

Course Descriptions for 2020-21

English

English Essentials 9

Credit: 1.5

Level: 9th

Length: Three Trimesters

Prerequisite: English 8, Test Scores and Teacher Recommendation

English Essentials is the same course as English 9, but it is designed to assist students entering high school by improving foundational English skills. This class will reinforce the skills the students will need in order to move on to English 10. Critical reading skills and effective writing skills will be emphasized at a slower, year-long pace. If students start with English Essentials, they are required to stay in English Essentials since the pacing of English Essentials and English 9 are different.

English 9 A & B

Credit: 1.0

Level: 8th Honors, 9th

Length: Two Trimesters

Prerequisite: English 8

English 9 is designed to improve the student's ability to read critically and communicate effectively and will introduce students to a variety of literary genres, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, short story, drama, and multimedia texts. Selections will vary from classic to contemporary and from authors across the globe and will show connections to the great world through the use of media. Reading comprehension will be emphasized. The elements of various writing styles will also be taught and will strengthen the student's ability to express their ideas in a professional format. Grammar and mechanics skills will also be reviewed. Potential units include Finding Common Ground, The Struggle for Freedom, The Bonds Between Us, Sweet Sorrow, A Matter of Life or Death, and Heroes and Quests. Excerpts from Shakespeare's *The Most Excellent and Lamentable Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* and Homer's *The Odyssey* will also be included.

English 10 A & B

Credit: 1.0

Level: 9th Honors, 10th

Length: Two Trimesters

Prerequisite: English 8 Honors or English Essentials or English 9 A & B

English 10 is designed to continue improving the student's ability to read critically and communicate effectively and continue to introduce a variety of literary genres including fiction, poetry, short story, drama, and multimedia texts. Selections will vary from classic to contemporary and from authors across the globe and will show connections to the greater world through the use of media. Reading comprehension will be emphasized. Writing instruction will focus on the rhetorical analysis using ethos, logos, and pathos. Students will

continue to strengthen their ability to express their ideas in a professional format and grammar and mechanics skills will continue to be reviewed. Potential units include Ourselves and Others, The Natural World, Responses to Change, How We See Things, Absolute Power, and Hard-Won Liberty. Excerpts from Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Macbeth* will also be included.

English 11 A & B

Credit: 1.0

Level: 10th Honors, 11th

Length: Two Trimesters

Prerequisite: English 10 A & B

This course is designed to introduce students to a selection of American literature texts, including some U.S. Foundational Documents, and improve their reading, writing, and thinking skills and strategies. Students will also read a selection of classic and modern global texts, some of which will be their choice. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences in traditional forms and 21st-century forms while building college-level writing skills. They will also practice on-demand writing as required by the SAT. Grammar, usage, and mechanics skills will also be reviewed; and SAT test preparation will continue. Potential topics include Coming to America, Building a Democracy, The Individual and Society, A New Birth of Freedom, An Age of Realism, and The Modern World. Excerpts from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* may also be included.

AP English Language and Composition A, B, & C

Credit: 1.5

Level: 11th Honors, 12th

Length: Three Trimesters

Prerequisite: English 11 A & B and AP Selection Committee Recommendation

The Advanced Placement English Language and Composition course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement. This course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments and will be required to write an MLA research paper. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts, including graphic images, from many disciplines and historical periods. This course is preparation for the AP English Language exam, where students may garner college credit if they earn a 3, 4, or 5 on the exam. Students will be encouraged to read 30 minutes every night and will read at least nine (9) books throughout the course.

English 12 A & B

Credit: 1.0

Level: 12th

Prerequisite: English 11 A & B

English 12 is designed to continue improving the student's ability to read critically and communicate effectively while increasing student's knowledge of literature and nonfiction. Selections will vary from classic to contemporary and reading comprehension will be emphasized. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences. Critical and analytical thinking skills will be emphasized in both discussion and written analyses. Potential units include Chasing Success; Gender Roles; Voices of Protest; Seeking Justice, Seeking Peace; Taking Risks; and Finding Ourselves in Nature. Supplemental books may include *Night*; *A Lesson Before Dying*; *Spoon River Anthology*; *Tuesdays with Morrie*; *The Things They Carried*; *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*; *Pay It Forward*; *Beowulf*; and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

College Composition A & B

Credit: 1.0

Level: 12th

Prerequisite: English 11 A & B

College Composition is intended to introduce senior students to the rigors and demands of college-level expository writing that is clear language that explains, describes, or informs. The goal, then, is to engage students as critical thinkers by reading passages and focusing our discussion and writing in an expository way. The class focuses on how to develop essential writing skills including organization, correctness, and support of ideas. Students will practice adherence to the conventions of standard written English in sentence construction, grammar, and usage. The course includes analysis of several authors' works but is centered around the students' own writings. Students will write for a variety of purposes, including argumentative, synthesis, and analysis. With additional preparation, students may elect to take the College Composition CLEP Exam where earning college credit is possible; however, this course is not specifically a CLEP prep course. Supplemental books include *Night* and three more of the students' choosing.

AP English Literature and Composition A, B, & C

Credit: 1.5

Level: 12th Honors

Prerequisite: English 11 A & B and AP Selection Committee Recommendation

This Advanced Placement literature and writing course is designed to demonstrate growth in thinking, reading, and writing. The course demands close reading of selected American and British texts to deepen student understanding of the ways writers use language (structure and content) to provide meaning and pleasure. The class focuses on critical analysis of texts, as well as thoughtful discussion and writing about literary works. Writings will correspond to elements of reading. Writing experiences include a college application essay, several AP-type papers, and a literary analysis research paper. Emphasis on vocabulary, advanced literary terminology, and stylistic tools help to prepare students for the AP exam. Upon completion of the course, students will take the AP Literature and Composition exam and may earn college credit with a score of 3, 4, or 5.

English Enrichment Courses

These courses count as elective credit ONLY. They do NOT fulfill the requirements of the core English classes.

Film Appreciation

Credit: 0.5

Level: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Length: One Trimester, offered on a rotational basis

Prerequisite: English 8, Must be a high school student

This elective will sharpen students' skills to critically view and analyze the layers of variables that complexify a work of film. Students will apply literary devices, story structures, and critical/thematic lenses to express how different perspectives impact the viewing of a work. Some other activities include: character, film maker, and studio network biography studies; inquiry project expert groups to further student understanding of previously expressed concepts; and exploring careers/fields in the film industry. Throughout the trimester, specific film genres include: sports and the convention of "the underdog", comedy, special effects, Westerns, science fiction, adventure and the convention of "the hero" and "antihero", the "golden age" of Hollywood, and animation.

Speech Communications

This one trimester course is for juniors completing the 11th grade year, or seniors, first or second trimester. This introductory course will help students develop the skills and confidence to effectively communicate, both orally and in writing. Exercises covered include: writing strong application essays, applying to schools, writing a comprehensive document for scholarships, writing cover letters, resumes and correspondence writing. Students will also write a personal statement. Public speaking is a focus in the course. Exercises in public speaking include: Preparing for scholarship interviews and speaking in a business setting, delivering a narrative speech, delivering an expository group speech – featuring a social problem. The course culminates in a research paper and presentation of the student's choice.

Young Adult Literature

Credit: 0.5

Level: 10th, 11th, 12th

Length: One Trimester, offered on a rotational basis

Prerequisite: English 9, Must be a high school student

This course will examine the different genres of young adult literature - adventure/survival, fantasy and/or science fiction, mystery/suspense, historical fiction, teen conflicts, novels in verse/poetry, short stories, graphic novels, humor, and nonfiction - as well as look at the history of young adult literature. The course goal is that through the study of young adult literature students will become better readers and writers and will remember what it is like to read for pleasure. Through these books, students will analyze contemporary teen issues from peer pressure, bullying, interacting with parents, dating, and dealing with physical and emotional problems, to just growing up and coming of age. Class meetings will consist of a combination of small group discussion, team tasks, all-class discussion, group presentations, and related

activities. Emphasis is on critical thinking and engaged discussion. The final project is a Literary Portfolio that ties in all of the reading experiences and learning from the class.

Mathematics

Algebra I Essentials

Algebra 1 Essentials is designed to introduce the basic concepts and skills of algebra in order to successfully prepare the student for problem solving. This class occurs in a small setting with two teachers, in order to focus on individualized instruction as needed. Topics covered will include solving linear equations and linear inequalities, absolute value equations and inequalities, graphing linear and absolute value functions, lines of best fit, writing equations of lines, solving systems of equations, properties of exponents, radicals, exponential equations, polynomial operations (including factoring, Quadratic Formula, and Completing the Square), solving quadratic and square root equations, and graphing square and cube root functions. Algebra 1 builds upon the concepts of Pre-Algebra and follows the Common Core Standards for mathematics. A variety of approaches to learning will be used to ensure that students with a variety of learning styles will have the opportunity to be successful.

Algebra I Seminar, A & B

1.5 credits

Algebra 1 is designed to introduce the basic concepts and skills of algebra in order to successfully prepare the student for problem solving. Topics covered will include solving linear equations and linear inequalities, absolute value equations and inequalities, graphing linear and absolute value functions, lines of best fit, writing equations of lines, solving systems of equations, properties of exponents, radicals, exponential equations, polynomial operations (including factoring, Quadratic Formula, and Completing the Square), solving quadratic and square root equations, and graphing square and cube root functions. Algebra 1 builds upon the concepts of Pre-Algebra and follows the Common Core Standards for mathematics. A variety of approaches to learning will be used to ensure that students with a variety of learning styles will have the opportunity to be successful.

Algebra II A & B

1.0 Credit

Algebra II builds on the concepts of Algebra I. Algebra II will cover solving and graphing quadratics, polynomials, laws of exponents, rational exponents, factoring polynomials, radicals, complex and imaginary numbers, rational expressions, and solving polynomial equations using a variety of methods.

Geometry A & B

1.0 Credit

Geometry is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of plane and coordinate geometry, in order to successfully prepare students for the SAT and trigonometry and beyond. Topics covered include basic definitions of geometry such as points, lines, and planes, parallel and perpendicular lines, proofs, congruent triangles, properties of triangles, transformations,

properties of quadrilaterals, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, properties of circles, area and perimeter, and surface area and volume of solids. A variety of approaches to learning will be used to ensure that students with a variety of learning styles will have the opportunity to be successful.

Discrete Math

0.5 credit

Discrete Math is an SAT math preparation course that focuses on reinforcing basic math skills through skills used in Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, and beyond.

Trigonometry A & B

1.0 credit

An advanced course in mathematics for college bound professional career pathway students. This course will emphasize an understanding of the definitions and principles of trigonometry and their application to problem solving. Topics include right triangles, oblique triangles, graphs of trigonometric functions, identities, trigonometric equations, and corresponding applications to each topic.

Calculus A & B

1.0 credit

This is an advanced course in mathematics for college bound students on the professional career pathway. The course is paced for the high school student, yet designed to cover all topics generally taught in the first semester of college calculus. Topics include limits, derivative and integrals of algebraic functions, and elementary applications of each. Students may choose to attempt to earn college credit through either the CLEP test for Calculus or the AP Calculus test.

College Algebra A & B

1.0 credit

This course is designed for dual accreditation. Upon successful completion of both trimesters the student will receive an elective high school credit in mathematics and will be given the opportunity to earn college credit by successful completion of the CLEP Test for College Algebra. Topics include an overview of numbers, variables, and expressions, solving equations and inequalities in one variable, solving equations and inequalities in two variables, and systems of equations.

Science

Biology A & B

1.0 credit

Biology is a sophomore-level course which focuses on numerous aspects of life. Topics will include Living Systems, Energy and Matter in Living Systems, Ecosystems, Cells and DNA, Genetics, and Evolution. Throughout the course, we will also be looking at the impact humans have on the living world. Students will work collaboratively in groups, work on projects,

presentations, and will research real world problems and applications in biological sciences. The course textbook will be used as a resource. Students will have access to an online textbook and workbook and will be given access during the first week of the trimester.

Chemistry A & B

1.0 credit

Applying a new fully online textbook, Chemistry A & B are electives that further develop the understanding of matter and its changes. Students will start to work through the textbook in an online interactive environment while still doing hands on labs and discussions. Must have taken Physical Science A & B and Biology A & B.

Physics A & B & possible co-current C

1.0 credit

This course was designed to address as many of the Disciplinary Core Ideas for High School Physics in the NGSS as could be accomplished coherently in one year. It connects key concepts in physics and math that will help students understand their world and provide a solid foundation for subsequent studies in medicine or engineering. Rather than simply confirming what students have learned from their teacher, the experiments provide the opportunities for students to develop models to help them make sense of their observations. The course could be called “Describing and Understanding our Universe” because it addresses the mathematics behind daily phenomena such as the oscillation model, waves, rotational motion, electricity and magnetism. Must have completed Physical Science A & B before taking this course.

Earth Science A & B

1.0 credit

Applying a new fully online textbook, Earth Science is a required course that will involve students diving deeper into the characteristics of Earth. Being a junior level course, students will go into more depth of calculations and modeling relating to many Earth Science topics.

Environthon

0.5 credit

This class is an environmental science project based learning class for elective credit. This course follows the guidelines of the Michigan Environthon from the Michigan Conservation District. The content areas covered are Aquatic Ecology, energy, forestry, sustainable agriculture, wildlife, soils and geology, and one environmental issue that varies from year to year. A community outreach project portion includes students identifying an environmental issue in their community and then addressing the issue through hands-on problem solving and community education. Attendance of the one day Regional competition in March is required and counts as one week of assignments in a single day as students are trained and tested by professionals in the field.

Anatomy

0.5 credit

An elective course offered every other year, students will look into each body system into great detail. The course entails a lot of memorizing and dissections and will provide students the opportunity to experience medical related terminology.

AP Biology A, B, & C

1.5 credits

AP Biology is a college level course for able and motivated students. The course content follows the suggested outline for a typical college biology course. AP Biology covers the main biological principles and processes which include the following Big Ideas: 1) The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life. 2) Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis. 3) Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes. 4) Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties. AP Biology aims to provide students with the conceptual framework and analytical skills necessary to understand and assess the rapidly growing science in Biology. This is a laboratory class in which students will collect and analyze data and write scientific lab reports. After two trimesters, students will take the AP Biology Exam. Motivated students who complete necessary work and participate in activities should be prepared for the exam.

Physical Science A & B

1.0 credit

This course was designed to address as many of the Disciplinary Core Ideas for High School Physical Science in the NGSS as could be accomplished coherently in one year. It connects key concepts in physics, chemistry and math that will help students understand their world and provide a solid foundation for subsequent science courses. Rather than simply confirming what students have learned from their teacher, the experiments provide opportunities for students to develop models to help them make sense of their observations. The course could be called “Describing and Understanding Change” because it addresses change in the position, speed, structure and temperature of matter and the role energy plays in this change. The treatment of the physics concepts relating to how things move and why they move were carefully selected to reinforce the algebraic and graphical skills students have just learned or are learning at the same time they take this course. The concepts of kinetic molecular theory and energy storage and transfer during phase and chemical changes (usually addressed in chemistry) build on the particle models introduced in the earlier units.

Engineering

0.5 credit

Students will begin by experiencing the engineering cycle through individual or pair work rebuilding, troubleshooting, commissioning and calibrating a 3-D printer or a CNC machine. They will explore units in design with Openscad computer assisted design programs, create their own constructs with additive and reductive manufacturing including 3-D printing and/or CNC (Computerized Numerical Cutting), test their constructs, redesign and retest if necessary, and present their work on different platforms such as wix, power point, and prezi. These units will be conducted as whole class group work, pod group work, and pairs. This

course will focus on building student engineering skills and student guided project management. Individual work will be considered. Units will include Concrete, Metals, and Electronic Circuits. Basic concepts in understanding Physics and NGSS engineering are taught in this course. The Michigan Merit Curriculum Essentials covered in the course include scientific inquiry, scientific reflection, properties of materials such as melting point, current, electricity, circuits, energy transfer, use of computer applications, and the engineering cycle. The essentials may include chemical bonds, electric charges, energy transformation, kinetic and potential energy, wave characteristics, electromagnetic waves, wave behavior, nature of light, chip programming, Boolean logic, and flow charts. Hands-on laboratory and inquiry experience is integrated into the course.

Robotics

0.5 credit

Students will begin by comparing and contrasting remotely autonomous vehicles and robots. They will explore units in design with Solidworks and Openscad computer assisted design programs, create components with additive and reductive manufacturing including 3-D printing and CNC (Computerized Numerical Cutting) to build robots for competitions and tasks, arduino chip C+ programming, and experience the engineering cycle. These units will be conducted as whole class group work, pod group work, and pairs. This course will focus on building student skills complementary to our First Robotics. Robotics team involvement is recommended. Individual work will be considered. Basics concepts in understanding Physics and NGSS engineering are taught in this course. The Michigan Merit Curriculum Essentials covered in the course include scientific inquiry, scientific reflection, electric charges, energy transfer, energy transformation, kinetic and potential energy, wave characteristics, electromagnetic waves, wave behavior, nature of light, current electricity, circuits, chip, Boolean logic, flow charts, and Arduino chip programming. Hands-on laboratory and inquiry experience is integrated into the course.

Social Studies

U.S. History A

0.5 credit

U.S. History A will trace the history of the United States of America from the Rise of Big Business during the Gilded Age in the late 1800s through the Great Depression.

U.S. History B

0.5 credit

U.S. History B will trace the history of the United States of America from World War II to the present day. The courses are a continuation of 8th grade social studies and an emphasis will be placed on domestic issues of the past and their relation to the present.

World History A

0.5 credit

Students will learn world history through regional study and briefly cover the geography and current issues facing each region. World History A reviews the rise of ancient civilizations and world religions from middle school and continues the journey through world history from the Medieval Ages through the age of European Exploration and Absolutism

World History B

0.5 credit

Students will learn world history through regional study and briefly cover the geography and current issues facing each region. World History B covers regional modern history as well as current issues facing each region. It begins with a review of the middle ages and continues to modern times.

Economics

0.5 credit

Economics will consist of the following information: microeconomics: basic economic concepts, factors of production, economic systems, with an emphasis on supply and demand, graphing of supply and demand, production possibilities curves and market structures. macroeconomics will consist of the following information: monetary policy, fiscal policy, the government's role in the economy and taxes. We will also study international economics with an emphasis on international trade organizations, reasons for trade, developing and developed nations and international business. The final unit is a personal economic unit with emphasis on the stock market, personal finance, credit, and personal budgets.

Integrated Social Studies

0.5 credit

Integrated Social Studies is a course which pertains to the review of the main topics that will be covered on the Michigan Merit Exam (Geography, U.S. History, World History, Economics, Government, and Inquiry). In order to be successful in this course, students should have at least had the social studies courses in the proper sequence through the Junior year. Due to the nature of the subject matter, a workbook will be used as well as additional resources such as: textbook chapters, overheads, power points, primary source documents and other related materials not in a numerical order.

Government

0.5 credit

This course provides a study of the US Government with an emphasis on Congress, The Presidency, Judicial Branch as well as comparative government analysis.

College Sociology

0.5 credit

Prerequisite(s): Social studies core (US History/ World History/ Civics/Gov't / Econ) Upper level elective grades 11-12

This course provides an introduction to the study of man's nature and his relationship to the changing world in which he lives. The course covers basic principles of social structure and process with an analysis of culture, socialization, status, role, stratification and social change

AP Micro Economics A & B

Amount of credit: 1 HS credit and 3 college credits for a passing AP test score

Prerequisite(s): Social studies core (US History/ World History/Gov't / Econ) Upper level elective grades 11-12

This is a fast-paced college-level course that focuses on the decision making of individuals, businesses, and the government. Students will study a variety of economic theories and analyze their practical application in the real world. This two-trimester course will cover supply and demand for products, the four business structures, the labor markets, and the role competition plays in a free market system. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May. This class will prepare you for college and potentially allow you to earn 3 university credits upon passing the AP exam. Extensive math skills are not required; however, the ability to analyze graphs and charts **is essential**.

AP U.S. Government and Politics A & B

Amount of credit: 1 HS credit and possibility of 3 college credits for a passing AP test score

This college-level course is designed to promote higher-level thinking skills so students can analyze essential concepts pertinent to U.S. Government and Politics. The subject matter that will be covered in this course will help prepare students for the AP Exam. All information contained in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Street Law

0.5 credit

Street Law is law that is of practical use in everyday life. It includes every purchase, lease, contract, marriage, divorce, crime or traffic violation. Street Law is designed to provide students with an understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities, a knowledge of everyday legal problems, and the ability to analyze, evaluate, and in some situations, resolve legal disputes. Street Law addresses general problems in the areas of criminal and juvenile justice; consumer, family, and individual rights law. This course will also help students learn what to do if they are the victim of crime, when and how to select an attorney. We will also look at the legal rights and responsibilities of parents and children, how to advocate for change in communities, how to solve problems without going to court, and what to do about discrimination or other violations of our constitutional rights. Topics in Street Law will provide information to help students survive everyday life, and become a better and more active citizen. Street Law will help students learn how to use the law to improve his/her life. Practical legal information and the opportunity to apply that information to real life situations will be incorporated into this course.

Cultural Anthropology is a one-trimester elective course designed to give students a broad introduction to the multidisciplinary study of humankind and culture. Students will study

socially learned traditions of the past and the present, including: patterns of subsistence, language, religion, art, music, marriage customs, kinship structures, and gender roles.

In AP U.S. History (APUSH), students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change.

Spanish

Spanish I A & B

Credit: 1.0

Level: 9-11

Length: 2 trimesters

Prerequisite(s): None

This course is an introduction to the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Basic vocabulary and grammatical structure will be taught as well as fundamental speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, including the incorporation of a Spanish soap opera. Cultural activities such as learning contemporary songs from the Spanish-speaking world and studying Mexico and Central America/Caribbean nations will be included in this course. Paired and group simulations are used to develop speaking skills.

Spanish II A & B

Credit: 1.0

Level: 9-12

Length: 2 trimesters

Prerequisite(s): Spanish IA & B

The Spanish II student will strengthen skills learned in Spanish I by additional practice in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. More advanced vocabulary and grammatical structures including the preterit (past) tense will be introduced and cultural activities such as learning contemporary songs from Spanish-speaking countries and studying South America and Hispanics in the United States will be included in this course. More complicated speaking and writing activities will be used to further develop communication skills, including the incorporation of an authentic film in the target language.

Spanish III A & B

Credit: 1.0

Level: 10-12

Length: 2 trimesters

Prerequisite(s): Spanish IIA & B

The course will begin as a review of Spanish I and II, and further explore vocabulary and complex grammatical structures not yet covered in previous levels, including introduction of the imperfect tense, future and conditional tenses, and the subjunctive mood. This course will

also include an introduction to literature of the Spanish-speaking world. More advanced speaking, listening and pronunciation skills will be introduced, with class at times conducted entirely in the target language. The student will also develop skills in various types of writing, presenting, and speaking, including the incorporation of an authentic film in the target language. Cultural activities such as learning contemporary songs from the Spanish-speaking world and studying Spain and travel in Spanish-speaking countries will be included in this course.

Spanish IV A & B

Credit: 1.0

Level: 11-2

Length: 2 trimesters

Prerequisite(s): Spanish III A & B

This course is a direct credit course through Southwestern Michigan College for Spanish 201 – Intermediate Spanish 1 (3rd semester). Therefore, it will be run as a college-style course with higher expectations and an intense level of study. Reviewing past material along with diving into complex grammatical structures and tenses, Spanish IV students will learn to use their language skills to speak, read, write, and listen at an intermediate level. Class is conducted entirely in the target language for both teacher and students. Students will read short books designed to expand their understanding and learning and will be pushed to increase their conversational skills, oral output, and written proficiency/fluency, including incorporation of an authentic film in the target language. Cultural activities such as learning contemporary songs from the Spanish-speaking world and reading and listening to authentic texts written by native speakers for native speakers will be included in this course to ultimately expand students' cultural knowledge and understanding.

AP Spanish Language and Culture A, B, and C

Credit: 1.5

Level: 12

Length: 3 trimesters

Prerequisite(s): Spanish I-IV A&B

This course is a combination the Southwestern Michigan College Spanish 202 course – Intermediate Spanish II (4th semester) and the AP Spanish Language and Culture course. Through the SMC course, students will complete their study of upper level grammatical structures and verb tenses, acquire new vocabulary, and learn to use their language skills holistically, utilizing all tenses of the language, to speak, read, write, and listen at an advanced level. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course provides students with opportunities to develop language proficiency across the three modes of communication: Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational. Students learn about culture through the use of authentic materials that are representative of the Spanish-speaking world. Materials include a variety of different media, e.g., journalistic and literary works, podcasts, interviews, movies, songs, charts, and graphs. AP Spanish Language and Culture is a language acquisition course designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to

communicate successfully in an environment where Spanish is spoken and as such, is an immersion experience requiring exclusive use of Spanish.

Fine Arts

Band A, B, and C

1.5 credits

Students enrolling in Band will participate in Marching, Concert, and Pep Bands. A variety of music from classical to popular tunes will be explored. The Marching and Concert Bands participate in festivals, competitions, and parades. The Pep Band plays at several home basketball games throughout the season. Students will also have the opportunity to individually participate in All-Star Band and Solo & Ensemble Festival. Participants are expected to attend all extra rehearsals and performances for which academic credit is given, including weekend and summer rehearsals. Students must take Band A, B, and C to complete the full year course.

Beginning Band for High School Students

0.5 credit

This is an introductory course in learning how to play an instrument and read music. Current band students may take this course and learn a secondary instrument, or students who have never played an instrument before but would like to learn. Students may use school owned instruments, but will be limited on their instrument choice by what instruments are available. Students may choose from flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet or trombone. Students may be expected to perform as a group at an end of trimester concert.

Guitar

0.5 credit

This is an introductory course in classical acoustic guitar playing. Reading sheet music, tabs, and playing in ensembles will be covered. A portion of each class will be devoted to individual practice time so the student may further develop their skills. School owned guitars can be used if the student does not have their own.

College Music Appreciation

0.5 credit

This is an introductory course covering significant aspects of music history and the related music of Western Europe, as well as music of non-Western traditions. Fundamental knowledge through guided listening and descriptive analysis is stressed. No musical background is necessary to take this class. Successful completion of this course will result in the student earning 3 credits at Southwestern Michigan College.

Art 1

0.5 Fine Art Credit

Suggested grade 9

This beginning Art course introduces a variety of media including drawing, ceramics, photography, and more. Students will learn an overview of western art history from the

European Renaissance to Modern Art. In this class students will have the opportunity to work with their hands, think creatively, and collaborate with other students.

Art 2

0.5 Fine Art Credit

Suggested grade 10

In this beginning Art course, students will continue their skill development in drawing, ceramics, photography, and more. Students will dig deeper into western art history from the European Renaissance to Modern Art. In this class students will have the opportunity to work with their hands, think creatively, and collaborate with other students.

Art 3

0.5 Fine Art Credit

Suggested grade 11

Students in this advanced art course will explore traditional and non-traditional media including drawing, painting, photography, installation art, and more. Students will explore the contemporary art world by learning about today's most creative visual artists. In this class students will have the opportunity to work with their hands, think creatively, and collaborate with other students.

Art 4

0.5 Fine Art Credit

Suggested grade 12

Students in this advanced art course will explore traditional and non-traditional media including drawing, painting, photography, installation art, and more. Students will dig deeper into the contemporary art world by learning about today's most creative visual artists. In this class students will have the opportunity to work with their hands, think creatively, and collaborate with other students.

Physical Education

Fitness for Life

0.5 credit

Physical fitness. What is it? Do you need it? And how can you achieve it? As you go through this class you will find the answers to these questions and many more. This class will help you understand the importance of physical activity and provide you with the tools one needs to be physically active for a lifetime. Basic concepts include: types of physical activity, planning and preparation, injury prevention, self-assessment, stages of physical activity, fitness principles, etc. In providing a hands-on experience, students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of sport activities and will be introduced to the weight room/cardio room. Active participation is required in all activities.

Life Sports

0.5 credit

This course is designed to expose students to a variety of life and team sports. The rules, skills, and strategies of weight training, golf, tennis, softball, track/field, handball, badminton, volleyball, basketball, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, hockey, and flag football, all are covered in the class. Students will also monitor and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity. Active participation is required in all activities.

Resistance Training

0.5 credit

This course is designed for students and athletes who want to improve their fitness level with an emphasis in resistance training. It includes strength development, agility drills, flexibility exercises, and running skills with an emphasis on striving for a high level of performance. Active participation is required in all activities.

Women's PE

0.5 credit

This class is geared towards females who want physical activity without the highly competitiveness of some of the other PE classes. There will be a combination of non-sport physical activities like weights, resistance training, yoga, Pilates, and other life-long fitness activities. Some sport activities will be offered like tennis, volleyball, basketball, soccer, etc. While students get fit, discussions and/or reading will take place on "hot topics" in women's health: how our metabolism slows as we age; how alcohol, tobacco, and drugs affect the body; not dieting but making healthy eating and exercise a part of your daily life; and many other topics.

Business

Personal Finance A and B

1.0 credit

Level: 11-12

This course is a two-trimester class where students begin to focus on their role as a citizen, student, family member, consumer, and active participant in the financial world. During both trimesters, we will be working together to help students become aware of their various financial responsibilities, provide opportunities for self-awareness, expression, and satisfaction in a highly technical and competitive society. Students discover new ways to maximize their earning potential, develop strategies for managing their resources, explore skills for the wise use of credit, and gain insight into the different ways of investing money. We will be using the Dave Ramsey Foundations in Personal Finance program. The curriculum is written specifically for high school students. Special sections in each chapter focus on current trends and issues consumers face in the marketplace. This course qualifies as a fourth year math credit if taken in the senior year. Personal Finance A covers the following topics: Introduction into Personal Finance, Savings, Budgeting, Debt, Life After High School, Consumer Awareness. Personal Finance B covers the following topics: Bargain Shopping, Investing and Retirement, Insurance, Money and Relationships, Careers and Taxes, Giving. If students are not able to fit Personal Finance "A" into their schedules, they may still request to take Personal Finance "B".

Accounting A

0.5 credit

This course is a two-trimester class for 11th and 12th graders where students will start with proprietorship accounting organized as a service business then progress to corporations organized as merchandising businesses. Throughout the two trimesters, we will blend text learning with knowledge of the real world – to provide students with a solid understanding of accounting principles and the importance integrated technology. We will also discuss ethical dilemmas to assist students with decision-making and critical thinking in light of current events—highlighting the ethical policies and business decisions of real companies. This course qualifies as a fourth-year math credit if taken in the senior year.

Accounting A specifically covers the accounting equation, starting a proprietorship for a service business, analyzing transactions into debit and credit parts, journalizing transactions, posting to the general ledger, cash control systems, worksheets for adjusting entries and the preparation of basic financial statements. The course finishes with learning standard closing entries and preparation of the post-closing trial balance.

Accounting B

0.5 credit

Level: 11-12

Accounting B builds upon knowledge obtained in Accounting A. We expand our learning from accounting for a sole proprietor to the changes in the accounting equation that is required when a business is structured as a corporation. We introduce the importance of using special journals to record like transactions, and then determine when it is appropriate to use the general journal. Preparing payroll records, accounting for payroll transactions and payroll taxes are covered. We cover the different adjusting and closing entries, worksheet, and financial statements necessary for corporations. We end the unit with learning financial statement analysis.

Miscellaneous

Health

0.5 credit

Level: 10 (usually)

The purpose and goal of Health class is to allow students to gain awareness, knowledge, and information that will enable them to assess themselves and gain personal growth aimed at achieving healthy behavior & living a long healthy life. Through health education, students learn to obtain, interpret, and apply health information and services in ways that protect and promote personal, family, and community health. Students will have the opportunity to improve critical thinking skills, use their technology skills, and gain skills for becoming a productive citizen and lifelong learner. This course will be approached from the holistic point of view. Content area of study will begin with a strong foundation of health and wellness, first aid, CPR, and AED certification (if pass all tests), STI & HIV prevention, human sexuality education,

social and emotional health, personal health and wellness, nutrition and physical activity, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. State standards and benchmarks will guide the curriculum.

Foods/Nutrition

0.5 credit

Level: 10,11,12

Prerequisite: Health

This course allows students to study foods and nutrition as related to health and wellness. Students will gain a broad base of knowledge and awareness regarding nutrition issues. Application of information and knowledge will be applied to one's personal life. Students will have the opportunity to improve decision-making skills, critical thinking skills, technology skills, and communication and interpersonal skills. Skills related to shopping, food safety, and food preparation will also be explored. Areas of study will focus on "My Food Plate", food labels, food-borne illness, grocery budgets, food storage and preparation, safety in the kitchen, recipes, nutrition, eating disorders, meal management and career options.

Peer to Peer

This course is designed for students who are interested in going into education and/or helping others. High School students enrolled in PEER TO PEER will be mentors, role models, and friends to a student who is on the autism spectrum (ASD) or qualifies for special education services. In this role, as a PEER TO PEER mentor you will be with an assigned student mentee a minimum of one class period per day. In addition to being a mentor, role model, and friend, you will assist your student mentee in such things as appropriate classroom behavior, organization of assignments and supplies, and focusing on what the teacher is saying. As a PEER TO PEER mentor you will attend PEER TO PEER forums once a month to discuss the progress of your student mentee and contribute ideas on how to more effectively help your student mentee progress toward his/her goals. During a normal school week, you will be doing online course work where you will learn more about the autism spectrum, as well as methods/techniques for working with students with ASD. Much of this will be done online with Moodle and Schoology.

Radio/Communications

0.5 credit

This course is designed to give students opportunities to explore the influence of audio media on our world and create original content for the school radio station. Students will prepare and present content while learning about the writing process, interviewing techniques, research strategies, mood & tone in one's writing, and recording and editing audio files. Student content will air both pre-recorded and live on 107.9 WNBI-LP.

Building Trades

A one-year program based on Residential Construction. Students complete competency-based modules including: Small to large-scale residential construction, safety, tools and equipment, blueprints, building materials, floors, walls, ceilings, stairs and roofing, window and doors, site layout, foundations, interior and exterior finishing, and project management. Students obtain a basic knowledge of tools, methods, materials, and technologies currently used in the construction industry; emphasis is placed on theory, as well as related math concepts. Practical experience is gained through on-site and community service-based construction projects

throughout the year, and students will also complete the construction of a home during the school year.

Yearbook A, B and C

Credit: .5

Level: 11-12 (Approval required from Yearbook Advisor for 9th & 10th grade students)

Prerequisite(s): None

In Yearbook, students become published photojournalists with their work appearing in New Buffalo High School's annual yearbook. Yearbook staff members conduct personal interviews, write news copy and photo captions, develop skills necessary for layout and photography, book sales, and become familiar with various publishing programs. Students demonstrate proficiency in writing as they take copy through multiple drafts. Staff members must conduct themselves as responsible, dependable journalists with initiative and creativity, and must demonstrate mature behavior inside and outside the classroom. This course may be repeated with instructor approval and students may assume editorial responsibilities.

AK Smith Career Center

This program for juniors and seniors provides hands-on career training in a variety of programs. Students have the opportunity to earn college credits and certifications. Students must apply and be accepted into the program through the guidance office. For a list and description of courses offered, visit <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/domain/1569>.

Ivy Tech Community College

This program is available to juniors and seniors with a 3.5 or higher GPA. This is a dual-enrollment opportunity to provide students the opportunity to begin earning college credits that will transfer to a college they plan to attend in the future. All costs are covered by New Buffalo High School. NBHS also provides transportation to and from the classes.

Purdue North West

This program is available to juniors and seniors with a 3.75 or higher GPA. This is a dual-enrollment opportunity to provide students the opportunity to begin earning college credits that will transfer to a college they plan to attend in the future. All costs are covered by New Buffalo High School. Transportation must be provided by the student.

Berrien County Career Technical Education

Berrien County offers career and technical education programs at learning centers throughout the county. CTE prepares students for employment and/or post-secondary education in a broad range of occupations. Students must apply and be accepted through the guidance office. For a complete list of programs visit <https://www.berriencte.org/cte-programs/>. Transportation must be provided by the student.