



Home of the Blackhawks
Vista Heights Middle School
Counseling Department

9th Grade Course Descriptions 2014-2015

REQUIRED CLASSES

ENGLISH 9 (E) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This course develops language skills in four areas: reading, writing, speaking and presentation skills. Students will read both fiction and non-fiction and write in a variety of genres. Skills will be taught in connection with writing.

ENGLISH 9 HONORS (E) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This is an accelerated class for students who excel in English. The pace is fast and the depth in some areas is extensive. Extensive reading requirements and additional homework are part of the curriculum. Group and individual projects will be a part of each unit of study.

SECONDARY MATH I (M) 1.0 credit

Students will extend their experiences with tables, graphs, and equations and solve linear equations and inequalities and systems of linear equations and inequalities. Students will extend their knowledge of the number system to include irrational numbers. Students will generate equivalent expressions and use formulas. Students will simplify polynomials and begin to study quadratic relationships. Students will use technology and models to investigate and explore mathematical ideas and relationships and develop multiple strategies for analyzing complex situations. Students will analyze situations verbally, numerically, graphically, and symbolically. Students will apply mathematical skills and make meaningful connections to life experiences.

SECONDARY MATH I HONORS (M) 1.0 credit

Secondary I Honors is the first course in the honors path. A student in the honors path may take calculus as a senior. This course includes all of the topics from regular Secondary I plus the study of vectors and matrices.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY (SS) .5 credit

This course covers the five themes of geography. Students will study the various cultures of the world, including the way they live, political and social trends, and advancing technology. They will utilize geographic skills to understand the practical application of geography to everyday life through the use and study of maps.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY HONORS (SS) .5 credit

This is an accelerated class for students who excel in World Geography. The pace is fast and the depth in some areas is extensive. Extensive reading requirements and additional homework are part of the curriculum. Group and individual projects will be a part of each unit of study.

WORLD CIVILIZATION (SS) .5 credit

This course is the second half of the 9th grade History requirement. This course will study the history of diverse people and cultures of the world. This course will study the commonalities and differences of the human experience in the following six areas: social, scientific and technological, economic, religious and philosophical geographic, and political. Three areas of study will be the Middle East, Western Europe, and the United States. Comparisons and evaluations will be the focus.

WORLD CIVILIZATION HONORS (SS) .5 credit

This is an accelerated class for students who excel in World Civilization. The pace is fast and the depth in some areas is extensive. Extensive reading requirements and additional homework are part of the curriculum. Group and individual projects will be a part of each unit of study.

EARTH SYSTEMS (S) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This course is only offered in 9th grade and fulfills the high school science core graduation requirement. Earth Systems is an integrated science course which focuses on the theme of "systems." Topics from physical, earth, and life science are integrated to help students develop an understanding of interactions and interdependence within and between such earth systems as matter cycles, energy flows, and life webs. Hands-on inquiry-based instruction is used to help student's value science as a process for obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence.

BIOLOGY HONORS (S) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This fast moving class is an introductory course with a wealth of information and fundamental knowledge of cells, heredity, classification and ecology. The following areas will be covered: ecology, genetics and evolution, cell structure, fiction, chemistry, levels of classification and organization. *Pre-requisite 3.0 GPA and Math Honors required.*

BIO AG SCIENCE (S) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This course is designed to meet the requirement for biological science credit. The standards and objectives for this course are the same as the standards and objectives for Biology, with the only difference being the degree of emphasis on agriculture. Students completing this course will be cognizant of current technologies, methods, and changes in agricultural science and are expected to know and apply the standards outlined in the core curriculum as they relate to the industry of agriculture.

AGRICULTURE SCIENCE (S) 1.0 credit (Fee)

An introductory course in agricultural business, plant and animal sciences, and basic agricultural mechanics skills that generally prepare individuals to apply the principles involved in the organization, operation, and management of agricultural businesses.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY (CTE) .5 credit (Fee)

Students will identify career opportunities in information processing and manage files using the operation system. The emphasis is on business computer applications, such as spreadsheets, word processing, databases, graphics, desktop publishing, and telecommunications. Students will also research current issues concerning information management.

PE SKILLS (PES) .5 credit (Fee)

Skills and techniques in a variety of team and individual sports are taught. Running and exercise skills are taught to improve physical conditioning. *REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION*

ELECTIVES

LANGUAGES

SPANISH 1 (EC) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This class stresses the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students practice the skills by means of dialogues, structure drills, reading selections and written exercises. Emphasis will be on near-native pronunciation, speaking, listening and writing correct Spanish.

SPANISH 2 (EC) 1.0 credit (Fee)

Spanish is used almost exclusively in the classroom with emphasis on reading and grammar review. Oral comprehension, oral practice and Spanish literature are stressed in the reading program which includes class readings and a novel. Creative projects are incorporated.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1 (EC) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This class provides students with instruction in American Sign Language (ASL) or other deaf languages, finger spelling, orientation to deaf culture, and interpreting from signing to voice and from voice to signing.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 2 (EC) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This course emphasizes further development of receptive and expressive skills. Introduction to language forms used in ASL poetry and to the features of culture as displayed in art and theater. This course consists of intensive use of expressive and receptive skills in complex grammatical structures, dialogues, and storytelling.

CHINESE 1 (EC) 1.0 credit (Fee)

In level 1, students begin to communicate sufficiently to satisfy basic survival needs and minimum courtesy requirements. They can ask and answer some simple questions, respond to and sometimes initiate short statements and maintain simple conversation. Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics. Students will begin to identify and react to perspectives and practices of the target culture.

CHINESE 2 (EC) 1.0 credit (Fee)

In level 2, students develop further communication skills and are able to satisfy most survival needs and limited social demands. They can initiate and sustain a short conversation on factual topics. They can give autobiographical information and discuss leisure time activities. Students are able to present information and ideas to an audience. They can describe characteristics and behaviors of everyday life in the target culture and they can identify the expressive forms of the culture, such as art, literature, music and dance.

ART

ART FOUNDATIONS 1 (A) .5 credit (Fee)

The student learns the basic elements and principles of art through drawing, painting & sculpturing.

ART FOUNDATIONS 2 (A) .5 credit (Fee)

The student learns the fundamental principles and elements of design, still life and figure drawing. *Pre-requisite Art Foundations 1*

CERAMICS 1 (A) .5 credit (Fee)

The student receives instruction in ceramics and designing in ceramic clays. Preparation of clay bodies, use of tools and equipment, firing and construction methods, and an introduction to wheel throwing is included. *Pre-requisite Art Foundations 1*

DRAWING (A) .5 credit (Fee)

Drawing focuses on black and white or monochromatic rendering from life, pictures, masterworks, and imagination. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher level thinking, art-related technology skill, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

MUSIC

BEGINNING BRASS (A) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential through learning to play a brass instrument. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have the opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture or the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. An ensemble directed toward building music performance skills in percussion. Curriculum includes 2-4 performances per year including introduction to music theory, history, and composition.

BEGINNING WOODWINDS (A) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential through learning to play a wood instrument. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have the opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture or the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society; An instrumental ensemble directed toward building music performance skills. Curriculum includes 6-8 performances per year including adjudicated music festivals, introduction to music theory, history and composition.

INTERMEDIATE BAND (A) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This course further develops and refines core concepts and fundamentals introduced in Beginning Band. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music with increasing fluency, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. *Pre-requisite course is Beginning Band.*

SYMPHONIC BAND (A) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This course further develops and refines core concepts and fundamentals introduced in Beginning Band. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music with increasing fluency, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. *Pre-requisite course is Beginning Band, or audition.*

PERCUSSION (A) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play percussion instruments. Study includes the building of proper technique on all percussion instruments, the ability to read music, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. *Pre-requisite two years piano or previous instrument experience and audition.*

ORCHESTRA BEGINNING (A) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play orchestral string instruments. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. *No pre-requisite course is required.*

ORCHESTRA INTERMEDIATE (A) 1.0 credit (Fee)

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play orchestral string instruments. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music with increasing fluency, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. *Pre-requisite course is Beginning Orchestra, or audition. Teacher Approval required.*

ORCHESTRA ADVANCED (A) 1.0 credit (Fee)

Students will be part of an ensemble of intermediate to advanced string players directed toward performing the finest in classical and contemporary music.

CHOIR (A) 1.0 credit (Fee)

Students receive experience in rehearsal and performance of suitable music SATB (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) voices.

DRAMA

DRAMA 1 (A) .5 credit

This class is an advanced study of theatre history, advanced performance skills, trust, Shakespearean acting, resume and audition preparation, and improvisation. The student will be required to see a play each term. *Teacher Approval Only*

DRAMA 2 (A) .5 credit

This class is an advanced study of theatre history, advanced performance skills, Shakespearean acting, childrens theatre, resume and audition preparation, and performance in school productions.

MUSICAL THEATRE (A) .5 credit (Fee)

Designed to familiarize performing arts students with the process of auditioning and performing in the realm of musical theatre. Students will work individually and in groups with staging, choreography, etc. Voice repertoire, selection, singing style, acting, coaching, and evaluation will be covered. Students will be required to sing and dance. *Audition Only*

DANCE

DANCE 1 (A) .5 credit (Fee)

Beginning dance techniques and movements will be taught. This beginning level class will explore rhythms, style, and techniques of modern and jazz dance, emphasizing the basic elements of choreography.

DANCE 1A (A) .5 credit (Fee)

This class is a continuation of Dance 1. Dance 1A dance techniques and movements will be taught and different dance styles will be explored. Emphasis will be placed on the elements of modern dance. *Pre-requisite Dance 1*

DANCE 1B (A) .5 credit (Fee)

This class is a continuation of Dance 1A. Intermediate dance techniques and movements will be taught and different dance styles will be explored. Emphasis will be placed on the elements of modern dance. *Pre-requisite Dance 1A*

CTE

TEEN LIVING (CTE) .5 credit (Fee)

This course helps students understand and cope with personal, family, and social challenges. Emphasis is placed on communicating, developing decision-making skills, and building stable relationships with family and peers. The course enables students to implement positive coping mechanisms and promotes an understanding of self. Critical issues that impact teenagers, such as self-concept, family and peer relationships, abuse, loss, dating, and teenage pregnancy are discussed, stressing positive alternatives. Emphasis is placed on students taking personal responsibility for their life.

CLOTHING 1 (CTE) .5 credit (Fee)

This course is designed to allow students to develop clothing construction and consumer skills. Fabric selection, alteration, recycling, fitting, creative designing, and fashion may be explored in this course. Student leadership (FCCLA) may be an integral part of this course. *Basic sewing equipment will be needed by each student. Each student will purchase their own fabric for the class projects which will include a vest, shirt and skirt.*

FOODS 1 (CTE) .5 credit (Fee)

This course is designed to teach the advanced concepts of nutrition and how it affects the health of individuals and families. Instruction is also given in the care of food, meal management, food patterns, and food needs. Consumer skills are emphasized. Student leadership (FCCLA) may be an integral part of this course.

COMMUNICATION TECH 1 (CTE) .5 credit (Fee)

This class will introduce students to a wide range of communications technologies. Students will apply skills and concepts through the completion of activity-based hands on curriculum, centered in the following areas: Graphic design, Robotics, Drafting, Video and Audio production, Digital Media, 3D Modeling and many more. This course will provide opportunities for students to work individually and in a teams, while also developing skills in technological design, innovation, and problem solving.

COMMUNICATION TECH 2 (CTE) .5 credit (Fee)

This class will be targeted for advanced students in communication technologies. It will offer the similar activities as Communication Tech 1, with more advanced curriculum including web design.

MANUFACTURING (CTE) .5 credit (Fee)

Manufacturing (Woods) is an exploratory course that introduces students to the basics of manufacturing. Through hands-on shop activities students will learn how manufacturers use technology to change raw materials into finished products. Manufacturing materials include solid wood, wood composites, metals and laminates. Concepts also covered in this class include: design processes, properties of materials, safe use of tools and equipment, free enterprise, marketing principles, and career exploration.

INTERMEDIATE TECH 1 (CTE) .5 credit (Fee)

Intermediate Technology 1 builds upon concepts learned in exploring technology by further expanding upon the areas of medical, agricultural, biotechnology, energy-power, information/communication, transportation, manufacturing and construction technologies.

OTHER ELECTIVES

CREATIVE WRITING (EC) .5 credit (Fee)

This class is designed to provide experiences and activities which will enhance the communication of ideas through written expression.

PEER LEADERSHIP (EC) .5 credit

This course focuses on the qualities of leadership and works to develop these qualities in the lives of students. This course includes developmental skills in the areas of relationships, communications, human development, decision making, and interpersonal skills. *Students will be participating in service and activities. Counselor approval required.*

TEACHER AIDE (EC) .5 credit

A student may be an aide for one period only. Students will help the teacher by doing tasks related to the subject. *Teacher and counselor approval required.*

PEER TUTOR (EC) .5 credit

Students will be involved in peer tutoring students in special education and resource classes in Math, English, Reading, Life Skills and other academic areas. This class would be most helpful to students considering a career in teaching, coaching, etc. This course involves working with disabled students. It is extremely important that the students chosen for this class have a very good attendance record. During the school year this class goes on a number of community trips, a few of them may require the student to bring a dollar or so.

FITNESS TRAINING (EC) .5 credit (Fee)

This class is designed for students to tone, shape and strengthen. Cardiovascular exercise will be incorporated for an overall training program. *This class is an elective only and does **NOT** fill any PE credit. PE fee required.*

SEMINARY RELEASE TIME No credit

A student may be released from one regular class period each semester to receive religious instruction. Attendance rules are applicable in seminary.

9th Grade Credits

E=English credit

SS=Social Studies credit

A=Art credit

CTE=Career Tech Ed

PES=Physical Education

M=Math credit

S=Science credit

EC=Elective credit