1 credit **Grade:** 11, 12 **Prerequisite:** *Must have passing grade in French II A and B*

In this expanding engagement with French, high school students deepen their focus on four key skills in foreign language acquisition: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. In addition, students read significant works of literature in French and respond orally or in writing to these works. Continuing the pattern and building on what students encountered in the first two years, each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major French-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas.

German I A/B

Course Number: VC6030/VC6031

Length of course: 2 semesters **Credits earned:** 1 credit **Grade:** 9, 10, 11, 12

High school students begin their introduction to German with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and cultural presentations covering major German-speaking areas in Europe.

German II A/B

Course Number: VC6032/VC6033

Length of course: 2 semesters **Credits earned:** 1 credit **Grade:** 10, 11, 12 **Prerequisite:** *Must have passing grade in German I A and B*

Students continue their introduction to high school German in this second-year course with review of fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and cultural presentations covering major German-speaking areas in Europe.

Latin I A/B

Course Number VC6040/VC6041

Length of course: 2 semesters **Credits earned:** 1 credit **Grade:** 9, 10, 11, 12

High school students begin their introduction to Latin with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations covering significant aspects of Roman culture or their modern-day manifestations, and assessments.

Latin II A/B

Course Number: VC6042/VC6043

Length of course: 2 semesters **Credits earned:** 1 credit **Grade:** 10, 11, 12 **Prerequisite:** *Must have passing grade in Latin I A and B*

Students continue their introduction to high school Latin by continuing to cover the fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, a notable ancient myth in Latin, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations covering significant aspects of Roman culture or their modern-day manifestations, and assessments.

Spanish I A/B

Course Number: VC6000/VC6001

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12

Beginning level of Spanish helps students to develop proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in simple sentences. This course will help students increase their knowledge and appreciation of the diverse cultures of the countries whose language they are learning.

Spanish II A/B

Course Number: VC6002/VC6003

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 10, 11, 12 **Prerequisite:** *Must have passing grade in Spanish I A and B*

Spanish II will review and continue the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The class will focus on communication competence and grammatical structures. Students will continue to explore the different cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish III A/B

Course Number: VC6004/VC6005

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12 **Prerequisite:** *Must have passing grade in Spanish II A and B*

Spanish III students will continue to study various grammatical structures, vocabulary development, and proficiency in writing and oral competence. Students will be introduced to Spanish literature.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics Sequence 4 Credits Required

Algebra I and Geometry are required by the State of Michigan for graduation in addition to a math or “math related” course to be taken in your senior year.

Course Sequence

9th Algebra I A and B

10th Geometry A and B (OR Honors)

11th Algebra II A and B OR Equivalent (Personal Finance/Financial Math A and B)

12th Senior Math Elective

The sequencing of courses above are just examples of *possible* course paths. Please contact your counselor if you have any questions about the math requirements, sequencing, or course descriptions.

Algebra I A/B

Course Number: VC2002/VC2003

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11

This full-year course focuses on five critical areas: relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations, linear and exponential relationships, descriptive statistics, expressions and equations, and quadratic functions and modeling. This course builds on the foundation set in middle grades by deepening students’ understanding of linear and exponential functions and developing fluency in writing and solving one-variable equations and inequalities. Students will interpret, analyze, compare, and contrast functions that are represented numerically, tabular, graphically, and algebraically. Quantitative reasoning is a common thread throughout the course as students use algebra to represent quantities and the relationships among those quantities in a variety of ways. Standards of mathematical practice and process are embedded throughout the course, as students make sense of problem situations, solve novel problems, reason abstractly, and think critically.

Algebra II A/B

Course Number: VC2004/VC2005

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 10, 11 **Prerequisite:** *Must have Passed Algebra I A and B. May be taken concurrently with Geometry.*

This course focuses on functions, polynomials, periodic phenomena, and collecting and analyzing data. The course begins with a review of linear and quadratic functions to solidify a foundation for learning these new functions. Students make connections between verbal, numeric, algebraic, and graphical representations of functions and apply this knowledge as they create equations and inequalities that can be used to model and solve mathematical and real-world problems. As students refine and expand their algebraic skills, they will draw analogies among the operations and field properties of real numbers and those of complex numbers and algebraic expressions. Mathematical practices and habits of mind are embedded throughout the course, as students solve novel problems, reason abstractly, and think critically.

Pre-Calculus A/B**Course Number: VC2015/VC201****Length of Course:** 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 12

With an emphasis on function families and their representations, Precalculus is a thoughtful introduction to advanced studies leading to calculus. The course briefly reviews linear equations, inequalities, and systems and moves purposefully into the study of functions. Students then discover the nature of graphs and deepen their understanding of polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Scaffolding rigorous content with clear instruction, the course leads students through an advanced study of trigonometric functions, matrices, and vectors. The course concludes with a short study of probability and statistics.

Geometry A/B**Course Number: VC2006/VC2007****Length of Course:** 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 10, 11, 12 **Prerequisite:** *Successful completion of Algebra I. May be taken concurrently with Algebra II.*

This course formalizes what students learned about geometry in the middle grades with a focus on reasoning and making mathematical arguments. Mathematical reasoning is introduced with a study of triangle congruence, including exposure to formal proofs and geometric constructions. Then students extend what they have learned to other essential triangle concepts, including similarity, right-triangle trigonometry, and the laws of sines and cosines. Moving on to other shapes, students justify and derive various formulas for circumference, area, and volume, as well as cross-sections of solids and rotations of two-dimensional objects. Students then make important connections between geometry and algebra, including special triangles, slopes of parallel and perpendicular lines, and parabolas in the coordinate plane, before delving into an in-depth investigation of the geometry of circles. The course closes with a study of set theory and probability, as students apply theoretical and experimental probability to make decisions informed by data analysis.

Honors Geometry A/B**Course Number: VC2008/VC2009****Length of Course:** 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 10, 11, 12 **Prerequisite:** *Successful completion of Algebra I. May be taken concurrently with Algebra II. Instructor approval required.*

Honors Geometry is an introduction to the mathematics of the physical world. Honors Geometry will include a brief introduction to the building blocks of geometry (points, lines and planes) and a more in-depth study of triangles and their properties, polygons, circles, surface area, volume and trigonometric ratios, and logical reasoning through the use of proofs. This rigorous course moves more rapidly and studies the topics in greater detail than in regular Geometry, and will include a project for each unit.

Pre-Algebra A/B**Course Number: VC2000/VC2001****Length of Course:** 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12

This full-year course is designed for students who have completed a middle school mathematics sequence but are not yet algebraready. This course reviews key algebra readiness skills from the middle grades and introduces basic Algebra I work with appropriate support. Students revisit concepts in numbers and operations, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, and basic functions. By the end of the course, students are ready to begin a more formal high school Algebra I study.

Financial Math A/B**Course Number: VC2040/VC2041****Length of Course:** 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 12 *Senior Math Credit*

Connecting practical mathematical concepts to personal and business settings, this course offers informative and highly useful lessons that challenge students to gain a deeper understanding of financial math. Relevant, project-based learning activities cover stimulating topics such as personal financial planning, budgeting and wise spending, banking, paying taxes, the importance of insurance, long-term investing, buying a house, consumer loans, economic principles, traveling abroad, starting a business, and analyzing business data. Offered as a two-semester course for high school students, this course encourages mastery of math skill sets, including percentages, proportions, data analysis, linear systems, and exponential functions.

Personal Finance**Course Number: VC7021****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 12 *Senior Math Credit*

This introductory finance course teaches what it takes to understand the world of finance and make informed decisions about managing finances. Students learn more about economics and become more confident in setting and researching financial goals as they develop the core skills needed to be successful. In this one-semester course, students learn how to open bank accounts, invest money, apply for loans, apply for insurance, explore careers, manage business finances, make decisions about major purchases, and more. Students will be inspired by stories from finance professionals and individuals who have reached their financial goals.

Mathematical Models with Applications A/B**Course Number: VC2030/VC2031****Length of Course:** 2 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11,12 **Prerequisite:** *Successful completion of Algebra I.*

Broadening and extending the mathematical knowledge and skills acquired in Algebra I, the primary purpose of this course is to use mathematics as a tool to model real world phenomena students may encounter daily, such as finance and exponential models. Engaging lessons cover financial topics, including growth, smart money, saving, and installment-loan models. Prior mathematical knowledge is expanded and new knowledge and techniques are developed through real-world application of useful mathematical concepts. Modern Math.

Sports Entertainment and Marketing**Course Number: VC1636/VC1637****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 12 *Senior Math Credit*

Have you ever wished to play sports professionally? Have you dreamed of one day becoming an agent for a celebrity entertainer? If you answered yes to either question, then believe it or not, you've been fantasizing about entering the exciting world of sports and entertainment marketing. Although this particular form of marketing bears some resemblance to traditional marketing, there are many differences as well—including a lot more glitz and glamour! In this course, you'll have the opportunity to explore basic marketing principles and delve deeper into the multi-billion dollar sports and entertainment marketing industry. You'll learn about how professional athletes, sports teams, and well known entertainers are marketed as commodities and how some of them become billionaires as a result. If you've ever wondered about how things work behind the scenes of a major sporting event such as the Super Bowl or even entertained the idea of playing a role in such an event, then this course will introduce you to the fundamentals of such a career.

CTE-CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Banking Services Careers

Course Number: VC1638

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

Banking Services Careers is a semester-long high school course that provides an overview of how the banking system works, what the Federal Reserve is, and the technical and social skills needed to work in banking and related services. Students explore career paths and the required training or higher education necessary and gain an understanding of the basic functions of customer transactions (e.g., setting up an account, processing a loan, establishing a business), cash drawer activity, check collection processes, and other customer service–related transactions. This course also discusses how technology has changed banking in the 21st century. The banking industry is responsible for many of the products that we use on a daily basis, from checking and savings accounts to debit cards, credit cards, and loans.

Careers in Allied Health

Course Number: VC1639

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

Careers in Allied Health is a semester-long course that focuses on select allied health careers, studying a variety of different levels, responsibilities, settings, education needs and amounts of patient contact. The course includes an overview of the degree or training needed for each job, the environment one would work in, how much money the position could make, and the facts of the actual working day. Within each job type, students explore important aspects applicable to the entire field of allied health, such as behaving ethically, working as a team, keeping patients safe and free from infections and germs, honoring diverse needs of diverse patients, and following laws and policies.

Family and Community Services

Course Number: VC1641

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

Family and Community Services is a high school semester-long course that introduces applications within professions related to family and community services. Students identify degree and credential requirements for occupations in this pathway and identify individual, social, historical, economic, and cultural context to increase awareness of family and community services. Students develop the abilities necessary to evaluate and identify a range of effective communication strategies and skills for establishing a collaborative relationship with others. Students also complete a variety of projects to apply their skills and knowledge. Units are divided among career fields: Social Workers, Emergency Management and Planners, Therapists and Treatment Specialists, Education and Childcare.

Food Safety and Sanitation

Course Number: VC1643

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

This comprehensive semester-long course covers the principles and practices of food safety and sanitation that are essential in the hospitality industry for the protection and well-being of staff, guests and customers. The course provides a systems approach to sanitation risk management and the prevention of food contamination by emphasizing the key components of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) food safety system. After successful completion of this course, students are prepared to meet the requirements of state and national certification exams.

Introduction to Careers in Education and Training

Course Number: VC1645

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

Introduction to Careers in Education and Training is a semester-long course that introduces students to the field of education and training, and the opportunities available for early-childhood through adult and continuing education. Students gain an understanding of the career options available in teaching, administrative work, and support services. They also explore the education and background experience needed to succeed in these careers. Students learn about the evolution of the modern educational system in the United States, and the policies and laws that govern educational institutions. They also discover the similarities and differences between the ethical and legal obligations of working with adults versus working with children.

Introduction to Customer Services

Course Number: VC1648

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

In this semester-long course, students analyze various career paths in terms of employment opportunities and educational requirements, such as hard and soft skills, certifications, and licensures for different pathways. Developing research, analytical, and presentations skills are key components. This course is designed as an overview to prepare students for a consumer services-related career and to introduce them to specialty areas. Emphasis is placed on the human services aspect (vs. corporate concerns) of consumer services. Social issues and advocacy, as well as ethics and legalities, are a recurring theme. Students gain knowledge of current issues affecting various consumer services professions, and the impact of local, state, national and global issues on consumer services.

Introduction to Human Services

Course Number: VC1649

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

This semester-long course introduces high school students to the possibilities for careers in the human services professions. Through anecdotes, lessons, and a variety of assignments and projects, students learn about the broad variety of jobs available in the human services. These begin with entry-level positions, such as associate social workers, that require a two-year Associate of Arts degree. Students also learn ethics and philosophies of the helping professions. The history of the profession, as well as the impact of the cultural, social, and economic environment on individual people, especially those who need social services assistance, is also explored.

Medical Terminology**Course Number: VC7033****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

This semester-long course introduces students to the structure of medical terms, plus medical abbreviations and acronyms. The course allows students to achieve comprehension of medical vocabulary appropriate to health care settings, medical procedures, pharmacology, human anatomy and physiology, and pathology. The knowledge and skills gained in this course provide students entering the healthcare field with a deeper understanding of the application of the language of health and medicine. Students are introduced to these skills through direct instruction, interactive tasks, practice assignments, and unit-level assessments.

Social Media: Our World Connected**Course Number:VC5003****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10,11, 12

Have a Facebook account? What about Twitter? Whether you've already dipped your toes in the waters of social media or are still standing on the shore wondering what to make of it all, learning how to interact on various social media platforms is crucial in order to survive and thrive in this age of digital communication. In this course, you'll learn the ins and outs of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Google+, and more. You'll also discover other types of social media you may not have been aware of and how to use them for your benefit—personally, academically, and eventually professionally as well. If you thought social media platforms were just a place to keep track of friends and share personal photos, this course will show you how to use these resources in much more powerful ways, maybe even make a career in the industry.

PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

Art History

Course Number: VC5002

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12

Introducing art within historical, social, geographical, political, and religious contexts for understanding art and architecture through the ages, this course offers high school students an in-depth overview of art throughout history, with lessons organized by chronological and historical order and world regions. Students enrolled in this one-semester course cover topics including early medieval and Romanesque art; art in the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries; fifteenth-century art in Europe; sixteenth-century art in Italy; the master artists; High Renaissance and baroque art; world art, which includes the art of Asia, Africa, the Americas, and the Pacific cultures; eighteenth-and nineteenth-century art in Europe and the Americas; and modern art in Europe and the Americas.

Introduction to Art

Course Number: VC5001

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12

Covering art appreciation and the beginning of art history, this course encourages students to gain an understanding and appreciation of art in their everyday lives. Presented in an engaging format, this one-semester course provides an overview of many introductory themes: the definition of art, the cultural purpose of art, visual elements of art, terminology and principles of design, and two- and three-dimensional media and techniques. Tracing the history of art, high school students enrolled in the course also explore the following time periods and places: prehistoric art, art in ancient civilizations, and world art before 1400.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION and HEALTH

One Credit Required for graduation.

Lifetime Fitness

Course Number: VC8003

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12

This course is designed to provide students with the basic skills and information lifestyle. Students participate in pre- and post-fitness assessments in which they measure and lifestyle. Students participate in pre- and post-fitness assessments in which they measure and analyze their own levels of fitness based on the five components of physical fitness: muscular strength, endurance, cardiovascular fitness, flexibility, and body composition. In this course, students research the benefits of physical activity, as well as the techniques, principles, and guidelines of exercise to keep them safe and healthy. Throughout this course students participate in a weekly fitness program involving elements of cardio, strength, and flexibility.

Healthy Living Skills

Course Number: VC8005

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12

This class covers the importance of healthy habits and eating. Fulfills the state's health requirement.

Foundations of Personal Wellness

Course Number: VC8009

Length of Course: 2 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12

Exploring a combination of health and fitness concepts, this comprehensive and cohesive course explores all aspects of wellness. Offered as a two-semester course designed for high school students, coursework uses pedagogical planning to ensure that students explore fitness and physical health and encourages students to learn about the nature of social interactions and how to plan a healthy lifestyle. NOTE: This course contains content from both Healthy Living and Lifetime Fitness; to avoid duplication, students should take either those one-semester courses or this full-year course.

SCIENCE

Science Sequence 3 Credits Required

Biology I, Chemistry I, and one additional credit in Science are required for graduation.

Course Sequence

9th Biology I A and B

10th Chemistry I A and B

11th Science Elective

12th Science Elective (If not taken in 11th grade)

Anthropology

Course Number: VC4033

Length of Course: 1 Semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

The aim of anthropology is to use a broad approach to gain an understanding of our past, present and future, and in addition address the problems humans face in biological, social and cultural life. This course will explore the evolution, similarity and diversity of humankind through time. It will look at how we have evolved from a biologically and culturally weak species to one that has the ability to cause catastrophic change. Exciting online video journeys to different areas of the anthropological world are just one of the powerful learning tools utilized in this course.

Biology I A/B

Course Number: VC3001/VC3002

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10

This compelling two-semester course engages students in the study of life and living organisms and examines biology and biochemistry in the real world. This is a yearlong course that encompasses traditional concepts in biology and encourages exploration of new discoveries in this field of science. The components include biochemistry, cell biology, cell processes, heredity and reproduction, the evolution of life, taxonomy, human body systems, and ecology.

Chemistry I A/B

Course Number: VC3010/VC3011

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 10, 11, 12

This rigorous, full-year course engages students in the study of the composition, properties, changes, and interactions of matter. The course covers the basic concepts of chemistry and includes eighteen virtual laboratory experiments that encourage higher-order thinking applications, with wet lab options if preferred. The components of this course include chemistry and its methods, the composition and properties of matter, changes and interactions of matter, factors affecting the interactions of matter, electrochemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, nuclear chemistry, mathematical applications, and applications of chemistry in the real world.

Environmental Studies A/B

Course Number: VC3040/VC3041

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 10, 11, 12

Environmental science is a captivating and rapidly expanding field, and this two-semester course offers compelling lessons that cover many aspects of the field: ecology, the biosphere, land, forests and soil, water, energy and resources, and societies and policy. Through unique activities and material, high school students connect scientific theory and concepts to current, real-world dilemmas, providing them with opportunities for mastery in each of the segments throughout the semester.

Earth Science A/B

Course Number: VC3030/VC3031

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 10, 11, 12

Students enrolled in this dynamic course explore the scope of Earth sciences, covering everything from basic structure and rock formation to the incredible and volatile forces that have shaped and changed our planet. As climate change and energy conservation become increasingly prevalent in the national discourse, it will be important for students to understand the concepts and causes of our changing Earth. Earth Science is a two-semester course that provides a solid foundation for understanding the physical characteristics that make the planet Earth unique and examines how these characteristics differ among the planets of our solar system.

Introduction to Careers in the Health Sciences

Course Number: VC1646

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

This semester-long course is an overview of health careers and overriding principles central to all health professions. The course provides a foundation for further study in the field of health science. Upon completion of the course, students are able to discuss the potential career choices and have an understanding of basic concepts that apply to these different choices such as science and technology in human health, disease, privacy, ethics and safety. Essential skill development, such as communication and teamwork, are also addressed.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies Sequence 3 Credits Required

Course Sequence

9th US History A and B

10th World History A and B

11th Government/Civics and Economics

U.S. History I A/B

Course Number: VC4003/VC4004

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10 (recommended for 9th grade)

U.S. History I is a yearlong course that dynamically explores the people, places, and events that shaped early United States history. This course stretches from the Era of Exploration through the Industrial Revolution, leading students through a careful examination of the defining moments that shaped the nation of today. Students begin by exploring the colonization of the New World and examining the foundations of colonial society. As they study the early history of the United States, students will learn critical-thinking skills by examining the constitutional foundations of the U.S. government. Recurring themes such as territorial expansion, the rise of industrialization, and the significance of slavery will be examined in the context of how these issues contributed to the Civil War and Reconstruction.

World History I A/B

Course Number: VC4001/VC4002

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10 (recommended for 10th grade)

This yearlong course examines the major events and turning points of world history from ancient times to the present. Students investigate the development of classical civilizations in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Asia, and they explore the economic, political, and social revolutions that have transformed human history. At the end of the course, students conduct a rigorous study of modern history, allowing them to draw connections between past events and contemporary issues. The use of recurring themes, such as social history, democratic government, and the relationship between history and the arts, allows students to draw connections between the past and the present, among cultures, and among multiple perspectives. Throughout the course, students use a variety of primary and secondary sources, including legal documents, essays, historical writings, and political cartoons to evaluate the reliability of historical evidence and to draw conclusions about historical events.

Economics

Course Number: VC4015

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

This course invites students to broaden their understanding of how economic concepts apply to their everyday lives—including microeconomic and macroeconomic theory and the characteristics of mixed-market economies, the role of government in a free-enterprise system and the global economy, and personal finance strategies. Throughout the course, students apply critical-thinking skills while making practical economic choices. Students also master literacy skills through rigorous reading and writing activities. Students analyze data displays and write routinely and responsively in tasks and assignments that are based on scenarios, texts, activities, and examples. In more extensive, process-based writing lessons, students write full-length essays in informative and

argumentative formats.

Human Geography A/B

Course Number: VC4041/VC4042

Length of Course: 2 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

Examining current global issues that impact our world today, this course takes a thematic approach to understanding the development of human systems, human understanding of the world, and human social organization. Divided into two semesters, this high school course will challenge students to develop geographic skills, including learning to interpret maps, analyze data, and compare theories. Offering interactive content that will grow students' understanding of the development of modern civilization and human systems—from the agricultural revolution to the technological revolution—this course encourages students to analyze economic trends as well as compare global markets and urban environments.

American Government

Course Number: VC4010

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

This semester-long course provides students with a practical understanding of the principles and procedures of government. The course begins by establishing the origins and founding principles of American government. After a rigorous review of the Constitution and its amendments, students investigate the development and extension of civil rights and liberties. Lessons also introduce influential Supreme Court decisions to demonstrate the impact and importance of constitutional rights. The course builds on this foundation by guiding students through the function of government today and the role of citizens in the civic process and culminates in an examination of public policy and the roles of citizens and organizations in promoting policy changes. Throughout the course, students examine primary and secondary sources, including political cartoons, essays, and judicial opinions. Students also sharpen their writing skills in shorter tasks and assignments and practice outlining and drafting skills by writing full informative and argumentative essays.

ELECTIVES

Career Explorations A/B

Course Number: VC7004/VC7006

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12

This course prepares high school students to make informed decisions about their future academic and occupational goals. Through direct instruction, interactive skill demonstrations, and practice assignments, students learn how to assess their own skills and interests, explore industry clusters and pathways, and develop plans for career and academic development. This course is designed to provide flexibility for students; any number of units can be selected to comprise a course that meets the specific needs of students.

Career Planning and Development

Course Number: VC7007

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12

Introducing high school students to the working world, this course provides the knowledge and insight necessary to compete in today's challenging job market. This relevant and timely course helps students investigate careers as they apply to personal interests and abilities, develop the skills and job search documents needed to enter the workforce, explore the rights of workers and traits of effective employees, and address the importance of professionalism and responsibility as careers change and evolve. This one-semester course includes lessons in which students create a self-assessment profile, a cover letter, and a résumé that can be used in their educational or career portfolio.

Introduction to Business

Course Number: VC7029

Length of Course: 2 semesters **Credits Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

In this two-semester introductory course, students learn the principles of business using real-world examples—learning what it takes to plan and launch a product or service in today's fast-paced business environment. This course covers an introduction to economics, costs and profit, and different business types. Students are introduced to techniques for managing money, personally and as a business, and taxes and credit; the basics of financing a business; how a business relates to society both locally and globally; how to identify a business opportunity; and techniques for planning, executing, and marketing a business to respond to that opportunity.

Introduction to Entrepreneurship

Course Number: VC7019

Length of Course: 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

This one-semester course teaches the key skills and concepts students need to know to plan and launch a business. Students learn about real-life teen entrepreneurs; characteristics of successful entrepreneurs; how to attract investors and manage expenses; sales stages, planning, and budgeting; how to generate business ideas and create a business plan; and how to promote and market a company. Topics include exploring factors of business success and failure, economic systems, competition, production, costs and pricing, accounting, bookkeeping and financial reporting, working with others, and successfully managing employees.

Psychology A/B**Course Number: VC4031/VC4032****Course Length:** 2 semesters **Credit Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

This two-semester course introduces high school students to the study of psychology and helps them master fundamental concepts in research, theory, and human behavior. Students analyze human growth, learning, personality, and behavior from the perspective of major theories within psychology, including the biological, psychosocial, and cognitive perspectives. From a psychological point of view, students investigate the nature of being human as they build a comprehensive understanding of traditional psychological concepts and contemporary perspectives in the field. Course components include an introduction to the history, perspectives, and research of psychology; an understanding of topics such as the biological aspects of psychology, learning, and cognitive development; the stages of human development; aspects of personality and intelligence; the classification and treatment of psychological disorders; and psychological aspects of social interactions.

Sociology A/B**Course Number: VC4020/VC4021****Course Length:** 2 semesters **Credit Earned:** 1 credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

Providing insight into the human dynamics of our diverse society, this is an engaging, one-semester course that delves into the fundamental concepts of sociology. This interactive course, designed for high school students, covers cultural diversity and conformity, basic structures of society, individuals and socialization, stages of human development as they relate to sociology, deviance from social norms, social stratification, racial and ethnic interactions, gender roles, family structure, the economic and political aspects of sociology, the sociology of public institutions, and collective human behavior, both historically and in modern times.

Climate & Culture Transformation**Course Number: VC2212****Length of Course:** 2 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

Climate & Culture Transformation is a course designed to teach students the different aspects of health and safety, relationship support, social awareness, and equity, inclusion, & diversity. The climate and culture of a school, community, or relationship are all based on mutual and self-respect, perspective-taking, healthy communication, and positive values. In this course, students are challenged to reflect on and learn more about themselves and others, as well as how to advocate for safer and more supportive environments. Each lesson is packed with positivity and insight needed to envision a brighter future for all.

Personal Development**Course Number: VC2213****Length of Course:** 2 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10

Personal Development is a course designed to increase a student's success in school, at work, and in their personal life. Each of the lessons in this course provide students with practical insights, stories, discussion questions, and activities designed to enhance self-awareness, boost self-esteem, and help develop the motivation it takes to overcome personal challenges. By participating in course activities and discussions, students build a valuable record of their goals, dreams, skills, interests, and values. Students will also develop the skills necessary to make informed and responsible decisions about their own well-being, as well as the well-being of others.

Career Management**Course Number: VC1652****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

Career Management is a semester-length high school course that assists students in their preparation for career selection. The course is designed to improve workforce skills needed in all careers including communication, leadership, teamwork, decision-making, problem-solving, goal-setting, and time management. Students complete activities that help identify personal interests, aptitudes, and learning styles. Students use the results of self-assessments to determine careers that may prove personally satisfying.

Keyboarding and Applications**Course Number: VC1651****Length of Course:** 1 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 9, 10, 11, 12

Keyboarding and Applications is a semester-long course that teaches students keyboarding skills, technical skills, effective communication skills, and productive work habits. Students learn proper keyboarding techniques. Once students have been introduced to keyboarding skills, lessons include daily practice of those skills. Students gain an understanding of computer hardware, operating systems, file management, and the Internet. In addition, students apply their keyboarding skills and create a variety of business documents, including word processing documents and electronic presentations.

Marketing Foundations A/B**Course Number: VC1653/VC1654****Length of Course:** 2 semester **Credits Earned:** ½ credit **Grade Level:** 11, 12

Learn about the role of marketing in business in addition to the basics of business management, customer service, and economics. Examine how to identify target markets, perform market research, and develop successful marketing strategies. Discover the legal and ethical considerations of business and marketing, along with the impact of government on business. Become a marketing mix pro by studying understanding branding, advertising, promotion strategies, and more, through real-world applications and practices. And explore the secrets of advertising and promotion.