

# ROCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL



## Program of Studies Course Catalog 2020 – 2021

24 Jerden's Lane, Rockport, MA 01966

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## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear RHS Students & Families,

The 2020-2021 Program of Studies is designed to help guide the course selection process for students and families. This resource shows the depth and breadth of the education provided at Rockport High School and outlines the various courses and pathways students can take to meet the graduation requirements. In completing the RHS graduation requirements, students are receiving an education that prepares them for postsecondary learning, career and citizenship.

The Program of Studies contains important information that will help facilitate meaningful conversations at home. Beyond the course descriptions and pathways, the catalog includes graduation requirements, prerequisites, explanation of levels and expectations for academic success. Teachers and guidance counselors will provide additional help charting the course. Please carefully review and honor the professional recommendations of teachers and engage the faculty in your family discussions if questions arise throughout the process. Teachers are working hard to align expectations and standards and will be recommending students based on the criteria outlined in the 2020-2021 Program of Studies.

The leadership team of coordinators; in collaboration with the administration have spent a great deal of time to put together the 2020-2021 catalog. Please remember that while many elective courses are offered, only those requested by students in significant numbers will run next year. Your participation in this process is the first step in our development of a school-wide schedule. I am excited about the year ahead and particularly proud of the educational opportunities available at Rockport High School.

Best wishes for a successful academic year.

Sincerely,

*Ms. Amy Rose*

Principal, Rockport High School

## STATEMENT OF CORE VALUES, BELIEFS AND EXPECTATIONS

### Rockport High School Core Values and Beliefs

Rockport High School, in partnership with families and the community, provides a safe environment that fosters integrity, respect, and success. We promote intellectual curiosity and pride in achievement. We challenge all students to pursue academic excellence, develop interpersonal skills, and value civic responsibility. Students learn 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills in order to fully participate in a diverse and ever-changing world.

### Expectations for Student Learning The Children of Rockport Schools will

**T**hink critically and creatively  
**C**ommunicate effectively  
**R**espect self and others  
**S**erve society responsibly

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## **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

“The Rockport Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age or handicapped status in employment or in the provision of services.”

## ROCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE

**School Mascot:** Viking

**School Colors:** Maroon/White

Rockport High School is located within a picturesque coastal community 40 miles northeast of Boston at the tip of Cape Ann. It is home to a number of aspiring artists and lobstermen, and has a year round population of 7,760. The community attracts tourists from all over the world.

The Rockport High School has an enrollment of approximately 300 students.

## ROCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL STAFF DIRECTORY

[www.rpk12.org](http://www.rpk12.org)

<b>Principal's Office:</b>	Ms. Donna Cody, Principal's Secretary	<b>978-546-1234</b>	<b>x30101</b>
		<a href="mailto:dcody@rpk12.org">dcody@rpk12.org</a>	
Principal	Ms. Amy Rose	<a href="mailto:arose@rpk12.org">arose@rpk12.org</a>	
Dean of Students	Ms. Ann-Marie Luster	<a href="mailto:aluster@rpk12.org">aluster@rpk12.org</a>	
<b>Guidance Office:</b>	Ms. Cindy Rich, Administrative Asst.	<b>978-546-1240</b>	<b>x30110</b>
		<a href="mailto:crich@rpk12.org">crich@rpk12.org</a>	
Coordinator/Counselor	Ms. Ruth M. Price	<a href="mailto:rprice@rpk12.org">rprice@rpk12.org</a>	
		Caseload: <b>Mc-Z</b>	
Counselor	Ms. Tara Vavruska	<a href="mailto:tvavruska@rpk12.org">tvavruska@rpk12.org</a>	
		Caseload: <b>A-Ma</b>	
<b>Curriculum Coordinators:</b>			
English	Dr. Rebecca Mackay-Smith	<a href="mailto:rmackaysmith@rpk12.org">rmackaysmith@rpk12.org</a>	
Math	Ms. Jodi Goodhue	<a href="mailto:jgoodhue@rpk12.org">jgoodhue@rpk12.org</a>	
	Mr. Eric Vendt	<a href="mailto:evendt@rpk12.org">evendt@rpk12.org</a>	
Science	Mr. Eric Sabo	<a href="mailto:esabo@rpk12.org">esabo@rpk12.org</a>	
Social Studies	Mr. Scott Larsen	<a href="mailto:slarsen@rpk12.org">slarsen@rpk12.org</a>	
World Language	Ms. Lilliam Duffy	<a href="mailto:lduffy@rpk12.org">lduffy@rpk12.org</a>	
Guidance	Ms. Ruth Price	<a href="mailto:rprice@rpk12.org">rprice@rpk12.org</a>	



# MASSACHUSETTS CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

MassCore Framework: MA High School Program of Studies		
SUBJECT	UNITS	NOTES
English Language Arts	4 Units	
Mathematics	4 Units	Including completion of Algebra II or the Integrated Mathematics equivalent. A mathematics course during senior year is recommended for all students. Students may substitute one unit of <b>Computer Science</b> that includes rigorous mathematical concepts and aligns with the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for a mathematics course.
Science	3 Units of lab-based science	Coursework in technology/engineering courses may also count for MassCore science credit. Students may substitute one unit of <b>Computer Science</b> that includes rigorous scientific concepts and aligns with the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for a laboratory science course.
History and Social Science	3 Units	Including U.S. History and World History.
Foreign Language	2 Units	Of the same language.
Physical Education	As required by law	“Physical education shall be taught as a required subject in all grades for all students” (M.G.L. c.71 §3).
Arts	1 Unit	
Additional Core Courses	5 Units	Other additional coursework (including Career and Technical Education) or any of the above.
<p>*A unit represents a full academic year of study or its equivalent in a subject that covers all the standards contained in a specific Curriculum Framework.</p> <p>** Students enrolled in a state-approved Career and Technical Education program of studies have the option of opting out of Foreign Language and Art and still fulfill MassCore.</p> <p>*** districts may designate students with demonstrated fluency and literacy in language(s) other than English as meeting the MassCore recommendations for foreign language</p> <p>MassCore is a recommended program of study Massachusetts high school students need to excel in college, career, and civic life. Developed by an advisory group from elementary and secondary education, higher education, nonprofits, and the private sector, MassCore maintains flexibility for students while letting districts set additional graduation requirements. Courses included in MassCore should be rigorous, engaging, and based on appropriate learning standards for high school or beyond. Fulfilling MassCore is just a start. Students should also engage in a full range of additional learning opportunities, such as: accelerated/advanced coursework; capstones or senior projects; dual enrollment courses; online courses; service learning; work-based learning; clubs and student organizations; varsity and intramural athletics; and part-time employment.</p>		

# **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

To graduate from Rockport High School, a student must complete the following requirements:

### **Courses:**

<b>English</b>	20 credits
<b>Mathematics</b>	20 credits (to include Algebra I, Geometry & Algebra II)
<b>Science</b>	15 credits (three laboratory sciences to include Biology)
<b>Social Studies</b>	20 credits (to include World History, U.S. History I & II)
<b>Wellness/PE/Health</b>	7.5 credits
<b>Freshman Seminar/Wellness</b>	5 credits
<b>Technology</b>	2.5 credits
<b>Fine Arts</b>	5 credits
<b>World Languages</b>	10 credits (same language)
<b>Electives</b>	Approximately 15-20 credits
<b>Graduation Credits:</b>	<b>120 total credits</b>

### **Community Service:**

Each student is required to complete a minimum total of 50 supervised hours during their four years of high school.

### **Standardized Testing:**

All students must Pass three MCAS Exams before graduation (Biology, ELA & Math).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS BY GRADE**

All students will be expected to carry thirty-five (35) credits worth of coursework each year.

### **9TH GRADE**

<b>English</b>	English 9	5 credits
<b>Mathematics</b>	as recommended	5 credits
<b>Science</b>	Biology	5 credits
<b>Social Studies</b>	World History	5 credits
<b>World Language</b>	Spanish or French	5 credits
<b>Freshman Seminar</b>	College & Career Preparedness/Wellness	5 credits
<b>Electives</b>		5 credits

### **10TH GRADE**

<b>English</b>	English 10	5 credits
<b>Mathematics</b>	as recommended	5 credits
<b>Science</b>	Chemistry	5 credits
<b>Social Studies</b>	U.S. History	5 credits
<b>World Language</b>	Spanish or French	5 credits
<b>Physical Education/Health</b>	Exercise/Sports/Wellness/Health	2.5 credits
<b>Electives</b>		5-10 credits

### **11TH GRADE**

<b>English</b>	English 11	5 credits
<b>Mathematics</b>	as recommended	5 credits
<b>Science</b>	Science elective	2.5-5 credits
<b>Social Studies</b>	U.S. History	5 credits
<b>Physical Education/Health</b>	Exercise/Sports/Wellness/Health	2.5 credits
<b>Electives</b>		5-10 credits

### **12TH GRADE**

<b>English</b>	English 12	5 credits
<b>Mathematics</b>	as recommended	5 credits
<b>Science</b>	Science elective (if needed)	2.5-5 credits
<b>Social Studies</b>	Social Studies electives	5 credits
<b>Physical Education/Health</b>	Exercise/Sports/Wellness/Health	2.5 credits
<b>Electives</b>		5-10 credits

## **MINIMUM CREDITS FOR PROMOTION**

(INCLUDING COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS)

The minimum credit guidelines/requirements and community service hours for entrance into grades 10, 11, 12 and graduation are as follows:

### **Into grade 10**

Completion of 30 credits including core subjects and 15 hours of community service

### **Into grade 11**

Completion of 60 credits including core subjects and 30 hours of community service

### **Into grade 12**

Completion of 90 credits including core subjects and 40 hours of community service

### **Graduation**

Completion of 120 credits including core subjects and 50 hours of community service

## **CRITERIA FOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO COURSES AND LEVELS**

The faculty of Rockport High School apply the following criteria when recommending courses of study to students. We offer them to you so that you may understand the basis for our recommendations.

### **COLLEGE & CAREER PREPARATORY CLASSES**

College and Career Preparatory courses are offered to students in all subject areas. They offer a generalized approach to grade-level standards by building on students' prior knowledge and skills with engaging, relevant curriculum. CCP classes prepare students to meet the learning expectations of the required course of study at RHS, to pursue a post-secondary education, and to enter the workforce.

### **HONORS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES**

**Honors** courses are offered to students in the following disciplines: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy & Physiology, World History, U.S. History, English grades 9-12, Calculus, Precalculus, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Music, French IV, V, and Advanced Conversational French, Spanish IV, V and Advanced Conversational Spanish. Students may elect to pursue honors courses beginning in the freshman year.

**Advanced Placement** courses are offered to students in Biology, Literature and Composition, U.S. History, European History, Physics, Calculus, Statistics, Spanish, French and Art. These courses are rigorous, college-level classes that give students an opportunity to gain the skills and experience colleges recognize. Students who elect to pursue AP level courses are required to follow the international curriculum and take the AP exam in May.

**Honors and AP courses** offer intensive, specialized study of a subject area and typically require extensive reading outside of class, intensive application and time constraints, analytical, abstract, and creative thinking, study to a greater depth of understanding, and considerable self-motivation and responsibility.

### **TEACHER COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS AND COURSE OVERRIDES**

Students must receive a recommendation from their teacher for placement in Honors or AP courses. A student who is **not** recommended for an Honors or AP course may request an override of the teacher recommendation by completing the override process using the appropriate form available in the Guidance Department. The purpose of the process is for parents, students and teachers to engage in face-to-face conversations about the student's demonstrated skills and learning goals, as well as course prerequisites when considering an override of a teacher's recommendation.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **FRESHMAN SEMINAR**

**30001 Full Year – College & Career Preparedness/Wellness**

**Grade 9**

**5 credits**

Freshman Seminar is a year-long course designed to facilitate a smooth and successful transition to high school for grade 9 students. Through support in self-awareness and self-reflection, students will identify their individual strengths and areas for future growth. Students will engage in strategies to support study skills, organizational skills, time management skills, self-advocacy skills, social-emotional learning, and health/wellness. Freshman Seminar is a pass/fail course. In order to pass this course, students will be expected to demonstrate concrete evidence of growth in these areas.

### **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

**Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 9-12**

**5 credits**

Individual learning goals will be the focus of this course. This curriculum is designed to emphasize the development of independent learning for each student. Skill development as it relates to organization, reading comprehension, executive function, listening skills, note taking, memory techniques, time management, creating study guides, and test taking strategies, both in the classroom and on standardized tests (such as the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)) will be emphasized. Rockport Middle/High School's core values, beliefs, and learning expectations will be modeled, encouraged, and emphasized throughout the course. It is expected that students will think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, demonstrate respect for self and others, and serve society responsibly. Each student will be required to maintain an assignment notebook. Course offering determined through Team process.

## **U BLOCK ADVISORY PERIOD FOR ALL STUDENTS**

All students at Rockport High School will be assigned to a U block that will meet daily. The U Block will provide opportunities for all students to participate in study groups, teacher-led support times, enrichment and transitional groups along with other advisory-type programs. The time is designed to support students by creating structured ways to maximize learning through individualized support and enrichment. This block serves to cultivate a culture of curiosity by allowing students and teachers' common time to explore areas of interest.

## **SEMESTER/FINAL EXAMS**

Semester/Final exams will be administered in January and June. These exams are considered an integral part of the education experience and development of students' capabilities. The content of the exams will reflect the course objectives covered during the semester. The results of the exams will affect the semester grade. A complete explanation of the format and schedule of the exams will be issued prior to each exam period.

## **FAILURE OF CORE CURRICULUM COURSES**

Failure of course work puts students in jeopardy for not completing the overall requirements for graduation in a timely manner. Failure may also prevent students from pursuing other course work in the discipline and jeopardize grade promotion. For all of these reasons students are best advised to complete courses that they have failed in summer school immediately following the failure.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL CREDIT**

Students who fail courses are expected to make up those courses in the summer immediately following that regular school year. Students must consult with their Guidance Counselor before enrolling in summer school, as the Guidance Department must give prior approval of summer school courses. Summer school courses must meet RHS criteria.

The following are criteria regarding summer school and are strictly enforced:

1. Credit for summer school course work is granted only for courses previously taken and failed with a grade **no lower than 55%** during the regular school year.
2. Summer school grades are recorded on the transcript as Pass (P) or Fail (F) and are not counted toward overall GPA.

## **HOME SCHOOLING**

Students and their parents/guardians who opt for homeschooling are expected to submit a formal curriculum and plan to the Superintendent's Office for approval before undertaking any coursework. Such coursework will:

1. Be recorded on the student's permanent record and transcript with a HS (home schooled) designation.
2. Be recorded as a P (Pass) or F (Fail) grade.
3. Not be used to determine GPA.

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

It should be noted that while the basic core requirements fulfill the graduation requirements from Rockport High School, many of the entrance requirements for post-secondary institutions require additional courses. Admission requirements vary between schools/colleges. Therefore, it is important that the specific entrance requirements for a particular school or college is researched. Knowledge of the entrance requirements is the student's responsibility.

The admissions standards for state colleges and universities within the Massachusetts State University System emphasize a strong academic high school background. For your reference: [https://www.mass.edu/foradmin/admissions/documents/DHEAdmissionsStandardsReferenceGuide\\_2019.pdf](https://www.mass.edu/foradmin/admissions/documents/DHEAdmissionsStandardsReferenceGuide_2019.pdf). These standards represent minimum requirements; meeting them does not guarantee admission, since campus officials consider a wide range of factors in admissions decisions. Students shall have fulfilled all requirements for the high school diploma or its equivalent upon enrollment. It is important to note that admissions standards for the state's community colleges differ. Community colleges may admit any high school graduate or HiSET (GED) recipient.

### **EARLY GRADUATION**

We strongly believe that four years of high school are appropriate for most students. Each of the four years add significantly to the maturing process and to the academic development of the individual. However, we recognize that graduating from high school early may best serve a limited number of students. Such students must satisfy all the graduation requirements. The student and parents/guardians must submit a written request for early graduation before the end of the sophomore year to the High School Principal.

In all cases of early graduation, students must have approval of their parents/guardians, the Principal, Guidance Counselor and appropriate faculty. Please see your student's Guidance Counselor for further details.

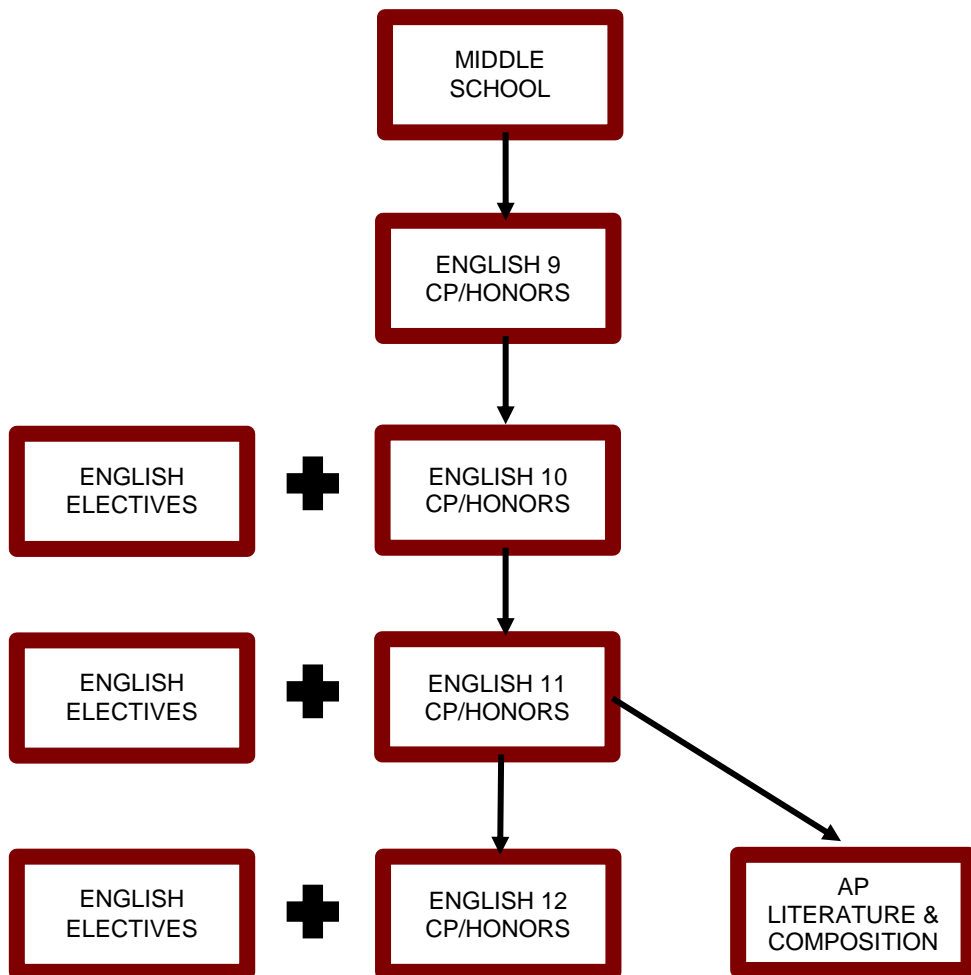


## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department strives to inspire students at all levels to a love of language--its uses, beauty, and power. We believe that literary study can open all learners to awareness and acceptance of diversity as well as an appreciation of our shared culture. The skills of reading and writing enhance all students' ability to think critically and communicate effectively. They cross all curricula and are essential components of a student's future success. We offer a dynamic curriculum, which challenges students to reach their highest potential as thoughtful, articulate adults.

***\*Admission to Honors and AP courses requires teacher recommendation and a minimum average of 80 in prior Honors English courses. To move up a level, students must earn the recommendation of their teacher and a minimum grade of 90 in their current class.***

## ENGLISH PATHWAYS



English electives are open to students in grades 10-12 and are offered to supplement the core English curriculum for students looking for additional enrichment opportunities.

***English Electives include the following:***

Philosophy & Pop Culture, Children's Literature, Women In Literature  
(SEE COURSE CATALOG FOR PRE-REQUISITES)

## **GRADE 9: COMING OF AGE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

### **ENGLISH 9**

**31011 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grade 9**

**5 credits**

What does it mean to come of age? How has coming of age changed over time? This course will survey four major genres of literature--fiction, memoir, poetry and drama--which will form the foundation for a year-long conversation around what it means to leave childhood behind. Daily class discussions will offer opportunities to practice using critical reading strategies, which students will be expected to use in formal essays with increasing independence over the course of the year. Writing instruction will emphasize organization and development of ideas, with additional instruction in grammar and vocabulary on a regular basis.

### **ENGLISH 9 Honors**

**31012 Full Year – Honors**

**Grade 9**

**5 credits**

What does it mean to come of age? How has coming of age changed over time? This course will survey four major genres of literature--fiction, memoir, poetry and drama--which will form the foundation for a year-long conversation around what it means to leave childhood behind. Daily class discussions will offer opportunities to practice using critical reading strategies, which students will be expected to use in formal essays with increasing independence over the course of the year. Writing instruction will emphasize organization and development of ideas, with additional instruction in grammar and vocabulary on a regular basis. Honors students will read and respond to additional supplemental material in order to make thematic connections between a body of texts. Additionally, Honors students will be expected to practice critical thinking, reading, and writing skills independently, then revise and refine their interpretations of literature during class sessions and in formal writing assignments.

## **GRADE 10: FREE WILL & CAPITALISM**

### **ENGLISH 10**

**31021 Full Year –College & Career Prep**

**Grade 10**

**5 credits**

This course has the thematic focus on the intersectionality of Free Will & Capitalism. The majority of texts and assignments will relate to exploring the course's main essential questions: (1) To what extent should one compromise their values and beliefs in order to live in society and pursue material wealth? (2) How does the amount of financial wealth a person has relate to how self-actualized /authentic they can become? This course will have a focus in the philosophy and movement of Transcendentalism in relation to these essential questions. The class will be writing intensive. We will write critical responses to the texts we read (I.E. thesis driven essays), as well as pursue our own creative work.

**ENGLISH 10 Honors**  
**31022 Full Year – Honors**

**Grade 10**  
**5 credits**

This course has the thematic focus on the intersectionality of Free Will & Capitalism. The majority of texts and assignments will relate to exploring the course's main essential questions: (1) To what extent should one compromise their values and beliefs in order to live in society and pursue material wealth? (2) How does the amount of financial wealth a person has relate to how self-actualized /authentic they can become? This course will have a focus in the philosophy and movement of Transcendentalism in relation to these essential questions. The class will be writing intensive. We will write critical responses to the texts we read (I.E. thesis driven essays), as well as pursuing our own creative work. Honors students will read and respond to additional material (e.g., literary criticism, historical context, and other interdisciplinary texts). Additionally, honors students will be expected to independently develop their own line of inquiry in relation to the curriculum texts and concepts - resulting in formal written arguments to reflect their research and position.

**GRADE 11: STORYTELLING**

**ENGLISH 11**  
**31031 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grade 11**  
**5 credits**

Why do we tell stories? How have our stories evolved? How do the stories we tell impact us as individuals and as a society? These are some of the questions this course seeks to explore as students consider the interplay between literature and life. In this pursuit, students will engage in authentic writing tasks, develop real-world skills, and seek personal connections to what they read. Through a variety of activities and assignments, students will continue to refine their reading, writing, discussion, and thinking skills.

**ENGLISH 11 Honors**  
**31032 Full Year – Honors**

**Grade 11**  
**5 credits**

Why do we tell stories? How have our stories evolved? How do the stories we tell impact us as individuals and as a society? These are some of the questions this course seeks to explore as students consider the interplay between literature and life. In these pursuits, students will read literary works of varied genres, time periods, and cultural backgrounds. Students will employ a variety of critical lenses to unpack the social and political commentaries of the works studied and consider their validity. Through a variety of activities and assignments, students will continue to refine their reading, writing, discussion, and thinking skills. The topics of the honors course will be explored in depth, assignments will be completed with greater independence, and assessed with higher standards for quality.

**GRADE 12: BEING THE CHANGE: DEVELOPING VOICE, EMPATHY, AND  
ENGAGEMENT IN A GLOBAL AGE**

**ENGLISH 12**

**Grade 12**

**31041 Full Year - College & Career Prep**

**5 credits**

This course explores the forces that shape identity and create conflicts between individuals and their societies. By reading texts from a variety of cultural and historical traditions, students will consider essential questions such as how do forces like family, geography, religion, ethnicity, gender, and class shape us? When is it appropriate to follow personal beliefs versus society's beliefs? What responsibilities do individuals have to society, and how can we recognize when societies threaten individuality? Assignments are designed not only to hone critical thinking and communication skills, but also to build empathy and inspire engagement with a global community. Students can expect to draw on the close reading and composition skills developed in previous English classes as they discover their voices and solidify a strong work ethic for life after high school. In addition to regular reading, discussion, and classroom collaboration, students will create a writing portfolio of analytical, expository, and creative work, including an informal reading journal and a research project.

**ENGLISH 12 Honors**

**Grade 12**

**31042 Full Year - Honors**

**5 credits**

This course explores the forces that shape identity and create conflicts between individuals and their societies. By reading texts from a variety of cultural and historical traditions, students will consider essential questions such as how do things like family, geography, religion, ethnicity, gender, and class shape us? When is it appropriate to follow personal beliefs versus society's beliefs? What responsibilities do individuals have to society, and how can we recognize when societies threaten individuality? Assignments are designed not only to hone critical thinking and communication skills, but also to build empathy and inspire engagement with a global community. Students can expect to draw on the close reading and composition skills developed in previous English classes as they discover their voices and solidify a strong work ethic for life after high school. In addition to regular reading, discussion, and classroom collaboration, students will create a writing portfolio of analytical, expository, and creative work, including a reading journal and a research paper. The honors-level course demands more rigorous and extensive reading and writing assignments, as well as greater independence and initiative in completing assignments than the English 12 CP level course.

**AP LITERATURE and COMPOSITION**

**Grade 12**

**31053 Full Year –Advanced Placement**

**5 credits**

With a thematic focus similar to the English 12 course, students will read texts from a variety of genres and eras, representing wide-ranging literary traditions. Assignments rely on close reading and analytical skills where the objective is always to articulate the ways in which literary style and

structure address the fundamental question of what it means to be a member of the human race. Students will be asked to write in a variety of formats, from informal reading journal entries to formal analytical essays and timed compositions. Like the honors-level course, AP English demands a high level of independence and reliability in completing work outside of class as well as passionate curiosity and commitment to literary study.

**\*\*Students wishing to enroll in AP English are required to complete prerequisite reading and writing assignments during the summer prior to enrollment.**

## ENGLISH ELECTIVES

### **PHILOSOPHY & POP CULTURE 31122 Full Year Honors**

**Grades 10-12  
5 credits**

In this class, we will use pop culture (e.g., television shows, films, digital and social medias, etc.) as a springboard to examine various philosophical issues and schools of thought. Philosophies are like blood types; every person has one in order to function as a human being – even if they aren't aware of what exactly it is. Think of how boring that reality television show, or that summer blockbuster superhero film, would be if everyone were to hold the same values and always agree with one another. Philosophy is what allows people to decide things like, “*Should the villain be allowed to live?*” or “*Who should be voted off the island?*” It is the conflicting of philosophical values that create the thematic tension (i.e. “the drama”), and even the occasional epic CGI battles, within these medias. In this class, students will survey different philosophies, develop interdisciplinary lines of inquiry, and create effective written and verbal arguments. As a capstone for the class, students will choose an example from pop culture to examine from a philosophical perspective, and present their work to the class. This class is available to all students, but is recommended to sophomores and upperclassmen, due to the somewhat mature content (i.e., PG-13/TV14); additionally, it is suggested for students who have completed freshmen English or have strong writing and rhetorical skills.

### **CHILDREN'S LITERATURE 31131 Semester - College & Career Prep**

**Grades 10-12  
2.5 credits**

What can we learn about cultural shifts and attitudes from the stories we tell the youngest members of our society? This course will examine the power of children's literature to guide, educate, and entertain children. Students will examine a range of children's literature including picture books, chapter books for early readers, and young adult literature for cultural values. Students will also be expected to exchange ideas verbally and in writing in order to develop cultural criticism on the values and messaging these texts offer young readers.

***Prerequisite: English 9***

**WOMEN IN LITERATURE**  
**31161 Semester - College & Career Prep**

**Grades 10-12**  
**2.5 credits**

Women make up half of the world's population, yet writing for them and by them is often deemed to be "chick lit" and relegated to a secondary place in bookstores, bestseller lists, and the literary canon. This course will devote its time not only to examining writing by women, but also to exploring what these creators have to say about the role of women in society. Course texts will cover a wide range of historical eras and draw from poetry, fiction, drama, film, music, and popular culture. Students will be expected to express their ideas verbally and in writing through class discussion, regular writing assignments, and presentations.

***Prerequisite: English 9***

## FINE ARTS

### DRAMATIC ARTS

#### **ACTING ONE**

**Grades 9-12**

**32301 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

Students will participate in a variety of exercises and theatre games that develop essential skills, such as observation, concentration, imagination, sense recall, emotional response, improvisation and confidence. Students will develop the vocal and corporal control necessary for frequent and varied performances. Vocabulary of the theatre will be covered. Emphasis will be placed on frequent collaboration as well as self and peer performance critiques. The course is tailored to the students' skill and experience level.

#### **ACTING TWO**

**Grades 9-12**

**32311 Semester – College & Career Prep**

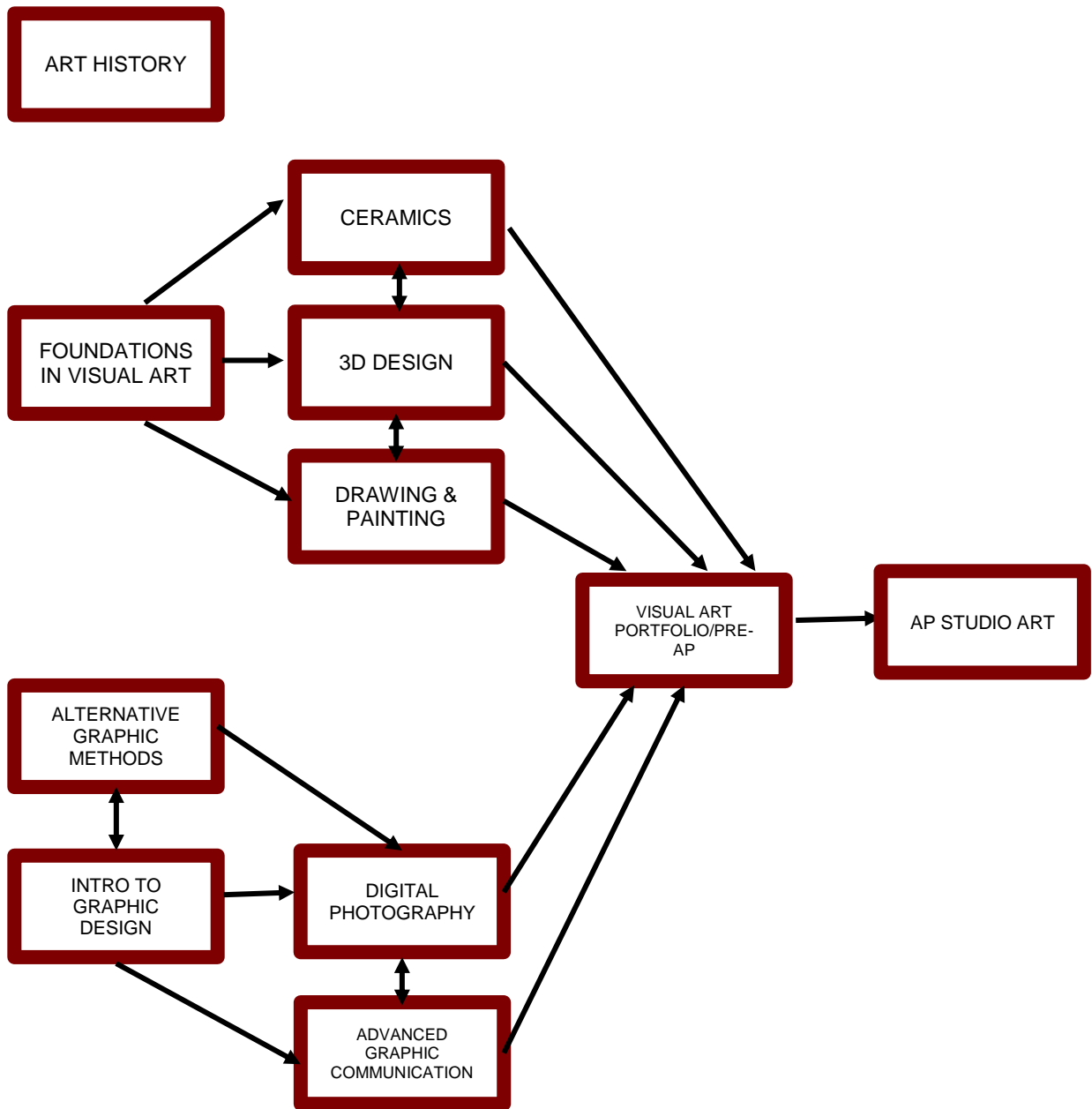
**2.5 credits**

Students will continue to develop the essential skills introduced in Acting One. Emphasis will be placed on understanding acting theory: developing characters, interpreting lines, and finding motivation for vocal and physical choices made during performances. Auditioning and rehearsal processes will be studied and employed in class to give students authentic acting experiences. The course is tailored to the students' skill and experience level.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Acting One. Student may also gain access to this course with recommendation from the instructor.***



# VISUAL ART



**ART HISTORY****Grades 9-12****32081 Semester – College & Career Prep****2.5 credits**

An introductory course in art history: an understanding and knowledge of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other art forms within diverse historical and cultural contexts. Students examine major forms of artistic expression from the past and the present from a variety of cultures. They learn to look at works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to analyze what they see. This course incorporates research, extensive reading, and analytical writing.

**FOUNDATIONS IN VISUAL ART****Grades 9-12****32011 Semester – College & Career Prep****2.5 credits**

This course provides instruction in the essential fundamentals of drawing and composition through the application of the elements and principles of design as well an introduction to art history and art analysis. Students in the class will be introduced to the other media courses the visual art department offers and learn about formal and expressive aspects while experiencing a variety of styles and subject matter. Students will have the opportunity to develop creativity, non-verbal communication, and personal artistic skills. This course is a prerequisite for both Advanced Drawing & Painting and Portfolio.

**ALTERNATIVE GRAPHIC METHODS****Grades 9-12****32061 Semester – College & Career Prep****2.5 credits**

This course challenges students to address unusual design problems through conceptual and artistic innovation. Alternative uses of new media and traditional techniques are explored. Various tools, materials and methods of production and design are covered and applied through projects and assignments to develop effective results. Students investigate, learn and apply fabrication and design strategies with both traditional and alternative materials and processes.

*Prerequisite: Intro to Graphic Design or with prior permission from the instructor.*

**INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHIC DESIGN****Grades 9-12****32021 Semester – College & Career Prep****2.5 credits**

This course is an introduction to visual principles as the basis of graphic design communication and elements/issues of visual language. It covers the manipulation of graphic form to convey meaning, strategies for idea generation and development of unique concepts, and the designer's role as visual storyteller. Moreover, this course will explore the formal elements of design including composition, color, texture, and shape in the form of applied visual problem-solving exercises in which typography and meaningful concept are added in order to shape the work into effective graphic design communications. This course is a prerequisite for Advanced Graphic Communication.

**3D DESIGN****Grades 9-12****32051 Semester – College & Career Prep****2.5 credits**

This course is a technical and aesthetic exploration of three-dimensional design. A variety of mediums will be explored and expanded on, which may include book arts, ensemble, paper sculpture, plaster gauze sculpture, etc. Students will participate in a wide range of experiences using additive or subtractive sculptural techniques designed to build artistic and creative confidence. The emphasis is on the development of work that could be included in their portfolios in preparation for Pre-AP/Visual Art Portfolio and AP Studio Art.

*Prerequisite: Foundations in Visual Art*

**CERAMICS****Grades 9-12****32001 Semester – College & Career Prep****2.5 credits**

This course samples many ceramic techniques. During the first semester students will engage in basic hand built projects. During the second quarter students continue with more difficult hand and wheel thrown projects. Students will learn to use basic art elements and apply art principles to all ceramic work. They will gain knowledge of a variety of historical uses of ceramics as an art form in the production of decorative and functional pottery.

**DRAWING AND PAINTING****Grades 9-12****32041 Semester – College & Career Prep****2.5 credits**

This course allows students to develop a greater command of two-dimensional technical skills, various two-dimensional media, and advanced vocabulary, while pursuing more thematic depth and complexity, and a wider range of creative responses in their work. Students continue to develop their linear and tonal drawing skills. They also continue to develop their color knowledge and painting skills. The emphasis is on the development of work that could be included in their portfolios in preparation for Pre-AP/Visual Art Portfolio and AP Studio Art.

*Prerequisite: Foundations in Visual Art*

**DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY****Grades 9-12****32071 Semester –College & Career Prep****2.5 credits**

This course introduces students to the Elements of Art and Principles of Design needed for creating photographs: including basic layout and design, color theory, shape, form, and composition. This course will familiarize the student with digital photographic equipment, software, materials, and methods through hands-on practice. Students will be exposed to the history of photography and photographers by studying and emulating a variety of photographic styles. Students should have completed at least Introduction to Graphic Design.

*Prerequisite: Intro to Graphic Design or with prior permission from the instructor.*

**ADVANCED GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION**  
**32031 Semester - College & Career Prep**

**Grades 9-12**  
**2.5 credits**

In this course students will develop their abilities to think visually and think creatively to solve design challenges. Students will increase their visual literacy to better “read” visual information and better manipulate the visual language to communicate ideas. Studio assignments will range from theoretical exercises to practical designs for “clients” in the community. Students will use both traditional art-making materials and computers as tools to create their work. This course offers opportunities for students to create portfolio-caliber work – that is, work that demonstrates artistic skill, intellectual rigor, and investment of self.

***Prerequisite: Introduction to Graphic Design***

**VISUAL ART PORTFOLIO/PRE-AP STUDIO ART**  
**32093 Full Year –Honors**

**Grades 11-12**  
**5 credits**

This course delves into how an image is created, using thematic and/or conceptual ideas as the basis for composing finished pieces of art. Students begin with existing sketchbooks, images, and ideas as a starting point, and as fuel for further developing new images and drawings based on a purposeful theme, idea, or concept. Emphasis is on thinking critically about how to convey via visual imagery, problem-solving ideas from beginning to end, analyzing the efficacy of developed images (self as well as peers), and developing a repertoire of visual thinking techniques. Numerous images are generated, collected, sketched, drawn, re-drawn, or found, all for the purpose of developing collages that combine images with other wet and dry art media. A hands-on, exploratory and process-oriented course, students are guided to develop a cohesive body of work.

***Prerequisite: Introduction to Graphic Design and Intermediate Graphic Design OR Foundations of Art and Drawing & Painting and/or 3D Design***

**AP STUDIO ART**  
**32193 Full Year – Advanced Placement**

**Grades 11-12**  
**5 credits**

The AP Studio Art course is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. AP Studio Art is not based on a written exam; instead, students submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year. The AP Studio Art Program consists of three portfolios — 2-D Design, 3-D Design and Drawing — corresponding to the most common college foundation courses. AP Studio Art sets a national standard for performance in the visual arts that contributes to the significant role the arts play in academic environments. Each year the thousands of portfolios that are submitted in AP Studio Art are reviewed by college, university and secondary school art instructors using rigorous standards. This College Board program provides the only national standard for performance in the visual arts that allows students to earn college credit and/or advanced placement while still in high school.

***Prerequisite: Visual Art Portfolio / Pre-AP Studio Art***

## MUSIC

### CHORUS

**32101 Full Year –College & Career Prep**

**Grades 9-12**

**Credits vary**

Go from humming to the radio to singing in a full chorus! If singing is your thing, if singing is your escape, if you've ever sung karaoke, Chorus is the class for you. If you are searching for a group of talented, engaged and patient people who sing, you will do well to join our chorus. Don't think you can carry a tune in a bucket? Well I promise you - you're wrong! Vocal sound is made by the natural human instrument that EVERYBODY has. Classical, Jazz, Folk, Pop, YOU name it! Find your voice with our musical family! Attendance at three choral concerts is required.

### CHORUS Honors

**32122 Full Year – Honors**

**Grades 9-12**

**Credits Vary**

Open to all chorus members who want to do that "little extra". Honors Chorus members will fulfill all requirements of CHORUS. In addition, Honors students will choose to complete two items from a long list of vocal opportunities including private voice lessons, performance in a school vocal after-school ensemble, mentoring younger choristers, auditioning for Districts, participating in high school musical, composing a choral song, conducting class, internship at Rockport Music, service study in music department, to name a few. Students enrolled in more than one music class meeting during the same period (i.e. Chorus and Orchestra) will be required to enroll in the Honors level of each, when applicable.

### MADRIGAL (A CAPPELLA) CHOIR

**32112 Full Year – Honors**

**Grades 9-12**

**Credits Vary**

“A Cappella Choir” is an honors class by audition consisting of a select group of no more than 16 students who are dedicated to learning and performing *a cappella* choral music. The repertoire will include jazz, pop, madrigals, show tunes, and sacred selections. Learning the nuances of using a mic is paramount to singing a cappella music. Choir members should expect to perform at least two to four times per semester. Also required is a weekly sectional and attendance at all choral concerts.

*Enrollment in CHORUS or Independent Study CHORUS is required.*

### SYMPHONIC BAND

**32141 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 9-12**

**Credits Vary**

Members will play instrumental music composed in a variety of styles for brass, woodwind and percussion instruments. Any interested High School student may join Symphonic Band. Music lessons are strongly suggested for all musicians. Attendance at all band performances is required. Students enrolled in more than one music class meeting during the same period (i.e. Band and Orchestra) will be required to enroll in the Honors level of each, when applicable.

*Prerequisite: Meeting with Director is encouraged to select instrument.*

**SYMPHONIC BAND Honors**  
**32132 Full Year – Honors**

**Grades 9-12**  
**Credits Vary**

Open to all members, Honors Band members will meet the same requirements of Symphonic Band. Additionally, Honors students will complete two projects. The first project will cover the fundamentals of conducting culminating in a timed lesson in front of the Symphonic Band. The second project will cover the fundamentals of Marching Band with Honors students being prepared to lead the High School and Middle School Marching Bands as Drum Majors. Attendance at all band performances is required. Students enrolled in more than one music class meeting during the same period (i.e. Band and Orchestra) will be required to enroll in the Honors level of each, when applicable.

*Prerequisite: For freshman and new-interested members a meeting with the Director is required. Students previously in Honors Band may enroll without meeting.*

**JAZZ ENSEMBLE I**  
**32152 Full Year – Honors**

**Grades 9-12**  
**Credits Vary**

Jazz Ensemble I members will perform a wide variety of styles including jazz swing, Latin, rock, pop, ballad, fusion, funk and more. All Jazz Ensemble members must also be in Symphonic Band, Chorus, or Orchestra. Jazz Ensemble I members are expected to perform and practice at the highest level as the class includes extra performances and competitions not offered in Symphonic Band. Music lessons are strongly suggested for all musicians. Attendance at all performances and competitions is required.

*Music is handed out for all interested participants at the end of the school year for placement the following fall. (This is not a try-out piece; it is a placement piece – 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet, etc.). New Members should see the Director for placement piece.*

**JAZZ ENSEMBLE II**  
**32201 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 9-12**  
**Credits Vary**

Jazz Ensemble II members will perform a wide variety of styles including jazz swing, Latin, rock, pop, ballad, fusion, funk and more. All members must also be in Symphonic Band, Chorus or Orchestra. Jazz Ensemble II members are expected to perform and practice at a high level as the class includes extra performances and competitions not offered in Symphonic Band. Music lessons are strongly suggested for all musicians. Attendance at all performances is required.

*Music is handed out for all interested participants at the end of the school year for placement the following fall. (This is not a try-out piece; it is a placement piece – 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet, etc.). New Members should see the Director for placement piece.*

**ORCHESTRA**  
**32171 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 9-12**  
**Credits Vary**

Orchestra members will play music composed in a variety of styles primarily for string instruments, though collaborations with wind players, percussionists, and vocalists are likely. Any interested High School students may join, but those without string playing or music reading experience must meet with the director prior to joining. Regular weekly practice and attendance at all orchestra performances is required, as well as regular meetings during U blocks. Students enrolled in more than one music class meeting during the same period (i.e. Chorus and Orchestra) will be required to enroll in the Honors level of each, when applicable.

***Prerequisite: Meeting with the Director or proficiency on a stringed instrument.***

**ORCHESTRA Honors  
32182 Full Year - Honors**

**Grades 9-12  
Credits Vary**

Open to all orchestra members, Honors Orchestra students will meet the same requirements as Orchestra. Additionally, Honors students may be required to attend one weekly group workshop after school for 45 minutes, complete extra projects, and complete more rigorous practice assignments. Regular weekly practice and attendance at all Orchestra performances is required, as well as regular meetings during U blocks. Students enrolled in more than one music class meeting during the same period (i.e. Chorus and Orchestra) will be required to enroll in the Honors level of each, when applicable.

***Prerequisite: For freshman and new members, a meeting with the Director is required. Students previously in Honors Orchestra may enroll without meeting.***

**CHAMBER MUSIC  
32161 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

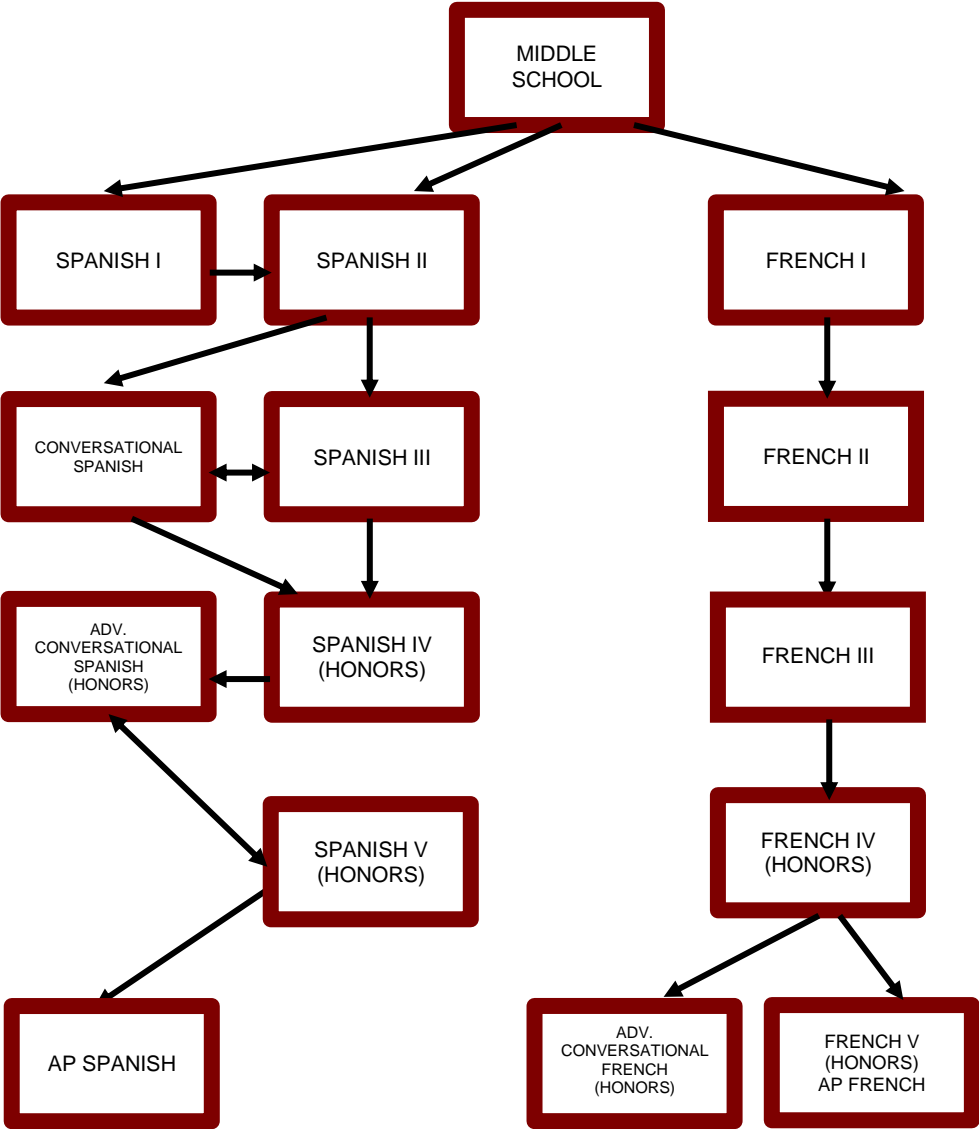
**Grades 9-12  
Credits Vary**

This course is open to musicians interested in performing in small ensembles. Wind and percussion players must also be in Concert Band, string players must also be in Orchestra, and singers must also be in chorus. Attendance at all performances is required. Students should expect to perform at least two to three times per semester.

***Students interested in chamber music must discuss membership and scheduling with the Director. Depending on scheduling options, classes may take place during school or directly after school.***

# WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

## WORLD LANGUAGES PATHWAYS





**SPANISH I****Grades 9-12****39161 Full Year – College & Career Prep****5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a foundation in basic vocabulary and grammar on which the subsequent courses will build. Students will practice basic skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in the present tense with an emphasis upon correct oral and written expression and aural comprehension. Topics will include formulating questions and answers; gender/number agreement tenses and today/tomorrow concepts. Students are also introduced to various aspects of Hispanic culture in Latin American countries and in Spain as illustrated in the text, videos and presentations, which may include historical, social and cultural topics.

*Prerequisite: No previous Spanish or enrollment with recommendation of the instructor.*

**SPANISH II****Grades 9-12****39091 Full Year – College & Career Prep****5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to prepare students for entry into Spanish 2 by completing the study of basic grammar and vocabulary of the Spanish language. Students will practice basic skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in the present tense with an emphasis upon correct oral and written expression and aural comprehension. Topics will include present and preterite tense of irregular verbs, possessives, comparison of adjectives, object pronouns and selected vocabulary. Students will continue the introduction to various aspects of Hispanic culture in Latin American countries and in Spain as illustrated in the text, videos and presentations, which may include historical, social and cultural topics.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of 8th grade Spanish or Spanish I with recommendation of the instructor.*

**CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH****Grades 9-12****39141 Full Year – College & Career Prep****5 credits**

Students will practice high-frequency phrases for practical everyday communication in Spanish. Isolated groups of vocabulary and phrases will be shared for mastery. Emphasis is on basic interpersonal communication and listening comprehension rather than complex grammatical structures. Students may be introduced to aspects of Hispanic culture illustrated through videos and presentations, which may include historical, social and cultural topics.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish II and recommendation of the instructor ONLY. Not open to students that have taken Spanish IV or above.*

**SPANISH III****Grades 9-12****39101 Full Year – College & Career Prep****5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to enrich the student's knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar of the Spanish language, which is essential to maintaining basic daily conversations. It involves more complex grammatical forms and basic skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing with an emphasis upon correct oral and written expression and aural comprehension. Upon successful completion, a student would be able to converse about activities in occurrences in the past, present or future. Students also examine aspects of Hispanic culture in Latin American countries and in Spain as illustrated in the text and through videos and presentations, which may include historical, social and cultural topics.

***Prerequisite: Spanish II with a B- or better or proficiency exam with recommendation of the instructor.***

**SPANISH IV Honors  
39112 Full Year – Honors**

**Grades 9-12  
5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to expand on the grammar and language skills acquired in the prior years of language study, applying this grammar to more complex thematic contexts. Topics will include the future and comparatives and superlatives, with a particular emphasis on the present subjunctive as well as the imperative. The following areas of vocabulary are also included: food, diversions, family and relationships, and careers and professions. Students will conclude the study of aspects of Hispanic culture in Latin American countries and in Spain as illustrated in the text and through videos and presentations, which may include historical, social and cultural topics.

***Prerequisite: Spanish III with a B- or better or proficiency exam with recommendation of the instructor.***

**ADVANCED CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH Honors  
39162 Full Year – Honors**

**Grades 9-12  
5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop a sophisticated level of proficiency in spoken Spanish. Students will further their studies of idiomatic expressions and incorporate them into everyday communication. This course will deepen students' understanding of Hispanic societies and their relationship to global issues and themes. Emphasis will be on interpersonal communication and listening comprehension rather than complex grammatical structures. Students will pursue an in depth study of culture demonstrated through individual presentations, and may include historical, social and political topics.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish IV or proficiency exam with recommendation of the instructor.***

**SPANISH V Honors  
39122 Full Year – Honors**

**Grades 9-12  
5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to revisit the elements of grammar introduced in previous years. Topics will include a completion of the study of the subjunctive, conditional and perfect tenses and selected vocabulary regarding travel, the house, technology, careers and business. Students

will continue more in-depth study of cultural and historical themes through readings, videos and class discussion in the target language, emphasizing topics relating to modern society in the Spanish speaking world.

***Prerequisite: Spanish IV with a B- or better or proficiency exam with recommendation of the instructor.***

## **AP SPANISH**

**Grades 9-12**

**39133 Full Year – Advanced Placement**

**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Exam in the spring. Students will undergo a thorough review of Spanish grammar with an introduction to the more complex idiosyncrasies of the language. They will be provided with a survey of Hispanic history and literature to assist them with the narrative portions of the exam. Special mention will be made from time to time of items of grammar and vocabulary that tend to appear in exam questions. Students will be given drill exercises on each section of the exam and will take practice exams.

***Prerequisite: Spanish V or above with a B or better or proficiency exam with recommendation of the instructor.***

## **FRENCH I**

**Grades 9-12**

**39011 Full Year - College & Career Prep**

**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a foundation in basic vocabulary and grammar on which the subsequent courses will build. Students will practice basic skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in the present tense with an emphasis upon correct oral and written expression and aural comprehension. Topics will include formulating questions and answers; gender/number agreement, tenses and today/tomorrow concepts. Students are also introduced to various aspects of Francophone culture as illustrated in the text, videos and presentations, which may include historical, social and cultural topics.

***Prerequisite: No previous French or enrollment with recommendation of the instructor.***

## **FRENCH II**

**Grades 9-12**

**39021 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to build on the introduction to basic grammar received in French I. Upon successful completion, a student should be able to converse about activities in the past, present, near future and imperative. Topics will include demonstrative and interrogative adjectives, the passé composé of regular and irregular verbs with both avoir and être. Students will learn to speak and understand simple French conversation and to read and write simple selections. Students will explore French life, culture, geography and contemporary Franco-American relations.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of 8th grade French with recommendation of the instructor.***

**FRENCH III**  
**39031 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 9-12**  
**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to develop strong communication skills both written and oral, to acquire new vocabulary and familiarity with the essential grammatical structures of language. Upon successful completion, a student should be able to converse about activities in the present, past and imperative, use direct and indirect object pronouns and reflexive verbs. Topics will include French life, culture, geography and contemporary Franco-American relations as well as art and literature.

*Prerequisite: French II with a B- or better or proficiency exam with recommendation of the instructor.*

**FRENCH IV Honors**  
**39042 Full Year - Honors**

**Grades 9-12**  
**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to revisit elements of grammar introduced in previous years and to complete the initial study of all elements of French grammar. Topics will include comparatives and superlatives of adjectives and pronouns, the future and subjunctive of regular and irregular verbs, the conditional and Si clauses. Students will take ownership of a more in depth study of culture and will be reading edited works from selected French authors, which will serve as a basis for classroom discussion and compositions.

*Prerequisite: French III with a B- or better or proficiency exam with recommendation of the instructor.*

**ADVANCED CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH Honors**  
**39142 Full Year – Honors**

**Grades 9-12**  
**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop a sophisticated level of proficiency in spoken French. Students will further their studies of idiomatic expressions and incorporate them into everyday communication. This course will deepen students' understanding of Francophone societies and their relationship to global issues and themes. Emphasis will be on interpersonal communication and listening comprehension rather than complex grammatical structures. Students will pursue an in depth study of Francophone culture demonstrated through individual presentations, and may include historical, social and political topics.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of French IV or proficiency exam with recommendation of the instructor.*

**FRENCH V Honors**  
**39052 Full Year – Honors**

**Grades 9-12**  
**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop a high level of proficiency in written and spoken French. Students will use the basic text as a springboard for discussion and research on a variety of topics. They will review the major points of grammar

throughout the course. They will also study in depth the literature, art, music and culture of the French World.

***Prerequisite: French IV with a B or better or proficiency exam with recommendation of the instructor.***

**AP FRENCH**

**Grades 9-12**

**39063 Full Year – Advanced Placement**

**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Exam in the spring. Students will undergo a thorough review of French grammar with an introduction to the more complex idiosyncrasies of the language. They will be provided with a survey of French history and literature to assist them with the narrative portions of the exam. Special mention will be made from time to time of items of grammar and vocabulary that tend to appear in exam questions. Students will be given drill exercises on each section of the exam and will take practice exams.

***Prerequisite: French IV with a B or better or proficiency exam with recommendation of the instructor.***

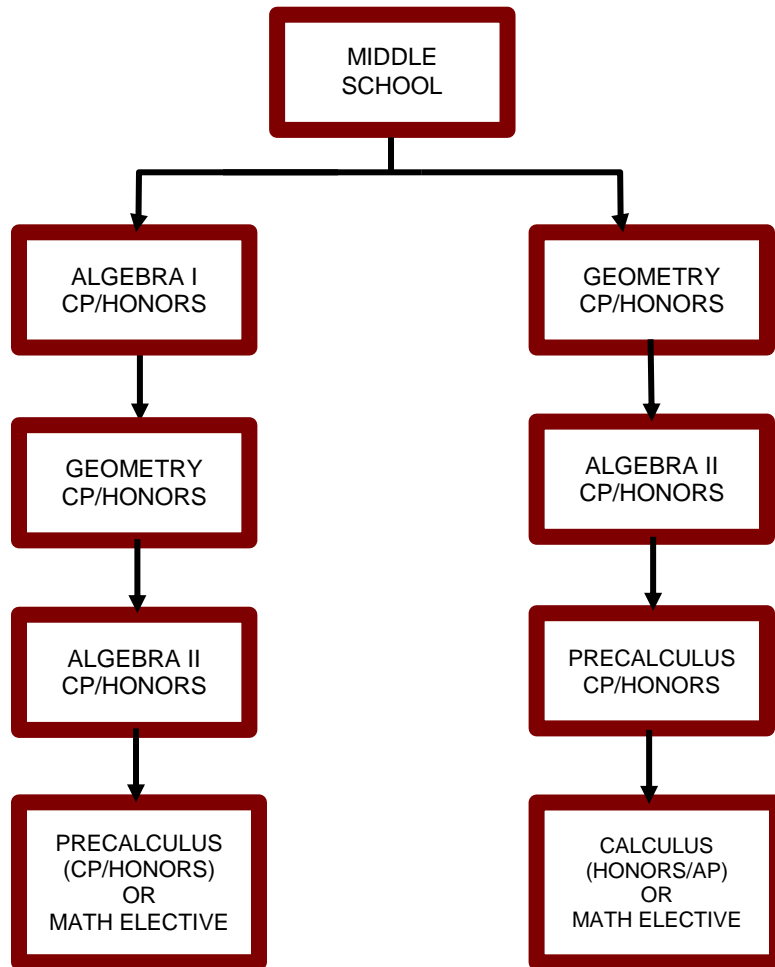
## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

The Mathematics Department recognizes that understanding of mathematics is essential, regardless of the individual student's career or educational aspirations. Emphasis throughout the curriculum on improving students' understanding of mathematics by enhancing their ability to recognize and integrate the patterns and structure of mathematics as a whole rather than viewing the subject as a collection of unrelated topics. Students will progress sequentially through the curriculum and are evaluated for class placement on the basis of ability, mastery of prerequisite skills and, in some cases, grades earned in prerequisite courses.

For any of the following mathematics courses that are designated as "HONORS" or "ADVANCED PLACEMENT", please refer to the course REQUIREMENTS and the CRITERIA FOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO COURSES AND LEVELS regarding these designations in the previous sections of this catalog.

Utilization of calculators, which contain appropriate functions, will be required in all courses.

## MATHEMATICS PATHWAYS



***Math Courses & Electives include the following:***  
ALGEBRA I, GEOMETRY, ALGEBRA II, PRECALCULUS, CALCULUS, STATISTICS & DATA ANALYSIS, AP STATISTICS, AP CALCULUS, Topics In College Algebra, Topics In Statistics & Probability, Game Theory In Mathematics, Creative Problem Solving In Mathematics  
(SEE COURSE CATALOG FOR PRE-REQUISITES)

**ALGEBRA I**  
**35011 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grade 9**  
**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to provide the foundational techniques required for advanced courses in math. Topics include order of operations, fractions, solving one-variable equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, systems of equations, functions, factoring quadratics, properties of quadratic equations, exponents, radicals, and word problems.

**ALGEBRA I Honors**  
**35012 Full Year – Honors**

**Grade 9**  
**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to provide the foundational techniques required for advanced courses in math. Topics include order of operations, fractions, solving one-variable equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, systems of equations, functions, factoring quadratics, properties of quadratic equations, exponents, radicals, and word problems. Students electing to take the Algebra I Honors course will be responsible for extra work and projects, and the material will be treated in greater depth and complexity than it is in the CP1 course.

*Prerequisite: Recommendation from 8th grade teacher or equivalent display of proficiency in all pre-algebraic concepts.*

**GEOMETRY**  
**35021 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 9, 10**  
**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to study the elements in plane geometry. The students will learn to identify geometric shapes and the ways to measure all of the parts of these figures. Topics include congruence, similarity, parallel lines, right triangle trigonometry, polygons, transformations, and circles.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I to include a recommendation from the 8th grade math teacher for freshmen.*

**GEOMETRY Honors**  
**35022 Full Year – Honors**

**Grades 9, 10**  
**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is to investigate the traditional elements in plane geometry. The advanced course includes work with formal geometric proofs. Topics include congruence, similarity, parallel lines, right triangle trigonometry, polygons, transformations, and circles.

*Prerequisites: Recommendation from Algebra I teacher with a B average or better in the course or successful completion of Honors Algebra I.*

**ALGEBRA II**  
**35031 Full year – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 10, 11**  
**5 credits**



This course includes review and further development of the key topics from Algebra I (linear equations and functions, systems of equations, quadratic equations, exponents, and factoring). Topics include linear, rational, radical, quadratic and polynomial equations and functions, irrational and complex numbers, and exponential and logarithmic functions.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I and/or Geometry.*

**ALGEBRA II Honors**  
**35032 Full Year – Honors**

**Grades 10, 11**  
**5 credits**

This course provides a rigorous presentation of topics in a traditional Algebra II curriculum, with emphasis on developing a strong conceptual understanding of these topics, as well as facility with the associated problem-solving skills, this course prepares the student for the more advanced Precalculus topics. Topics include linear, rational, radical, quadratic and polynomial equations and functions, irrational and complex numbers, and exponential and logarithmic functions.

*Prerequisite: Recommendation from Algebra I and/or Geometry teacher with a B average or better in the course or successful completion of Honors Algebra I and/or Geometry.*

**PRECALCULUS**  
**35101 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 11, 12**  
**5 credits**

This course is intended as a preparation for further study in math at the college level. Topics include a review of advanced topics in algebra and a comprehensive presentation of topics in trigonometry, rational functions, logarithms and exponents, and graphing functions. An appreciation of various types of mathematical functions, function operations, and their transformations is emphasized throughout the course.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II.*

**PRECALCULUS Honors**  
**35102 Full Year - Honors**

**Grades 11, 12**  
**5 credits**

This course is designed to provide the student with a thorough preparation for calculus. Topics include a review of advanced topics in algebra and a comprehensive presentation of linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, polynomial, and rational functions, and trigonometry. A functional approach is emphasized throughout the course.

*Prerequisite: Recommendation from Algebra II teacher with a B average or better in the course or successful completion of Honors Algebra II.*

**STATISTICS & DATA ANALYSIS**  
**35061 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 11, 12**  
**5 credits**

This course involves techniques for both quantitative and qualitative data analysis. Topics will include exploring data, the construction and interpretation of graphical displays; measures of center and spread, probability, and the normal curve. Students will be required to complete projects

that require planning, data collection, and the development of report formats. Utilization of a calculator that contains the basic statistical functions will be required.

*Prerequisite: For Juniors or Seniors ONLY and successful completion of Algebra I.*

### **AP STATISTICS**

**Grades 11, 12**

**35073 Full Year – Advanced Placement**

**5 credits**

The intent of this course is to give a comprehensive understanding of statistics typical of an introductory college course, as well as to prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam in the spring. This course involves techniques for both quantitative and qualitative data analysis. Topics will include exploring univariate and bivariate data, construction and interpretation of graphical displays, measures of center and spread, experimental and sampling design, probability, binomial and normal distributions, sampling distributions and statistical inference. Students will be required to have a calculator comparable to a TI-83 or better.

*Prerequisite: By teacher recommendation ONLY.*

### **CALCULUS Honors**

**Grades 11, 12**

**35082 Full Year – Honors**

**5 credits**

This course includes some of the topics covered in a first-year calculus curriculum. It is designed for those students who have shown exceptional motivation and ability in mathematics. Students will be introduced to differential calculus and integral calculus.

*Prerequisite: Recommendation from Precalculus teacher with a B average or better in the course.*

### **AP CALCULUS**

**Grade 12**

**35093 Full Year – Advanced Placement**

**5 credits**

This course may include all the topics covered in a college first-year calculus course, and it is designed for those students who have shown exceptional motivation and ability in mathematics. Students will be required to investigate and learn limit theory, differential calculus, and integral calculus. This course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement Calculus exam in their senior year.

*Prerequisite: By teacher recommendation ONLY.*

## MATHEMATICS ELECTIVES

### TOPICS IN COLLEGE ALGEBRA

Grades 11, 12

**35111 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

This course is a natural extension of Algebra II CP course. The topics covered will be determined by the needs of the class, with material drawn from traditional Algebra curriculum. Potential topics to be covered may include quadratic functions, linear modeling, exponential functions and applications, and trigonometry. Time will also be allotted for preparation for the Accuplacer Exam.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II.*

### TOPICS IN STATISTICS & PROBABILITY

Grades 11, 12

**35121 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

This course is a natural extension of Algebra II CP course. The topics covered will be determined by the needs of the class, with material drawn from traditional statistics and probability curriculum. Potential topics to be covered may include data analysis, voting theory, probability distributions, and presentation of data. Time will also be allotted for preparation for the Accuplacer Exam.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II.*

### GAME THEORY IN MATHEMATICS

Grades 11, 12

**35131 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

This is a one-semester course where students will learn to play a variety of games that will help them become better strategists, good team players, and problem solvers. Playing games involves a mental challenge. Student effort will be concentrated on learning to play bridge (a card game), which is recognized as a “mind” sport and is a skill-based partnership game. Each game offers unique challenges of problems and solutions. Bridge can be played beyond high school at the collegiate level, national level, and even international level! The course will also cover other games to develop a deeper understanding of game theory including: dice games like Qwirkx and Yahtzee (to study probability); Qwerkle, Set, and Blokus (to study patterns); Pitch (to learn about trump cards); and Cribbage (to learn about pairing and scoring).

### CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING IN MATHEMATICS

Grades 11, 12

**35141 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

This is a one-semester course where students will engage in curriculum that will develop deeper problem solving skills. Students will learn to view problems from different angles and to organize the information presented. Different techniques will be reviewed and introduced including how to make a problem smaller, how and when to use trial and error, using modeling techniques to make sense of problems, working collaboratively to solve problems, and using logical reasoning. Students will be working in pairs or small groups. The course is problem-driven with problems drawn from a variety of topics including mathematics, business, science, and the humanities.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I.*

## **BUSINESS AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY**

### **ACCOUNTING**

**Grades 10-12**

#### **38001 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

Students in this class will learn accounting principles and practices relating to sole proprietorships and partnerships. Each type of business will be presented in a complete accounting cycle covering: analyzing transactions, journalizing, posting, payroll, petty cash, financial statements, and adjusting and closing entries.

### **ECONOMICS**

**Grades 10-12**

#### **34241 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

Students will learn about the tasks involved with the financial operations of a business. Skills that will be covered include performing rudimentary accounting skills, creating balance sheets, financial statements and analyzing corporate models. In addition we will be doing case studies of some of major US corporations as well as looking to local business leaders for guest speaking roles in our class. Course can meet either social studies elective or math requirement.

### **FINANCE**

**Grades 10-12**

#### **38031 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

This course covers the needed skills for managing an individual's financial well-being. It is a practical life-skills course. Areas to be covered include investments, insurance plans, banking, credit, retirement planning, and housing. All class members will assist in running the Viking Corner Store, the RHS School store operation (as needed). Class membership entitles the student to be part of the DECA program at RHS.

### **MARKETING**

**Grades 9-12**

#### **38021 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

This course will introduce students to marketing principles and will develop marketing skills. Product and service planning, marketing information management, financing and distribution will be studied. Students will also learn about target markets, market research, and marketing strategy. Students will also contrast the ways that marketing is used in the United States and other areas of the world. Class membership entitles the student to be part of the DECA program at RHS.

### **COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

**Grade 9-12**

#### **38411 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

Success in the 21st century demands that students be able to exhibit a range of functional and critical thinking skills related to information, media and technology. In this course students will learn how, and to what purpose various media messages are constructed. Students will study the evolution of the moving image, from Muybridge to YouTube. They will use technology as a tool

to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information from various sources, as well as explore ethical/legal issues surrounding the access and use of information and media technologies. Practical projects include original podcasting, screencasting and video production.

### **INTRODUCTION TO XCODE**

**Grade 9-12**

**38011 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

This course will introduce you to Xcode and teach you what you need to know in order to start building iOS apps! In this course you will learn: Where to download Xcode and how to set it up. The 5 main parts of the Xcode development environment and how to navigate around. How to code and build your user interface with Xcode. How to use the iOS simulator to test your app.

### **TECHNICAL DRAWING/CAD I**

**Grades 9-12**

**38051 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

Students will be introduced to technical drawing as a medium for visual communication and design. Students will spend the majority of the semester learning CAD (Computer-Aided Design) software such as Autodesk Inventor. Topics will include dimensioning, multi-view drawings, and assemblies. Projects will include designing and creating 3D models of products such as furniture and a phone stand. Some projects will give students the opportunity to see their finished designs printed on our Makerbot 3D printers.

### **TECHNICAL DRAWING/CAD II**

**Grades 9-12**

**38061 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

This course will focus on architectural design, while continuing to build students' knowledge and skills in CAD (Computer-Aided Design) tools. Students will learn how to design 3D models of buildings and homes using Autodesk Revit and have the opportunity to create photorealistic renderings, walkthrough videos, and 3D printed models. Students may also choose to focus on interior design, placing furnishings and décor. Technical Drawing/CAD I is a prerequisite, but exceptions may be made with permission from instructor.

### **TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN**

**Grades 9-12**

**38071 Full year –College & Career Prep**

**5 credits**

Technology design projects form the core of this hands-on course designed to engage students of all grades and skill levels. New experiences with hand, power, electronic, and automation tools will bring to life important science and math concepts. Much of the year will be focused on designing, building, and programming robotics using VEX robotics kits. Previous years have also included CO<sub>2</sub> cars, motorized monster trucks, steam-powered boats, and a variety of 3D printed designs. Project planning and teamwork will be essential elements throughout.

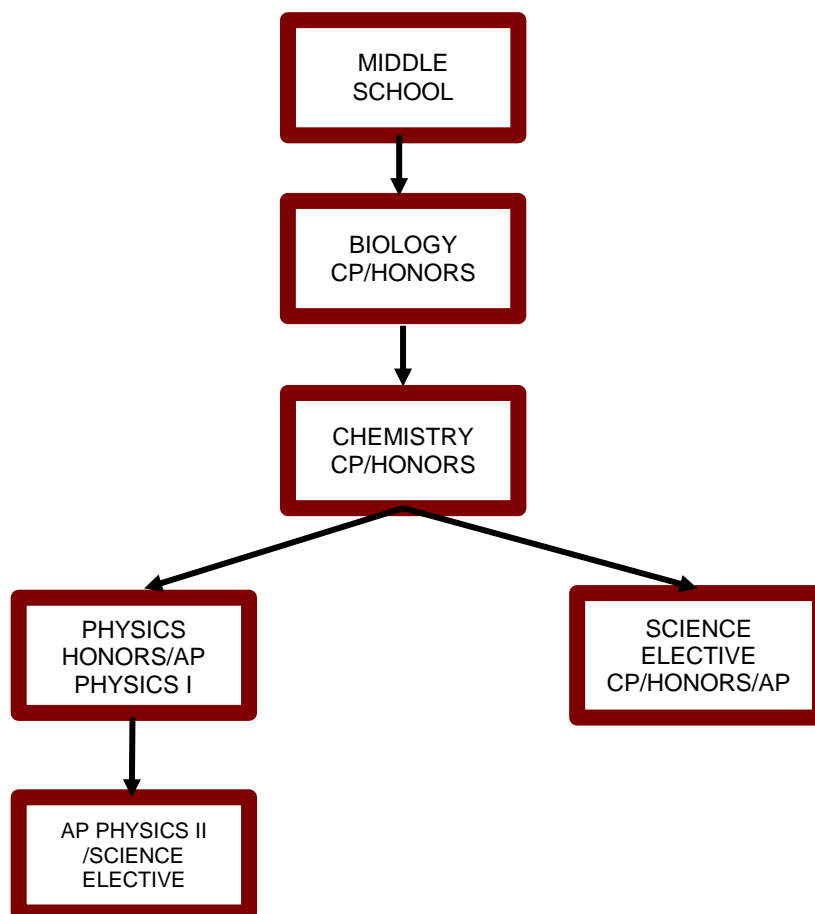
## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

The vision of the Rockport High School Science Department is to prepare our students for successful, lifelong learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our fundamental mission is to give all students sufficient knowledge of science for them to comprehend the fundamentals of natural phenomena taking place in the world around them, to interpret the scientific significance of major current events, and to develop an appreciation for people engaged in scientific endeavors. We offer subjects at a variety of levels, so that all students are challenged to acquire the maximum amount of scientific knowledge appropriate for them. We strive to fully engage students who have a natural aptitude for science, and to equip them with the knowledge and tools they need to successfully continue in this field.

The objectives of the Science Department are to enable students to think analytically, to read and communicate scientifically, and to develop key technical skills. The teachers use an interdisciplinary approach to their curricula to make the classes more informative and engaging. Demonstrations and laboratory investigations augment the lecture component of the classes. Note taking and notebook keeping, careful observations of natural phenomena, technical use of measuring devices and other experimental equipment, data gathering and organizing, and analytical problem solving all help the students to develop their scientific capabilities. Regular homework assignments, written and oral exercises, quizzes, and exams ensure that the students and teachers know what progress is being made towards shared objectives.

Rapid changes in the world today necessitate that the Science Department keeps up to date with the current developments in each field. The teachers make every effort to keep both themselves and students abreast of these changes.

## SCIENCE PATHWAYS



***Science Electives include the following:***

Marine Science, Environmental Science, Astronomy, Meteorology, Human Body in Health and Disease, Anatomy & Physiology, The Science of Food and Sustainability, Life in the Universe, AP Biology  
(SEE COURSE CATALOG FOR PRE-REQUISITES)

## **BIOLOGY**

**Grade 9**

### **37011 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**5 credits**

This laboratory course introduces students to the field of biology. The curriculum focuses on the similarities of organisms at a molecular level and the interrelationships among organisms and ecosystems. Laboratory experimentation provides students with practical hands-on experiences that help instill important concepts presented in class. The chemistry needed to explain the biological processes will be covered early in the year. Building upon the chemical basis of life, students will then study molecular biology, cellular biology, genetics, evolution and the origin of life as well as ecology.

## **BIOLOGY Honors**

**Grade 9**

### **37012 Full Year – Honors**

**5 credits**

This accelerated laboratory course introduces students to the field of biology. The curriculum in this advanced level course goes into more depth and is more independently designed compared to the *College & Career Prep Biology* course. The year begins investigating ecosystems, community interactions and biogeochemical cycles. The chemistry needed to explain the biological processes will be covered early in the year by studying molecular biology, cellular biology and body systems. Building upon the chemical basis of life, students will then use this understanding to investigate genetics and biological evolution. The course fosters independent learning and time-management skills. Students will work independently on developing learning portfolios that demonstrate their effort at understanding each lesson. Portfolios are strategic, goal-directed indicators that enable students to access the curriculum by providing options for student engagement and interest, and for exercising their persistence and self-regulation. Exams will be given at the end of each unit. Students who pursue this course should be self-motivated active learners that have a high degree of interest and enthusiasm for scientific study. ***Prerequisites: Students must have earned an A in 8th grade science to be eligible for enrollment in Honors Biology.***

## **CHEMISTRY**

**Grade 10, 11**

### **37031 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**5 credits**

Chemistry, the study of matter and its changes, is offered as a laboratory science. The course not only prepares students for further study in science, but also provides students with chemical knowledge needed to be literate voters on issues pertinent to our health and environment. This course deals with the nature of matter and energy, modern atomic theory, the nature of chemical bonds, chemical reaction systems, and general laboratory methods and techniques. Topics to be included will be chemical formulas and equations, the mole, atomic structure, the periodic table of elements, gas laws, acids, bases and pH. This course is intended for students planning to further their education, to prepare students for further scientific study or to give students with non-science futures a good general background in this discipline. The course requires that all students demonstrate a consistent pattern of commitment and study.

***Prerequisites: Students must have passed Biology.***



**CHEMISTRY Honors**  
**37032 Full Year – Honors**

**Grade 10, 11**  
**5 credits**

This course deals with the properties of matter and energy, modern atomic theory, the nature of chemical bonds, chemical reaction systems, and general laboratory methods and techniques. Topics to be included will be chemical formulas and equations, the mole, atomic structure, the periodic table of elements, organic chemistry, biochemical technology, gas laws, acids and bases, oxidation, reduction, pH and nuclear chemistry as well as an introduction to organic and biochemistry. This course requires students to be facile with conceptual and mathematical material. It is designed to prepare students for further advanced study in the sciences. Honors chemistry will involve a broader range of topics and a greater amount of laboratory exposure than a traditional College & Career Preparatory course in chemistry. Students pursuing this course should be self-motivated active learners who have a high degree of interest and enthusiasm for scientific study.

*Prerequisites: Students must have maintained a B average or higher in Honors Biology or maintained an A average or higher in College & Career Prep Biology.*

**SCIENCE ELECTIVES**

*Students must have passed both Biology and Chemistry to enroll in a science elective.*

**MARINE SCIENCE**  
**37051 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 11, 12**  
**2.5 credits**

This course surveys marine organisms and the environmental factors that affect these organisms. Emphasis is on local species, their habitats and behaviors. Fieldwork, laboratory exercises and research projects are an integral part of this course. This course is designed for students in the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

*Prerequisites: Passing grade in Biology and Chemistry.*

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**  
**37061 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 11, 12**  
**2.5 credits**

This course examines the topics of ecology, marine ecosystems and anthropogenic factors that affect these systems; other topics include global environmental problems. Fieldwork, laboratory exercises and research projects are an integral part of this course. This course is designed in the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

*Prerequisites: Passing grade in Biology and Chemistry.*

**ASTRONOMY**  
**37071 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 11, 12**  
**2.5 credits**

This course involves understanding the fundamental processes of the universe with an emphasis on our own solar system. Topics to be included will be constellations, planets, stars, galaxies, and the larger universe. Different features of each planet and its moons in our solar system will be studied. Opportunities to view the wonders of the night sky through a telescope will occur at night throughout the year.

*Prerequisites: Passing grade in Biology and Chemistry.*

## **METEOROLOGY**

**Grades 11, 12**

**37081 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

This course is designed to engage students in learning about meteorology, atmospheric science, and the reasons behind weather and climatological changes locally and world-wide. Topics include forces creating weather, reading weather maps, storms, and predicting weather. The class will be analyzing data from the newly constructed Rockport Public Schools weather station.

*Prerequisites: Passing grade in Biology and Chemistry.*

## **HUMAN BODY IN HEALTH AND DISEASE**

**Grades 11, 12**

**37091 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**5 credits**

This course is designed to reinforce the basic functions of the human body while incorporating topics focusing on human health. Topics to be discussed include the fundamentals of each system of the human body, health practices and prevention from diseases, and career exploration in the field of health sciences. The course fosters independent learning and time-management skills. Students will work independently on developing learning portfolios that demonstrate their effort at understanding each chapter. Portfolios are strategic, goal-directed indicators that enable students to access the curriculum by providing options for student engagement and interest, and for exercising their persistence and self-regulation. Small check-in quizzes as well as tests will be administered each chapter. Active participation, collaboration and a good work ethic are essential for this course.

*Prerequisites: Passing grade in Biology and Chemistry.*

## **ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY**

**Grades 11, 12**

**37122 Full Year – Honors**

**5 credits**

Anatomy & Physiology is an honors level course that emphasizes the systems and biological processes of the human body. It is an accelerated course that is taught as closely as possible to that of a freshman college level. The course fosters independent learning and time-management skills. Students will work independently on developing learning portfolios that demonstrate their effort at understanding each chapter. Portfolios are strategic, goal-directed indicators that enable students to access the curriculum by providing options for student engagement and interest, and for exercising their persistence and self-regulation. Exams are given at the end of each chapter. Students in this course have an active role in deciding which topics we cover. Active participation,

collaboration and a good work ethic are essential for this course. This is an excellent choice for anyone interested in a career in biology or the medical field.

*Prerequisites: Passing grade in Biology and Chemistry (honors level courses recommended).*

## **THE SCIENCE OF FOOD AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**Grades 11, 12**

**37131 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**5 credits**

When it comes to making science and health relevant, what better way than to apply it to something that's part of our everyday lives? This science based, hands-on elective introduces students to the fundamentals of healthy food choices, nutrition, food systems and sustainability. This course is an ideal springboard for introducing the science that is at the heart of body chemistry. We will blend topics in biochemistry, health, culinary science, consumer science and a variety of sustainability topics. We will utilize our greenhouse to grow and cultivate our own nutritious food and plants while exploring the impact that daily food and beverage choices can have on overall health. Each student will engage in individual sustainability projects. With engaging hands-on activities, students will become aware of the choices they make and how those choices affect their personal health and their environment. The emphasis is on an inquiry approach to learn more about the scientific approach, biochemistry, health, culinary arts, consumer sciences, sustainability and environmental concerns. Active participation, collaboration and a good work ethic are essential for this course.

*Prerequisites: Passing grade in Biology and Chemistry.*

## **PHYSICS Honors**

**Grades 11, 12**

**37042 Full Year – Honors**

**5 credits**

This laboratory course is intended to help students develop their scientific literacy in physics and to help them improve their physical and quantitative reasoning skills through a variety of learning activities. Students will become familiar with forces and corresponding laws of motion, momentum and energy, heat and thermodynamics, the physics of waves, acoustics, light, optics, electricity, magnetism, and electromagnetism. Algebraic and trigonometric reasoning is emphasized throughout the course. Lots of laboratory activities enable hands-on engagement by the students, as they develop effective measurement methods that reveal key physical principles.

*Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry, Algebra II - Preferably Precalculus.*

## **AP PHYSICS I**

**Grades 11, 12**

**37103 Full Year – Advanced Placement**

**5 credits**

This laboratory course is intended to help students advance their scientific literacy in physics and to help them improve their physical and quantitative reasoning skills through a variety of learning activities. This AP course is the equivalent of a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics. It covers Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum); work, energy, and power; and mechanical waves and sound. It will also introduce electric circuits. Algebraic and trigonometric reasoning is emphasized throughout the course. Lots of laboratory

activities enable hands-on engagement by the students, as they develop effective measurement methods that reveal key physical principles.

*All students who take this AP course must follow the approved AP curriculum and are expected to take the CollegeBoard AP exam in May. Any student who does not take the AP exam or follow the approved curriculum will lose the AP credit at the end of the year.*

***Prerequisites: Algebra II - Preferably Precalculus. Students should have maintained a B average or higher in Honors Chemistry or an A average or higher in College & Career Prep Chemistry.***

## **AP PHYSICS II**

**Grade 12**

**37113 Full Year – Advanced Placement**

**5 credits**

This laboratory course is intended to help students advance towards fluency in physics and to prepare them for the AP Physics-2 examination. It is equivalent to a second- semester college course in algebra-based physics. As such, it is aimed at the student who is interested in pursuing science or science-based studies at the college level. The course covers fluid mechanics; thermodynamics; electricity and magnetism; optics; and atomic and nuclear physics. Along the way, students will develop their physical and quantitative reasoning skills through a variety of problem-solving and laboratory experiences. In addition, each student will undertake an authentic research project worthy of presentation beyond the classroom.

*All students who take this AP course must follow the approved AP curriculum and are expected to take the CollegeBoard AP exam in May. Any student who does not take the AP exam or follow the approved curriculum will lose the AP credit at the end of the year.*

***Prerequisites: Successful completion of the first-year Honors Physics or AP Physics-1 course. Students who take AP Physics-2 are recommended to take Calculus concurrently. At a minimum, they should have demonstrated success in mathematics at the Precalculus level.***

## **LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE – A DEEP HISTORY**

**Grades 11, 12**

**37141 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**5 credits**

This course is intended to help students understand the deep history of matter and the evolution of life over cosmic time (beginning with the Hot Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago). In the first semester on *Life's Physical Origins – from Atoms to Archaea*, students will consider the emergence of galaxies, stars, planets, the elements, molecules, organic molecules, and the first single-celled life forms. In the second semester on *The Evolution of Life – from Microbes to Mankind*, students will consider the Earth's deep history, the diversity of cell types on Earth, the genetic code, Darwinian evolution, evolutionary processes within ecosystems, and the prospects for life elsewhere in the Universe. Along the way, they will learn important aspects of astronomy, physics, chemistry, geology, and biology. Students will carry out and document a variety of learning activities that will be assessed.

***Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry.***

**AP BIOLOGY**  
**37023 Full Year – Advanced Placement**

**Grades 11, 12**  
**5 credits**

The Advanced Placement Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college level biology course usually taken by biology majors during their freshman year. This course will cover the following topics in great depth: organic chemistry, cellular structure and function, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, mechanics of cell division, genetics, DNA and protein synthesis, evolution, structure and function of plant and animal systems, and ecology. Laboratory exercises and research projects are an integral part of this course. *All students who take this AP course must follow the approved AP curriculum and are expected to take the College Board AP exam in May. Any student who does not take the AP exam or follow the approved curriculum will lose the AP credit at the end of the year.*

***Prerequisites: Students must have maintained at least a B average or higher in the following classes: Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, and Honors Anatomy & Physiology or Physics.***

## **WELLNESS: HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The Department of Health and Physical Education has primary responsibility to support and assess the development of the learning expectations as stated in our Statement of Core Values, Beliefs and Expectations. Educating and preparing our students to effectively use leisure time, and to be physically, socially, and emotionally well are the major goals of the Physical Education/Health Department. Students will experience the concept of wellness through classroom health education and physical education activities. Students will demonstrate the knowledge, attitude and behaviors necessary for overall wellness.

*All Students are required to take Wellness: Health & Physical Education.*

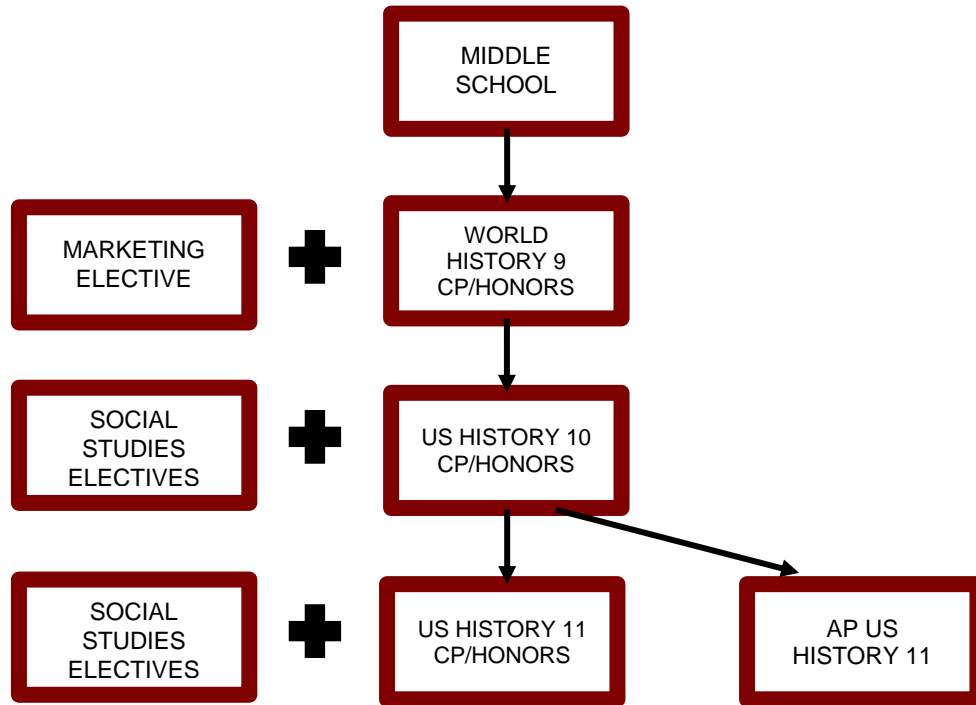
**WELLNESS: HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION**  
**36001 Semester – No Level**

**Grades 9-12**  
**2.50 credits**

The focus of the wellness course is to promote the development of lifestyle habits, skills and attitudes necessary to incorporate the seven dimensions of the Wellness Model: emotional, intellectual, physical, social, environmental, financial and spiritual. The curriculum is designed to facilitate the development and maintenance of fitness and wellness as well as promote honesty, integrity and good sportsmanship in a variety of cooperative and competitive situations. Emphasis on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) competencies and self-advocacy skills are embedded into the wellness curriculum. Students in will have the opportunity to participate in fitness activities and acquire knowledge to maintain lifetime fitness. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about: nutrition, stress management, growth & development and consumer science. Wellness classes are student centered and tailored to the unique needs and abilities of both student and cohort.

# SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

## SOCIAL STUDIES PATHWAYS



### ***Social Studies Electives include the following:***

Around the World in 90 days, We the People, History of Cape Ann, Investigate! World History, Investigate! US History, Justice & Law, Psychology, US History Through Film, World History Through Film, Facing History & Ourselves, Accounting, Economics, Finance, Marketing, AP European History, & Current Events

*(SEE COURSE CATALOG FOR PRE-REQUISITES)*

**WORLD HISTORY (800-1900)**  
**34011 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grade 9**  
**5 credits**

This course will examine human history and the development of ideas from the Middle Ages to the early 20th century. Political, economic, and social change over these centuries will be discussed, with a focus on the patterns of interaction that created the global 21st century world. Topics will include, the Middle Ages, causes and consequences of the Renaissance and Reformation, the Age of Exploration and Discovery, the Enlightenment and Age of Revolutions, Industrialization, Imperialism, and the world wars. College and Career Preparatory courses offer a generalized approach to grade-level standards by building on students' prior knowledge and skills with engaging, relevant curriculum.

**WORLD HISTORY (800-1900) Honors**  
**34012 Full Year – Honors**

**Grade 9**  
**5 credits**

This course will examine human history and the development of ideas from the Middle Ages to the early 20th century. Political, economic, and social change over these centuries will be discussed, with a focus on the patterns of interaction that created the global 21st century world. Topics will include, the Middle Ages, causes and consequences of the Renaissance and Reformation, the Age of Exploration and Discovery, the Enlightenment and Age of Revolutions, Industrialization, Imperialism, and the world wars. **Honors courses** offer intensive, specialized study of a subject area and typically require extensive reading outside of class, intensive application and time constraints, analytical, abstract, and creative thinking, study to a greater depth of understanding, and considerable self-motivation and responsibility.

**U.S. HISTORY I**  
**34021 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grade 10**  
**5 credits**

This course will use a thematic approach to examine the development of the colonies, the struggle for independence, through the development and growth of the nation, to the Civil War and Reconstruction years that followed. The class will also cover the turn of the century and the events that led the US into WWI. Students will discuss these events through major themes in history that are still questioned to this day. The students will deepen their understanding of these major themes and work on their ability to answer difficult historical questions. College and Career Preparatory courses offer a generalized approach to grade-level standards by building on students' prior knowledge and skills with engaging, relevant curriculum.

*National History Day is a requirement at this level*

**U.S. HISTORY I Honors**  
**34022 Full Year – Honors**

**Grade 10**  
**5 credits**



This course will use a thematic approach to examine the development of the colonies, the struggle for independence, through the development and growth of the nation, to the Civil War and Reconstruction years that followed. The class will also cover the turn of the century and the events that led the US into WWI. Students will discuss these events through major themes in history that are still questioned to this day. The students will deepen their understanding of these major themes and work on their ability to answer difficult historical questions. Honors courses offer intensive, specialized study of a subject area and typically require extensive reading outside of class, intensive application and time constraints, analytical, abstract, and creative thinking, study to a greater depth of understanding, and considerable self-motivation and responsibility.

*National History Day is a requirement at this level*

**U.S. HISTORY II (1920-Present)  
34031 Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**Grade 11  
5 credits**

In order to emphasize continuity and change, this course will use a thematic approach to investigate significant topics and events in modern US History. Economic and social upheavals, the evolving role of government, domestic and foreign policy, and the impact of technology in the modern world are among the themes that will be examined. To anchor their chronological understanding of history, students are expected to know the dates of specific events. An emphasis will also be placed on the democratic system and the rights and responsibilities of US citizens. College and Career Preparatory courses offer a generalized approach to grade-level standards by building on students' prior knowledge and skills with engaging, relevant curriculum.

A research project is required at this level.

**U.S. HISTORY II (1920-Present) Honors  
34032 Full Year – Honors**

**Grade 11  
5 credits**

In order to emphasize continuity and change, this course will use a thematic approach to investigate significant topics and events in modern US History. Economic and social upheavals, the evolving role of government, domestic and foreign policy, and the impact of technology in the modern world are among the themes that will be examined. To anchor their chronological understanding of history, students are expected to know the dates of specific events. An emphasis will also be placed on the democratic system and the rights and responsibilities of US citizens. Honors courses offer intensive, specialized study of a subject area and typically require extensive reading outside of class, intensive application and time constraints, analytical, abstract, and creative thinking, study to a greater depth of understanding, and considerable self-motivation and responsibility.

A semester-long research project in conjunction with *National History Day* is a requirement at this level.

**AP U.S. HISTORY  
34043 Full Year – Advanced Placement**

**Grade 11  
5 credits**

The purpose of this course is for students to study history at an advanced level as well as to prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam taken in the spring. The pace of this course will be stimulating and demanding. Students will study themes in United States history from the colonial era through the present day. These themes include Intellectual/Cultural history, Political/Diplomatic history, and Social/Economic history. Essay writing, which will include change-over-time and document based essay questions, will be required. Students will be expected to take the Advanced Placement National Exam in May.

*This course also fulfills the U.S. History II Requirement*

## **SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES**

### **AROUND THE WORLD IN 90 DAYS**

**Grades 10-12**

**34131 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

This course is an in depth tour of selected countries in the world. The focus is on the country's culture, history and geography. Topics to be included and countries to be studied may vary from semester to semester. International events will influence actual selection of countries. Cultural celebrations, computer research, maps, text, printed materials and videos will be some sources of information.

### **WE THE PEOPLE**

**Grades 10-12**

**34231 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

This course will examine the origins and practices of American government and its political institutions. Students will conduct a thorough examination of the three branches of our federal government, as well as government operations at the state and local levels. Constitutional history, political values and behaviors as well as the development and understanding of our civil rights and liberties will be discussed.

### **HISTORY OF CAPE ANN 1600-1900**

**Grades 10-12**

**34181 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 credits**

In this course, students will investigate the history that surrounds us. Topics will include the first settlements, the development of maritime, fishing, and granite industries, the capture of British ships by local privateers, and the Cape Ann art school. Students will be actively involved in exploring our surroundings and deciphering primary source materials. Reading and fieldwork outside of class will be required, and students will prepare a final presentation on a topic of interest.

### **CURRENT EVENTS**

**Grades 10-12**

**34191 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 Credits**

This course will help students gain a better understanding of the most important issues facing the world community today. What keeps the president and other world leaders up at night? What are the major conflicts? How did they come about? What is being done to solve them? Students will be expected to read information independently and to use the information to participate in discussions and debates. Students will also be expected to write essays, conduct some independent research, and present what they have learned. This is a fast-paced course, which requires active student involvement.

**INVESTIGATE! WORLD HISTORY**  
**34151 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 10-12**  
**2.5 Credits**

Challenge and test primary and secondary sources to come up with your own answers to questions such as: What killed Cleopatra? Who was the richest person ever? It's up to you to decide. Put yourself in the role of historical figures and make decisions as they did—without knowing the outcome—to develop important skills and empathy. Rather than memorizing historical facts, you will identify and assess the credibility of differing perspectives on subjects ranging from ancient to modern world history. You will formulate and articulate your own historical claims backed by documentary evidence and make decisions based on experience, ethical thinking, and assessment of consequences. Activities will include reflective writing, decision making exercises, and discussion.

**INVESTIGATE! U.S. HISTORY**  
**34171 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 10-12**  
**2.5 Credits**

Challenge and test primary and secondary sources to come up with your own answers to questions such as: How does one person's story contribute to the larger narrative of United States history? What can passenger lists tell us about the settlers of the New World? Were the Irish considered "white" in the 19<sup>th</sup> century? It's up to you to decide. Rather than memorizing historical facts, you will identify and assess the credibility of differing perspectives on subjects ranging from personal identity to immigration. You will formulate and articulate your own historical claims backed by documentary evidence. Activities will include reflective writing, discussion, and a genealogy project.

**JUSTICE AND LAW**  
**34051 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 10-12**  
**2.5 credits**

This course is designed to acquaint students with the American legal and justice system. Students will study and analyze cases, legal issues and legislation that impact individuals and society. Topics to be included are criminal law, Constitutional law, and the criminal justice process. The emphasis of the course is on the relationship between the citizen and the legal process. This class is strongly recommended for juniors and seniors.

**PSYCHOLOGY****Grades 10-12****34061 Semester – College & Career Prep****2.5 credits**

This course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the basic principles of human behavior and experience based on scientific fact. The student will see how the learning of psychology can be applied in a wide variety of social situations and become a useful tool in understanding human beings as individuals. A variety of themes related to the Psychology discipline will give students broad exposure to this field.

**U.S. HISTORY THROUGH FILM****Grades 10-12****34201 Semester – College & Career Prep****2.5 Credits**

Students will study American History through the use of various films. This will be done by viewing, writing, and discussing the accuracy of the films vs. their true historical counterparts. Students will study the historiography of America from its founding to the present day with a heavy focus on war times and eras of human struggle (time depending). They will delve deep into the history behind the films and discuss the major themes shown. The idea behind the class is not only to educate the students on the history presented but to teach them how to be critical film watchers, learn to research properly, and detect historical bias or inaccuracies.

**WORLD HISTORY THROUGH FILM****Grades 10-12****34211 Semester – College & Career Prep****2.5 Credits**

Students will study World History through the use of various films. This will be done by viewing, writing, and discussing the accuracy of the films vs. their true historical counterparts. Students will study the historiography of World History by highlighting repeating themes, wars, and moments of human struggle. The students will be able to decide what eras or countries they would like to cover in this class. They will delve deep into the history behind the films and discuss the major themes shown. The idea behind the class is not only to educate the students on the history presented but to teach them how to be critical film watchers, learn to research properly, and detect historical bias or inaccuracies.

**FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES****Grades 10-12****34221 Semester – College & Career Prep****2.5 Credits**

In order to promote greater awareness of the social issues students will face in today's world, this course will examine bias, racism, and prejudice in a historical context. Through the study of religious intolerance, genocide, and the Holocaust, students will increase their ability to relate history to their own lives and will gain a deeper understanding of their roles and responsibilities in a democracy. While students will learn facts and background surrounding specific events in history, they will also be asked to examine the psychological motivations of the individual and of the group and the ethical implications of their actions. This class is recommended for grades 10 and above.

**AP EUROPEAN HISTORY**  
**34123 Full year – Advanced Placement**

**Grade 11/12**  
**5 credits**

The purpose of this course is for students to study history at an advanced level as well as to prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam taken in the spring. The pace of this course will be stimulating and demanding. Students will study themes in Modern European history from the Renaissance through present day. These themes include Intellectual/Cultural history, Political/Diplomatic history, and Social/Economic history. Essay writing, which will include change-over-time and document based essay questions, will be required. Students will be expected to take the National Advanced Placement exam in May.

**ACCOUNTING**  
**38001 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 10-12**  
**2.5 credits**

Students in this class will learn accounting principles and practices relating to sole proprietorships and partnerships. Each type of business will be presented in a complete accounting cycle covering: analyzing transactions, journalizing, posting, payroll, petty cash, financial statements, and adjusting and closing entries.

**ECONOMICS**  
**34241 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 10-12**  
**2.5 Credits**

Students will learn about the tasks involved with the financial operations of a business. Skills that will be covered include performing rudimentary accounting skills, creating balance sheets, financial statements and analyzing corporate models. In addition we will be doing case studies of some of major US corporations as well as looking to local business leaders for guest speaking roles in our class. Course can meet either social studies elective or math requirement.

**FINANCE**  
**38031 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 10-12**  
**2.5 credits**

This course covers the needed skills for managing an individual's financial well-being. It is a practical life-skills course. Areas to be covered include investments, insurance plans, banking, credit, retirement planning, and housing. All class members will assist in running the Viking Corner Store, the RHS school store operation (as needed). Class membership entitles the student to be part of the DECA program at RHS. Course can meet either social studies elective or math requirement.

**MARKETING**  
**38021 Semester – College & Career Prep**

**Grades 9-12**  
**2.5 credits**

This course will introduce students to marketing principles and will develop marketing skills. Product and service planning, marketing information management, financing and distribution will be studied. Students will also learn about target markets, market research, and marketing strategy. Students will also contrast the ways that marketing is used in the United States and other areas of the world. This course is for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Class membership entitles student to be part of the DECA program at RHS.

## **GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT**

The Guidance Department supports and assesses the development of the learning expectations as stated in our Statement of Core Values Beliefs and Expectations.

Alternative studies options exist in order to facilitate the transition from school to work or from school to college. They also exist in order to allow programming flexibility for students whose talents and interests allow them to take advantage of opportunities for extending their education outside of the walls of the classroom or RHS.

### **DUAL ENROLLMENT**

**Semester – AP**

**5 credits**

The Commonwealth **Dual Enrollment** Partnership (CDEP) provides opportunities for high school students to take college-level courses free of charge and simultaneously earn AP credit toward high school completion as well as their future college degrees through a discretionary state grant program. Please see the Guidance Department for further information on this opportunity.

### **INDEPENDENT STUDY**

**Semester or Full Year – College & Career Prep/Honors**

**2.5 or 5 credits**

Independent studies are developed at the initiative of an individual student who wishes to investigate a topic independently, especially if a need cannot be met within the regular curriculum. Such a course requires consultation with a teacher who is willing to supervise the work and permission of a Guidance Counselor. Independent Studies are either Pass/Fail or numerically graded.

### **INTERNSHIP/WORK STUDY PROGRAM**

**Semester or Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**vary 2.5 to 10 credits**

Senior students who are academically successful and exhibit good attendance, behavior and attitude may apply for an internship and/or work study. Internships and Work Study provide students with the opportunity to be exposed to the world of work and strengthen the skills they will need to be successful for future employment. Students wishing to pursue an internship or work study placement need to present a plan to their Guidance Counselor and fill out the appropriate paperwork. Employment, whether paid or voluntary, must be related to a possible career/college major interest. The Guidance Department will monitor the students' activities by coordinating with the job site supervisor and reviewing the paperwork. Internships and work study are graded on a Pass/Fail basis. The Guidance Department and the Principal must approve all paperwork.

## SERVICE STUDY

**Semester or Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 or 5 credits**

The Service Study program is a “for credit” service program designed to benefit the student, school and community. It is open to students who wish to provide volunteer service to the school or community on an ongoing and regular basis. A service study cannot take the place of core academic classes. The student’s individual program is arranged and monitored through the Guidance Office. Students have made special service contributions by volunteering as office, lab, library, elementary/middle school helpers and athletic assistants. Continued participation in service study is dependent upon the student passing all current courses. Service Studies are graded on a Pass/Fail basis. *Service study activity does not count toward the fulfillment of the Community Service requirement.*

## STUDENT-CENTERED PLC

**Semester or Full Year – College & Career Prep**

**2.5 or 5 credits**

The Student-Centered Professional Learning Community (PLC) option allows senior students to focus on a specific subject area or topic of interest at a deeper level. Students are required to submit proposals through the Guidance Office; both their Guidance Counselor and Principal must approve all proposals. Potential areas of focus may include: research on a global issue, preparation for an exhibition project, student-driven initiatives to enhance our school community or AP study groups to allow students to broaden their exposure to complex subjects. Students are required to submit a final paper or presentation to support their time on learning.

## STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

**Semester or Full Year – College & Career Prep/Honors**

**2.5 or 5 credits**

In this course students will work 1:1 with a chosen teacher in order to further study the teacher’s subject area and/or help the teacher improve the instruction of the class. This course is especially designed to help students make determinations about their future college/career path. Students will complete approved performance tasks such as, but not limited to, the delivery of a created mini-lesson, an advanced writing piece/project, a research paper/project on a relevant issue within the field of education, etc. The primary goal of this course is for students to further study a specific academic discipline of their choosing and/or for students to begin developing their teaching style and philosophy for a potential career within field of education.



## **ONLINE COURSES**

**Semester or Full Year – College & Career Prep /Honors/AP**

**2.5 or 5 credits**

Online courses offered by VHS Learning and Educere are available to students at all grade levels. There are numerous courses available under many academic disciplines. The courses are offered to help expand the student's choice of electives. Students who work well independently and have strong computer skills are good candidates for online classes. Students and parents/guardians who are interested in learning about online education should contact the Guidance Department.

All students interested in taking an online course need to get approval from their Guidance Counselor. There are limited semester seats available annually. Online courses are on a first-come, first-served basis, prioritized by graduation year and need. Additional courses (enrichment and or credit recovery) may need to be paid by the student.