



McKeesport Area High School and Technology Center

**COURSE  
DESCRIPTIONS  
AND  
GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS**



**2020 - 2021**

## **FOREWARD**

This program of studies has been prepared to meet the diversified needs, aptitudes, and interests of the high school students in the McKeesport Area School District.

As a matter of policy, all courses are open to both males and females. It should also be noted that in the area of elective courses, a minimum of fifteen (15) students must register for a course before that course will be scheduled.

Parents are invited to consult with the counselor concerning the student's particular choice of courses. Programs should be planned and selected in view of student's future career plans

## WELCOME

This course description and graduation requirement booklet is a valuable catalog of courses which will establish the foundation for your future career. Whether college bound, intent on a trade school program or eager to join a manual labor workforce, there are courses of study listed here which will provide the essential skills you will need to pursue your life goals.

Be sure to discuss with your parents and counselors the career and future plans that you are pondering. There is extensive career information available in the guidance office. Be sure to study the materials stored there as you begin to navigate your career path.

More importantly, be sure to keep a record of your academic accomplishments. Use the tally sheet on the following page to record what courses you have taken and those you need to schedule in order to fulfill your graduation requirements. Save your report cards as a record that validates your anticipated graduation.



# **McKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Dr. Mark P. Holtzman, Superintendent**  
**Dr. Tia M. Wanzo, Assistant Superintendent**



**Dr. Mark P. Holtzman, Director of Career & Technical Education**



**Mr. Dale McCall, Head Principal**  
**Ms. Marcie Barry, Associate Principal**  
**Mr. Charley Kiss, Athletic Director**  
**Mr. Mark Jeney, Dean of Students**  
**Mr. Tim Brown, School Environment Coordinator**



**Mrs. Renee Amendola, Guidance Counselor**  
**Mrs. Sherri Geyer, Guidance Counselor**  
**Mrs. Nicole Mallory, Guidance Counselor**

## McKeesport Area School District Mission Statement and Goals

### MISSION STATEMENT

The McKeesport Area School District is a community working together to provide an excellent education for all students.

### GOALS

#### **For Our Students:**

1. Demonstration of reading, writing, mathematics and speaking skills.
2. Knowledge of work ethics, social skills, cultural differences and problem solving.
3. Awareness of global competition, of cooperation and of technology.
4. Exploration of art, music, physical education, theatre and dance.
5. Respect for self, others and property.
6. Development of individuality.
7. Creative thinking and alternative ways of doing tasks.
8. Preparation to enter the job market and a desire to work.
9. Ability to create opportunities for self and for the community.

#### **For Our District:**

1. A curriculum based on the belief that learning is continuous, whether formal or informal.
2. A curriculum that allows students to develop their individual talents and interests.
3. A curriculum committed to the acquisition of skills and knowledge necessary to function in society.
4. A focus on current and evolving technology.
5. Equitable distribution of district resources.
6. A committed, motivated and nurturing staff.

#### **For Our Community:**

1. Involvement, personally and financially.
2. Support the district and its programs.
3. Input on the changes expected of our educational system.
4. Ownership and responsibility for our school.
5. A willingness to share services and knowledge that would benefit our students.
6. Commitment to the youth of our community and their education.

## SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES

School counselors are available to provide academic counseling, career counseling and personal counseling for all students.

***Academic counseling*** relates to the selection of courses appropriate to the student's needs, abilities and interests. The counselors are able to offer their assistance if a student encounters difficulty with a course. Techniques in effective studying can also be presented to the students.

***Career counseling*** refers to the discussion of various careers in which students may have an interest and an aptitude. Since there are over 30,000 different types of occupations in the United States from which to choose, students need to define their goals in order to select a career path in which they will experience success. The counselors can inform students of their strengths by interpreting aptitude and career interest tests for them. Once a career path has been chosen, the counselors can assist students in selecting the college, technical / trade school, business school or other avenues that will provide necessary training.

***Personal counseling*** is available whenever students encounter personal problems preventing them from doing their best work in school. The counselors are trained to deal effectively and confidentially with issues or concerns that confront students during their high school years.

***College/Academic Resources and Counseling*** is available in order to evaluate and select a college, university, trade and business school for continued study leading to degree and certification achievement. The guidance resource center offers materials and computer access to colleges world-wide. College applications as well as SAT and ACT applications can also be completed and submitted from the guidance suite. Students, particularly juniors and seniors, are encouraged to explore these extensive resources and materials which are readily available.

## SCHEDULING/COURSE ADJUSTMENTS

In selecting courses, students should give serious thought to such matters as prior success and failures, prerequisites and special interest. These should be firm decisions, thoughtfully made after careful consultation with parents, teachers and counselors. Since all changes involving course selection create budgetary, scheduling and staffing difficulties, they should be made only when necessary, and prior to the opening of school. With limited exceptions, new classes may not be added after the opening of school.

Exceptions may include:

1. Replacing a course already passed in regular or summer school.
2. Adding credits needed for graduation.
3. Adjusting schedules for students.
4. Adding credits through MASD Cyber program.

## COURSE WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

Students may withdraw from a course in the **first 10 days** with no grade, provided they would still be scheduled for the minimum number of credits (7). Students dropping a class would be placed in a study hall. Students may not add a class to replace the class dropped from the schedule. Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of class may do so only with a written request from a parent and with the approval of the student's counselor and principal. Students withdrawing from a course do so with the understanding that they will fail the course that they will receive "0" grades for the remaining grading periods. The "0" will be included in the determination of the final average of the course. The final average of the course will be included in the determination of the student's overall average (GPA). The "0" as average into the GPA most often has a serious detrimental impact on the student GPA.

## Technology Schedule Changes

1. As in the past, students may drop or change shops, depending upon availability, **during the first 10 school days**. Students are to see a counselor for changes.
2. After the first 10 school days, there will **not** be any changes to drop or change Technology Center courses until the end of the semester.
3. At the end of the semester, students may change or drop Technology Center courses with written permission from the teacher, parents and Director of Career & Technical Education. If changing from one technical course to another technical course, a student must have written permission from both teachers and parent prior to requesting permission from the Director. After the student has written permission, the student will be sent to a counselor for a schedule change.

**Students must select a total of 7 credits when scheduling. (8 periods)**

(Seniors may be exempt after discussion with counselor)

## MANDATORY ADDITIONAL COURSES

It has been approved by the McKeesport Area Board of School Directors that a student may be assigned to additional courses, based upon a student's performance on the Keystone Exam and grade level Reading Tests. These placements reflect the efforts by McKeesport Area School District to ensure that all students graduate with academic skills necessary for adult life and continued education.

## SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCES

### COLLEGE PREP

Students preparing to go to a four year college are faced with a variety of entrance requirements; therefore, it is advantageous to prepare for the most demanding standards. Entrance requirements for particular majors should be reviewed with guidance counselors. MINIMUM preparation for college includes four (4) credits of English, three (3) credits of Social Studies, three (3) credits of Lab Sciences and three (3) credits of Mathematics, including Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry, as well as three (3) credits for the same Foreign Language.

Please see individual course descriptions for specific courses in each discipline.

NINTH GRADE	English 9/Honors English 9/Pre AP English 9 American Cultures/Honors American Cultures Physical Science/Honors Physical Science Algebra 1/Plane Geometry World Language Swimming* and Health (1.5) Electives
TENTH GRADE	English 10/Honors English 10/Pre AP English 10 World Cultures/Honors World Cultures Biology 1 Lab/Honors Biology 1 Lab Plane Geometry/Algebra 2 World Language Phys. Ed. (2) Electives
ELEVENTH GRADE:	English 11/Honors English 11/AP Language and Composition Government/Honors Government/AP Government and Politics Chemistry 1 Lab/Honors Chemistry 1 Lab Algebra 2/Pre-Calculus/Personal & Business Finance/Analytical Geometry/ Probability & Statistics World Language Phys. Ed. (2) Electives
TWELFTH GRADE:	English 12/Honors English 12/AP Literature and Composition Physics 1 Lab/Other Science Pre-Calculus/Calculus/Probability & Statistics World Language (4) Electives

**\*No AP or Core classes can be taken as a pass/fail credit or as independent study.**

## TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Students preparing to participate in the Technical Programs should follow a course of studies that will prepare them for their chosen career area. Applied courses that complement the technical courses are strongly recommended. Students should meet with their technical teachers and school counselors to determine the best preparation course. A suggested sequence would include:

**TENTH GRADE:** English 10  
World Cultures  
Geometry/Biology  
Technical Courses (3 credits)  
Phys. Ed.

**ELEVENTH GRADE:** English 11  
Government  
Algebra 2/Personal Business Math/Chemistry  
Technical Courses (3 credits)  
Phys. Ed.

**TWELFTH GRADE:** English 12  
Geometry/Algebra 2/Personal Business Math  
Science  
Technical Course/Co-op (3 credits)  
Phys. Ed.

Students may enroll in Honors/Pre-AP/AP Courses if requirements are met

## ACADEMIC GUIDELINES

### CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

**FRESHMAN** (9<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Satisfactory completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**SOPHOMORE** (10<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Completion of 6 credits

**JUNIOR** (11<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Completion of 12 credits

**SENIOR** (12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Completion of 19 credits

Graduation requirements include 4 semesters of PE (including swimming) and 1 semester of health and successful completion of Keystone requirements.

### GRADING SCALE

General Courses	
A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	59 - below

### ADVANCED COURSES

MAHS students are offered opportunities to enroll in advanced courses. For these courses a special 110 weighted grade is used. These courses include AP Language and Composition, AP Literature and Composition, AP Government and Politics, AP United States History, AP European History, AP Psychology, AP Environmental Science, AP Biology/Lab, AP Chemistry/Lab, Physics 2/Lab, French IV, German IV, Spanish IV and Calculus. The calculus course is taught in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh and may be taken for college credit. Pre-AP English 9, Pre-AP English 10 and all Honors Courses (except Honors English 9 and Honors English 10) are 105 weighted courses.

No AP course may be taken as a pass/fail credit or as an independent study

**Note: Pre-AP and AP students scoring 70% or below do not receive a weighted grade. All weighted courses follow a standard grade conversion chart.**

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAMS**

### **About the Advanced Placement (AP) Program**

The AP Program gives you a chance to experience college-level classes in high school and opens the door to earning college credit before you ever set foot on campus. You'll get to dig deeper into subjects you love while building the skills and confidence you need to succeed in college.

Our school offers AP courses in English, Math, History, Science and World Language, each of which culminates in an optional exam in May. If you score a 3 or higher (on a scale of 1-5), you could earn college credit, skip intro-level courses, or both at thousands of U.S. colleges and universities. Earning credit in High school means paying for fewer credits in college. It also opens up your schedule, allowing you to take more electives, pursue a second major, or study abroad.

Regardless of your AP Exam score, taking AP courses can have a positive impact on your college applications. Admissions officers know college faculty play a big role in developing AP courses, so they know students who took AP pushed themselves to take challenging, college-level courses. This is something colleges like to see.

Take some time to look through the AP courses we offer. See if any interest you. By taking these courses, you can find out what college work is like while you have the support of teachers you trust in an environment you know.

### **New AP Exam Registration Process**

Starting at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, you'll will be asked in the fall to register for AP Exams. The exams will still take place in May.

# CREDIT COUNT WORKSHEET

26 Credits needed to Graduate

**ENGLISH (4.0 CREDITS)**

<b>English 9</b>	<b>English 10</b>	<b>English 11</b>	<b>English 12</b>
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**MATH (3.0 CREDITS)**

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**SOCIAL STUDIES (3.0 CREDITS)**

<b>American Cultures</b>	<b>World Cultures</b>	<b>Government</b>
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**SCIENCE (3.0 CREDITS)**

<b>Physical Science</b>	<b>Biology</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>
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**ELECTIVES (10.5 CREDITS)**


**Proficiency on the Keystone Exams is required for graduation. Students not demonstrating proficiency may be required to complete a project or series of projects in Literature, Algebra and/or Biology based upon Keystone Exam results.**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**

THREE SESSIONS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION (.50 EACH)	1.50 Credits
ONE SWIMMING SESSION (.50 CREDIT)	.50 Credit
ONE HEALTH SESSION (.50 CREDIT)	.50 Credit
<b>Total PHYSICAL EDUCATION Credits</b>	<b>2.50 CREDITS</b>

**PHYS. ED 1** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHYS. ED 2** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHYS. ED 3** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SWIMMING** \_\_\_\_\_  
**HEALTH** \_\_\_\_\_

**SENIOR PROJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **0.0 cr**

Students must test out of swimming during the 8<sup>th</sup> grade scheduled “test out” day in order to be excused from the Swimming requirement.

# McKEESPORT AREA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PLAN

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Weighted QPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits for Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

McKeesport Area High School Code: 392485

English (4.0 credits required)	9	10	11	12	Credits needed:
Math (3.0 credits required)	9	10	11	12	Credits needed:
Social Studies (3.0 credits required)	9	10	11	12	Credits needed:
Science (3.0 credits required)	9	10	11	12	Credits needed:
Electives (10.5 credits required)	9	10	11	12	Credits needed:
Phys. Ed. (1.5 credits required)	9	10	11	12	Credits needed:
Swimming (.5 credits required)	9	10	11	12	Credits needed:
Health (.5 credits required)	9	10	11	12	Credits needed:

Keystone Proficiency or Alternative Class Assessment					Literature, Algebra, Biology
Senior Project (required-no credit)	9	10	11	12	

Tech Area: \_\_\_\_\_

## CREDIT STATUS

TOTAL CREDITS EARNED: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED: \_\_\_\_\_

## PLANS AFTER GRADUATION

College      SCHOOL ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_ MAJOR: \_\_\_\_\_

Technical    SCHOOL ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_ FIELD: \_\_\_\_\_

Military     BRANCH: \_\_\_\_\_

Work

School Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

### GRADING PERIOD HONOR ROLL GUIDELINES

Every grade in all credited courses must be **80** or higher.

Physical education grades must be **80** or higher.

Health grades must be **80** or higher.

Students with “Incomplete” grades cannot be listed on the honor roll until all grades meet criteria.

### YEARLY HONOR ROLL GUIDELINES

All grades, excluding the final grading period, will be used.

For credited courses, each course for the first three nine weeks must average **80** or higher.

For all courses grades **Pass/Fail**, all grades must be a **Pass**.

Incomplete grades must have been made up within the allotted time (three weeks from the end of grading period).

### ON-LINE COURSES

MASD On-Line Learning procedures and guidelines.

- Must be pre-approved by principal.
- Maximum of 2 credits can be taken for enrichment or recovery through MASD On-Line Learning program in addition to regular Programming.
- Grades are reported in QPA and class rank.
- **An On-Line course cannot be taken if that specific course can fit into a student’s schedule.**

The application and interview process to be enrolled in MASD On-Line Learning Program begins with the grade level counselor. Students must maintain a 7 credit schedule.

### PASS/FAIL GRADES

A student in grades 10, 11 and 12 may elect to take one credit per year for a pass/fail grade in any elective course that is not in a major area of interest. For example, an academic student may not take pass/fail for any graduation requirement. **NO AP elective credit may be taken as a pass/fail grade.** The student must inform the teacher prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> class day if he/she wishes to exercise the pass/fail option. A signed agreement will then be placed in the student's permanent record. Once the option has been selected, the decision may not be changed, and the system will remain in effect until the course ends. Although successful completion of the course will result in credit toward graduation, the passing grade in the pass/fail system will not be included in the determination of class rank. However, a failing grade in a pass/fail course will be included when determining a student's grade point average and also his/her class rank. The teacher will determine the numerical value of the failing grade. Students who decide to withdraw from a pass/fail course will receive a failing grade.

### INDEPENDENT STUDY

A student may take one-credit of independent study per year with the approval of his/her grade level principal and the participating teacher. **All independent study courses are graded pass/fail. NO AP elective credit may be taken as a pass/fail course.** The agreement must be entered into no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the selected course. Although successful completion of the course will result in credit towards graduation the passing grade in the pass/fail system will not be included in the determination of class rank. However, a failing grade in an independent study course will be included when determining a student's grade point average and also his/her class rank. Students who decide to withdraw from a pass/fail course will receive a failing grade.

### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Students at McKeesport Area High School have an opportunity to become members of the MAHS Chapter of the National Honor Society. Membership in the National Honor Society is based upon excellence in four areas: scholarship, leadership, service and character. Students can become members during the spring semester of their sophomore or junior year. To be eligible in their sophomore year, a student must have a minimum cumulative average of 93.00, which is based upon grades earned during their freshman year and first semester of their sophomore year. For juniors, the minimum cumulative average is 90.00 and is based upon grades earned during their freshman and sophomore years and first semester of their junior year. In accordance with the National Honor Society Charter (as established by the National Association of Secondary School Principals – National Council) students **MUST** demonstrate –

**IN ADDITION TO THE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS – the qualities of LEADERSHIP, SERVICE and CHARACTER.** Leadership is based on participation in school community projects. Service is determined by volunteer activity in both the school and community. Character is measured in terms of integrity, behavior, ethics and cooperation with both students and faculty. Students who meet the academic requirements for membership are invited to submit an application which requests information about the other three National Honor Society criteria. A faculty selection committee meets to review the applications and offer membership to qualified individuals. The McKeesport Area High School NHS Chapter is a service organization.

**BY ACCEPTING NHS MEMBERSHIP, THE STUDENT AGREES TO PERFORM TEN HOURS OF NHS SPONSORED COMMUNITY SERVICE EACH SEMESTER. THIS SERVICE REQUIREMENT IS ABOVE AND BEYOND ANY SERVICE LEARNING REQUIREMENTS.**

## GRADUATION INFORMATION

### REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Graduation from McKeesport Area High School requires satisfactory completion of at least 26 credits. Any subject that meets three periods daily for the entire year will grant one credit. Any subject that meets two periods daily for the entire year will grant three credits (technical). Any subject that meets daily for one semester will grant one-half credit. The minimum of 26 credits will be distributed as follows:

English	4.0
Science	3.0
Mathematics	3.0
Social Studies	3.0
Health and Physical Ed.	2.5
Electives ( <i>school district approved</i> )	10.5

**Seniors:** All seniors are expected to complete a career oriented senior project.

### CLASS RANK

The first ranking for students takes into account all subjects taken in grades 9, 10 and 11. Final rankings are determined at the conclusion of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students are ranked according to the student's overall numerical average carried out to three decimal places. Physical Education is not considered in the determination of a student's numerical average, and therefore, grades in those subjects do not affect class rank. Courses taken pass/fail by the student are considered as follows:

- Pass grades in a pass/fail course are not used in determining the numerical average.
- Should a student fail in a pass/fail course, the teacher will convert that failure to a numerical grade, and it will be considered in the numerical average and the class rank.
- Grades in an independent study course are recorded pass/fail and therefore as mentioned above are not used in determining the numerical average in class rank.

**VALEDICTORIAN – SALUTATORIAN**

The highest ranking student in the Senior Class will be honored as valedictorian. All grades from all subjects which are scheduled for five or more periods a week in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be used. The valedictorian will be the student who has the highest numerical average carried out to three decimal places. The student with the second highest numerical average will be honored as the class salutatorian. The procedure mentioned above will be followed. A student must be enrolled at MAHS for at least 4 semesters to be considered for these positions.

**GRADUATION HONORS**

Honors at graduation will be determined by the grades earned in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and the first semester of 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Graduation honors are as follows:

- 93 average and above.....Highest Honors (gold cords)
- 88 – 92.99.....High Honors (silver cords)
- 81 – 87.999.....Honors (white cords)

**HONORS DIPLOMA**

**\*\*For the class of 2021 and beyond, to receive the Honors Diploma, students must maintain a 93.000 cumulative grade point average. The rest of the requirements will stay the same.**

- Maintain a 93.000 cumulative grade point average.
- Earn an Advanced or Proficient rating on at least two of the three Keystone Exams (Literature, Algebra or Biology)
- Successfully complete at least three AP courses (Level 110)
- Successfully complete four years of mathematics including at least Pre-Calculus or Calculus.
- Successfully complete four years of Science and/or Social Studies with at least one course being honors or AP.
- Successfully complete all graduation requirements.
- Attendance and discipline requirements as determined by administration.
- Students must pick up and complete an honors diploma application from the guidance office.

## ENGLISH

### ENGLISH SEQUENCE TO GRADUATION

	<u>Mandatory</u>	<u>Electives</u>
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	English 9 Honors English 9 Pre-AP English 9 Writing Studio 1	Creative Writing Intro to Theater Arts Journalism Literary Explorations Poetry Speech
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	English 10 Honors English 10 Pre-AP English 10	Creative Writing Intro to Theater Arts Journalism Journalism II Modern Media Literary Explorations Poetry Short Story Speech
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	English 11 Honors English 11 AP Language / Composition Writing Studio 2	Advanced Composition / College Writing Advanced Speech 1 Advanced Speech 2 Creative Writing Intro to Theater Arts Journalism Journalism II Literary Explorations Modern Media Poetry Short Story Speech
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	English 12 Honors English 12 AP Literature / Composition	Advanced Composition / College Writing Advanced Speech 1 Advanced Speech 2 Creative Writing Intro to Theater Arts Journalism Journalism II Literary Explorations Modern Media Poetry Short Story Speech

\* Test scores and special circumstances determine student placement in required electives with the goal of reading proficiency.

NOTE: Students must take English 9, English 10, English 11 and English 12. Pre-AP or Honors English 9

## ENGLISH REQUIRED COURSES

### ENGLISH 9

FULL YEAR

1 CREDIT

5 periods/week

From Homer's *The Odyssey* to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, this course introduces the student to the significant works associated with all aspects of literature. In addition, communication skills are some of the most important skills needed to function in today's society. English 9 emphasizes four basic areas: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The study of grammar and usage is integrated into all areas of communication. This course emphasizes multi-paragraph writing, interpretation of literature, and experiences in speaking and listening. Moreover, English 9 provides creative and critical thinking experience.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

### HONORS ENGLISH 9

FULL YEAR

1 CREDIT

5 periods/week

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** All students must have obtained an 90% or higher in both 8<sup>th</sup> grade Reading and Language Arts / Teacher Recommendation / Excellent Attendance

Honors English 9 fosters the academic development of college-bound students who exhibit excellence in English but might benefit from scaffold support in becoming independent, self-motivated readers and writers. The first semester parallels the corresponding English 9 curriculum at an accelerated pace and includes more rigorous and in-depth study of existing and additional units while the second semester more closely parallels the pace and work of Pre-AP English 9. The PA Core skills of close reading, critical analysis, and synthesis of informational and fictional text, as well as literary analysis and interpretation of poetry, drama, and epic are practiced. In taking this course, a student will build the skills and acquire the knowledge necessary to move into Pre-PA English 10 the following year and to become self-directed, life-long learners.

***This is NOT a 105 level course as it is not the highest level of English available to 9<sup>th</sup> graders.***

### PRE-AP ENGLISH 9

FULL YEAR

1 CREDIT

5 periods/week

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** All students must have obtained a 95% or higher in both 8<sup>th</sup> grade Reading and Language Arts / Teacher Recommendation / Excellent Attendance

Pre-AP English 9 is a challenging course endorsed by the National College Board, and therefore provides rigorous, real-world instructional applications essential to a student's advancement towards success in college. The curriculum fosters the development of high level reading and writing skills as well as the effective habits of mind and collaborative concepts. The course required critical thinking and self-directed, independent study skills, thus creating a level of difficulty and responsibility greater than that of other courses. As a precursor to future AP level courses, Pre-AP emphasizes the PA Core Standards of close reading, critical and rhetorical analysis, and synthesis of informational and fictional text, as well as literacy analysis and interpretation of poetry, drama, and epic. In addition, students begin preparation for the AP examination through practice with AP-style testing strategies. Pre-AP English 9 strives to empower students to become confident, resourceful, and self-motivated learners not only in any classroom but throughout life. *Summer reading and the completion of a symbolic art project is required for this course. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain this assignment from the instructor.*

***This is an advanced 105 level course as it is the highest level of English available to 9<sup>th</sup> graders.***

### WRITING STUDIO 1

ONE SEMESTER

½ CREDIT

5 periods/week

Writing Studio provides freshman students with the foundations that prepare them for the demands of academic and/or professional writing. In this course, students learn and practice the strategies and processes that successful writers employ as they work to accomplish specific purposes. In addition, writing is used to assist students in realizing their professional and personal goals through activities aligned to Pennsylvania's Career Education and Work Standards. Accordingly, class discussion and readings address the function of rhetoric and of the composing processes in a variety of contexts, with attention to various audiences. Throughout the course, while engaged in career specific composing endeavors, students learn to respond constructively to their peers' texts and to use peer responses (along with extensive instructor feedback) to improve the quality of their own work.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

**HONORS ENGLISH 10****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Teacher Recommendation / Excellent Attendance / Grade of 90% in English 9 or an 80% or higher in either Pre AP 9 or Honors English 9

Honors English 10 fosters the academic development of college-bound students who exhibit excellence in English but might benefit from scaffolded support in becoming independent, self-motivated readers and writers. The first semester parallels the corresponding English 10 curriculum at an accelerated pace and includes more rigorous and in-depth study of existing and additional units while the second semester more closely parallels the pace and work of the Pre-AP English 10. The PA Core skills of close reading, critical analysis, and synthesis of informational and fictional text, as well as literary analysis and interpretation of poetry, drama, and epic are practiced. In taking this course, a student will build skills and acquire the knowledge necessary to move into AP English Language and Composition the following year and to become self-directed, life-long learners. *Summer reading and the completion of a symbolic art project is required for this course. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain this assignment from the instructor. This is NOT a 105 level course as it is not the highest level of English available to 10<sup>th</sup> graders.*

**PRE-AP ENGLISH 10****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Teacher Recommendation / Excellent Attendance / Grade of 90% or higher in Honors English 9 or 85% or higher in Pre AP 9. (NOTE - A student may not take Pre AP English 10 without having taken Honors English 9 first)

Pre-AP English 10 is a challenging course endorsed by the National College Board, and, therefore, provides rigorous, real-world instructional applications essential to a student's advancement towards success in college. The curriculum fosters the development of high level reading and writing skills, as well as the effective habits of mind and collaborative concepts. The course required critical thinking and self-directed, independent study skills, thus creating a level of difficulty and responsibility greater than that of other courses. As a precursor to future AP level courses, Pre-AP emphasizes the Pennsylvania Core Standards of close reading, critical and rhetorical analysis, and synthesis of non-fiction and fictional text, as well as literary analysis and interpretation of poetry, drama, and epic. In addition, students begin preparation for the AP examination through practice with AP-Style testing strategies. Pre-AP English 10 strives to empower students to become confident, resourceful, and self-motivated learners not only in any classroom but throughout life. *Summer reading and an accompanying assignment is required for this course. This is an advanced 105 level course as it is highest level of English available to 10<sup>th</sup> graders.*

**ENGLISH 11****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Successful completion of English 10, Honors English 10 or Pre-AP English 10

From the works of Benjamin Franklin to Langston Hughes, English 11 is a survey course of study at the high school level, tracing the heritage of American writing from the Puritan influences through the Age of Modern Realism. The course includes examples of Native American writings and genre selections that are representative of major American writers from each age of philosophy.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

**HONORS ENGLISH 11****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Teacher Recommendation / Excellent Attendance / Grade of 90% or higher in English 10 or an 80% or higher in either Pre AP 10 or Honors English 10

Honors English 11 fosters the academic development of college-bound students who exhibit excellence in English but might benefit from scaffolded support in becoming independent, self-motivated readers and writers. The first semester parallels the corresponding English 11 curriculum at an accelerated pace and includes more rigorous and in-depth study of existing and additional units while the second semester more closely parallels the pace and work of the AP Language and Composition Course. Honors English 11 emphasizes the PA Core skills of close reading, critical analysis, and synthesis of informational and fictional text, as well as literary analysis and interpretation of poetry, drama, and epic. In taking this course, a student will build the skills and acquire the knowledge necessary to move into AP English Literature and Composition the following year and to become self-directed, life-long learners. *This is a 105 (not 110) level course as it not the highest level of English available to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students.*

**AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Teacher Recommendation / Excellent Attendance / Grade of 90% or higher in Honors English 10 or 85% or higher in Pre AP English 10. (NOTE -A student may not take AP Language and Composition without having taken Honors English 10 first)

The AP English Language and Composition course concentrates on improving and refining students' writing skills through the vehicle of an in-depth study of classic American literature. Selections read are representative of various movements and themes, which includes works from the Puritan Era to the Modern Era. The course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments and develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of texts, from many disciplines and historical periods. Students prepare for the College Board PA Exam with extensive grammar and writing practices. *Summer reading and an accompanying assignment is required for this course. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain this assignment from the instructor.*

***This is an advanced 110 level course as it is the highest level of English available to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students***

**WRITING STUDIO II****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

Writing Studio II is the continuation of Writing Studio I with an emphasis on college and career exploration. In this course, junior students will utilize and expand on the strategies, techniques, and processes learned in previous writing and literature courses. The curriculum prepares students for the rigorous expectations of writing and research at the post-secondary level. Students learn critical thinking and *writing skills* needed to communicate in both college and in the workplace. In addition, research is used to assist students in realizing their professional and personal goals through activities aligned to Pennsylvania's Career Education and Work Standards. Students must complete the culminating Senior Project research paper along with several pieces of Career Portfolio evidence such as an Individualized Career Plan in order to pass the course and graduate.

**ENGLISH 12****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of English 11 or AP Language and Composition

From *Beowulf* to *Speech on the Vietnam War*, this course introduces the student to the significant works associated with British and American Literature. It follows traditions, voices of protest, seeking justice, and taking risks through events that brought about change in the world with fiction and non-fiction. This survey course emphasizes the works of Shakespeare, King Hosseini, Paine, and Swift. A selected novel is read followed by critical and close reads to evaluate the work. This course highlights the skills of reading, thinking, analyzing, application, writing, listening, researching and speaking as the student prepares for college.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

**HONORS ENGLISH 12****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Teacher Recommendation / Excellent Attendance / Grade of 90% or higher in English 11 or an 80% or higher in either Honors English 11 or AP Language and Composition)

Honors English 12 fosters the academic development of college-bound students who exhibit excellence in English but might benefit from scaffolded support in becoming independent, self-motivated readers and writers. The first semester parallels the corresponding English 12 curriculum at an accelerated pace and includes more rigorous and in-depth study of existing and additional units while the second semester more closely parallels the pace and work of the AP Language and Composition course. Honors English 12 emphasizes the PA Core skills of close reading, critical analysis, and synthesis of informational and fictional text, as well as literacy analysis and interpretation of poetry, drama, and epic. In taking this course, a student will build skills and acquire the knowledge necessary to become self-directed, life-long learners.

***This is a 105 (not 110) level course as it is not the highest level of English available to 12<sup>th</sup> graders.***

**AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Teacher Recommendation / Excellent Attendance / Grade of 90% or higher in Honors English 10 or 85% or higher in AP Language and Composition. (NOTE - A student may not take AP Literature and Composition without having taken AP Language and Composition first)

The AP English Literature and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level literary analysis course. The course engages students in the close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. In addition, students evaluate the quality and artistic achievement of literary works and consider their social and cultural values. Writing assignments focus on the critical analysis of literature and include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. Students prepare for the College Board AP Exam with extensive grammar and writing practices. *Summer reading and an accompanying assignment is required for this course. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain this assignment from the instructor.*

***This is an advanced 110 level course as it is the highest level of English available to 12<sup>th</sup> graders.***

**ENGLISH ELECTIVES****ADVANCED COMPOSITION / COLLEGE WRITING****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of English 10 /Honors English 10 / Pre-AP English 10 / Teacher Recommendation

This course is specifically intended for those students planning to enroll in a post-secondary institution. This is a writing intensive course; therefore those students seeking to enroll should be writing at a proficient level. Students will engage in discussions with classmates and the instructor regarding the various aspects of writing, e.g., the craft, structure, and the elements of style (syntax, figurative language, tone, symbolism and mechanics). Furthermore, there is an extensive focus on the development of research papers using various citation styles

**ADVANCED SPEECH 1****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** 80% or higher in Speech 1 / Teacher Recommendation

This course gives students who have successfully completed Speech 1 more insight into the fine art of speech, known as forensics. The basic skills that are presented in Speech 1 are refined through the a more in-depth analysis and practice of various styles of speech and debate. This is done through the classroom instruction and practice of the craft. Students taking this class are responsible for delivering the morning announcements, competing in the National Speech and Debate Association tournaments and festivals, performing in the annual Children's Play, and anchoring the high school morning show, "The Port Report."

**ADVANCED SPEECH 2****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** 80% or higher in Advanced Speech 1 / Teacher Recommendation

This course focuses on strengthening skills learned in Advanced Speech 1, and exploring new and challenging forms of public speaking including impromptu, original oratory, literary interpretation, news broadcasting, student congress, and various forms of debate. Students taking this class are responsible for delivering the morning announcements, competing in the National Speech and Debate Association tournaments and festivals, performing in the annual Children's Play, and anchoring the high school morning show, "The Port Report."

**CREATIVE WRITING****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

Creative Writing emphasizes writing as a process which encourages growth in every student's creative potential. The assignments highlight writing techniques, word choice, style and self-expression. The focus is on character sketches, letters to the editor, screenplays, monologues, soliloquies, creative essays, poetry and short stories. Lectures are limited and students do most of their writing in class. Students share their writings with peers through conferencing, editing and publishing. A variety of genres are experienced.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE ARTS****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week*****Prerequisite Requirements:*** Teacher Recommendation

This lecture and studio class establishes the theory and practice of theatre design and graphics and standards of entertainment technology. Focus is placed on the process and practices used in designing and presenting the performing arts. Furthermore, like a literature course, this course addresses the role of theatre as a major fine art and a communicator of ideas, human understanding and cultural values. Contributions of the playwright, actor/actress, director, designer and technician to theatrical production are covered. Furthermore, classical literature is explored, analyzed and performed.

**MODERN MEDIA****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week*****Prerequisite Requirements:*** Successful completion of English 10, Honors English 10 or Pre-AP English 10

This course uses both contemporary and classic movies to help students develop critical skills in analysis and evaluation. Furthermore, Modern Media challenges students to sharpen their powers of observation, establish habits of perception and discover complex aspects of film art that enhances their enjoyment of watching films. Finally, students use higher level critical and analytical skills to evaluate the movies through project based assessment, composition of Keystone-style constructed responses and essays. This course uses both contemporary and classic movies to help students develop critical skills in analysis and evaluation. Furthermore, Modern Media challenges students to sharpen their powers of observation, establish habits of perception and discover complex aspects of film art that enhances their enjoyment of watching films.

**JOURNALISM I****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week*****Prerequisite Requirement:*** Teacher Recommendation

This course introduces a student to Journalism and develops the student's ability to be an effective writer, reader, and viewer. The students study ethics and press law; the structure and elements of news; news, features, sports, editorial and headline writing; editing and copy reading procedures; and the technical production of electronic graphics of page design and layout. This class emphasizes journalistic writing, writing skills, communication, critical thinking, human relations, personal growth and technology. The focus is on the four communication skills of writing, reading, speaking and listening. Students will write for the Red and Blue, the high school newspaper.

**JOURNALISM II****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week*****Prerequisite Requirement:*** Grade of least 80% in Intro to Journalism or recommendation of Journalism teacher

This is a learning laboratory course taught at a high, competitive pace. Students are involved in all phases of production of the student newspaper including gathering information, writing, editing, designing layout and makeup of paper, taking photographs, using Adobe PageMaker, Publisher and other software and selling advertising. Students will work to improve their writing skills, to increase their writing skills, to increase their critical reading skills through reading and analyzing news content and journalism books to expand their knowledge of journalism and to complete journalism assignments. Students in Journalism II will become more savvy consumers knowledgeable about deciphering propaganda in the news and in advertising. Students will learn to distinguish between facts and fake news.

**SHORT STORY****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week*****Prerequisite Requirements:*** Successful completion of English 9, Honors English 9 or Pre-AP English 9

In this course students investigate how events in history influence past and contemporary authors whose ideas and attitudes are revealed through the key elements of the short story (a piece of narrative prose fiction). The compactness of the short story as a literary genre provides a unique opportunity for students to emphasize the structure and literary elements of fiction while concentrating on the Keystone Exam Reading Anchors and constructed response writing requirements. Furthermore, the course exposes students to a broad variety of short stories, familiarizes them with literary terminology necessary for discussing the short story and it encourages an appreciation of the short story as a genre. Finally, students discuss the stories and relate the stories to their

**THEATRE ARTS****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT 5 periods/week**

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Successful completion of Introduction to Theatre Arts/Teacher Recommendation

This semester course gives students who have previously taken Intro to Theatre a challenging course of study that enables them to pursue Theatre Arts in the future. It applies previous knowledge to the study and application of a seminar in theater with emphasis in performance techniques, design techniques, general theater procedures and academic writing skills. Furthermore, it exposes students to theater principles and practices, to useful problem solving and critical thinking, and to classical and modern literature and drama. Finally, it reinforces an appreciation for the craft .

**LITERARY EXPLORATION****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT 5 periods/week**

This course is a college level introduction to literature in which the participants learn to contemplate and respond to literature in a meaningful manner. Students are able to differentiate between literacy genres and build general and specific critical and interpretive skills that make them capable and discerning readers of imaginative literature. The construction of this course is two fold: materials are introduced according to genre and texts and scrutinized to provide a more in-depth student rather than a sampling. Then, students use higher level critical and analytical skills to evaluate students' responses to the works of literature are personal, aesthetic, and intellectual in order to increase their understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of challenging novels and obtain success on the Keystone Exam.

**POETRY****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT 5 periods/week**

Poetry - Voices from the past and present speaking to the future. In this course, students will examine what poetry is and study the English Domain Specific aspects of poetry. Students will study and interpret poetry of the past and the present. This course will focus on poetry terminology, and students will craft their own poetry in various poetic forms. Students will gain their own voice through presentations of poetry. Major assignments include: an analysis paper, a PowerPoint project of time-period poems, and a student-designed visual interpretation. Students in poetry will form their own club to present a semester Poetry Festival, Poetry Slam, or Spoken Word Poetry contest. Students will conduct workshops on poetry and attend field trips to hear poets present their craft.

## FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE COURSES

### **CHILD DEVELOPEMENT**

**ONE SEMESTER**

**½ CREDIT**

**5 periods/week**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Grades 10, 11 and 12

Child development is a performance-based course designed for those students who have a serious interest in studying the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual; development of the child from birth through adolescence. Opportunities are provided for both observing and participation in the vocational preschool and daycare center.

### **COOKING**

**ONE SEMESTER**

**½ CREDIT**

**5 periods/week**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12

Cooking is a performance-based, consumer-oriented nutrition class which addresses the development of consumer skills needed by students when making sound nutritional choices. This course is designed to provide students with hands-on experiences in meal planning, budgeting, consumerism, food preparation techniques and career opportunities. The curriculum includes discussion, resources, demonstrations, laboratory experiences, audio-visual presentation, field trips and community involvement.

### **FAMILY LIFE**

**ONE SEMESTER**

**½ CREDIT**

**5 periods/week**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Grade 12 only

Family life helps students recognize the transformation of the family today and its impact on building a foundation for a strong society. This course is designed to provide students with hands-on experience and real life situations. Special emphasis is placed on building positive relationships and managing resources needed in striving toward independence. This elective semester course is offered to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. The curriculum includes discussion, resource materials, demonstrations, audio-visual presentations, field trips and real-life experiences.

## FINE ARTS - ART COURSES

### BEGINNING ART& DRAWING

ONE SEMESTER

½ CREDIT

5 periods/week

A beginners' course, for the student who has an interest in the study of art. Students will explore the Elements and Principles of Design with a focus on drawing and painting using the color wheel as a guide. This course is required before taking upper level art classes

### ADVANCED DRAWING SKILLS

ONE SEMESTER

½ CREDIT

5 periods/week

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Beginning Art and Drawing strongly encouraged not required

An advanced course for students with a serious interest in developing more sophisticated drawing skills. This course will focus on right brain drawing skills, contour line drawing, proportioning, enlarging, rendering, and observation skills.

### PAINTING

ONE SEMESTER

½ CREDIT

5 periods/week

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Successful completion of Beginning Art and Drawing

This advanced course is for the student who demonstrates skill and interest in painting. The students will work with a variety of mediums in both two dimensional and three dimensional art projects.

### CERAMICS/CLAY CONSTRUCTION

ONE SEMESTER

½ CREDIT

5 periods/week

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Successful completion of Beginning Art and Drawing

This is a course for students with an interest in working with clay. Students will be introduced to vocabulary, techniques and methods of clay construction while hand building functional works of art. Under glazing and glazing techniques will be explored to produce decorative finishes on kiln fired pottery. **(Regular attendance is critical to meet kiln firing deadlines).**

### ACADEMY ART

ONE SEMESTER

½ CREDIT

5 periods/week

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Successful completion of Beginning Art, Drawing, Advanced Drawing and Painting with a 85% grade point average or in all art classes / Teacher Recommendation required

This course is designed for the responsible and involved art student who shows a sincere interest in art and can work more independently. Students will be working with both two dimensional and three dimensional media and will focus on supporting the high school musical with art work



**PIANO LAB 2****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Teacher Recommendation; Must have completed PIANO LAB 1.

This course is designed for both beginning and moderately advanced piano students who are interested in learning basic playing and music terminology. Students will learn basic music notation, demonstrate scales, proper fingering techniques, sight reading, recognition of key signatures, meter signs, rhythmic patterns, dynamic markings, and notation on the grand staff. Students will perform alone and with others in the classroom setting as well as include written quizzes and tests

**INTRO TO MUSIC****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

Intro to Music is for students interested in learning various musical styles, including American and World Music, musical theater, film music, pop and jazz as well as some introductory music theory. The cultural and social aspects of music are examined as well as the influence of advancing technology of the music industry. Students activities will include quizzes, tests and presentations.

**MUSIC THEORY****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Teacher Recommendation

This course is designed for 10th, 11th and 12th grade students who is interested in learning the basics in music notation, melody, rhythm and how music is constructed. Students with some background in music will learn how to read music, basic keyboard skills and knowledge and the proper method to write, read and listen to music. Major topics will also include key signatures, major and minor scales, transposition, intervals and primary understanding of triads. This knowledge is achieved through singing, melodic and rhythmic dictation, computer assisted drill and practice and a variety of other written and aural methods.

**MUSIC THEORY 2****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Successful completion of Music Theory 1 / Teacher Recommendation.

This course is a continuation of Music Theory 1. Topics include chords, alternate scales, harmonic analysis, cadences, non-harmonic tones, musical forms and composition as well as more in-depth exploration of all topics covered in the Theory 1 class. Greater emphasis is placed on rhythmic and melodic dictation as well as sight-singing.

**JAZZ BAND****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

This class is for student musicians interested in learning and performing Jazz. The musical selections include Jazz, Swing, Dixieland and various other styles of music relating to Jazz study. Class participation is by teacher approval for students in 9th –12th grade

## MATHEMATIC COURSES

### ALGEBRA 1

FULL YEAR

1 CREDIT

5 periods/week

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Successful Completion of 8th grade math/ Teacher Recommendation

This course is designed to prepare a student for higher level mathematics. It contains a review of the real number system followed by units on solving linear equations in one variable, operations with polynomials, and exponential properties. Students are expected to solve linear equations in two variables, graph linear equations and simplify square roots. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

### PLANE GEOMETRY

FULL YEAR

1 CREDIT

5 periods/week

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Successful completion of Algebra 1

In this course, the student learns to define terms, read symbols and diagrams. Although rigorous proofs are not stressed, two column proofs are written involving perpendicular lines, parallel lines, congruent and right triangles, similar polygons and circles. Also covered are problem-solving using Pythagorean Theorem, perimeter, area, volume and circles.

### ALGEBRA 2

FULL YEAR

1 CREDIT

5 periods/week

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Successful completion of Plane Geometry

Algebra 2 reviews and strengthens the skills learned in Algebra 1. This course introduces the solutions of systems of equations in more than one variable, quadratics, factoring polynomials, operations with rational and irrational expressions, complex numbers, exponents and logarithms. The concepts of relations and functions are introduced along with the use of the function notation. Also to be introduced are matrices, determinants and parabolas.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

### ADVANCED ALGEBRA 2

FULL YEAR

1 CREDIT

5 periods/week

*Prerequisite Requirements:* **JUNIORS AND SOPHOMORES ONLY.** Successful completion of Plane Geometry: Current Freshman must have an 80% or above; Current Sophomores must have an 85% or above / Teacher Recommendation.

This course reviews concepts from Algebra 1 and Geometry and builds open concepts. This fast paced course investigates the solutions and graphs of various polynomial functions including higher order polynomials. The concepts discussed include factoring, rational, irrational and complex expressions and equations, exponents, logarithms, determinants, matrices and transformations.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

### PRE-CALCULUS

FULL YEAR

1 CREDIT

5 periods/week

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Successful completion of Algebra 2 with a minimum GPA of 75% / Teacher Recommendation

Pre-calculus completes the formal study of the elementary functions that began in Algebra 1 and Algebra 2. In this course, the student will explore topics that will be applied to Calculus. Pre-calculus is a program of mathematical studies focusing on the development of student's ability to understand and apply the study of functions and advanced mathematics concepts to solve problems. This course consists of the integrated review of elementary functions: polynomial, linear, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric. Other major areas include a study of analytic geometry, parametric equations, polar coordinates, sequence and series, discrete mathematics, vectors, matrices, and the introduction to limits and continuity.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

**CALCULUS****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of Pre-Calculus with a minimum grade of 80% / Teacher Recommendation.

This course is designed for the college bound senior. It includes the study of coordinate geometry, functions limits, differentiation and integration of algebraic, trigonometric, exponential and logarithmic functions. Applications of all topics are emphasized throughout the course. This course MAY also be taken for college credit through the University of Pittsburgh's College in High School program (CHS). In order to qualify for admittance into this program, students must take an online placement test and achieve a score of 76 or above. Four college credits will be earned upon successful completion of the course. Tuition is the responsibility of the student. More specific information will be provided about the CHS program upon scheduling the course.

*This is an advanced 110 level course.*

**PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Completion of Geometry with a minimum grade of 85% or currently enrolled in Algebra 2 / Teacher Recommendation

This course is designed to enable students to be wiser users and critical consumers of statistical material. Students who may eventually enter such fields as economics, business, education, psychology, sociology and medicine are greatly encouraged to enroll in this course. Upon successful completion of this course, students gain a basic understanding of both statistics and probability so that the pursuit of a college level course is not extremely difficult. This course includes compilation and interpretation of numerical data, frequency distributions, measures of central tendency and dispersions, and basic rules of probability and their applications. The use of a scientific calculator is essential for this course.

**PERSONAL AND BUSINESS FINANCE****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** JUNIORS AND SENIORS ONLY/ Teacher Recommendation

This course is designed for juniors and seniors that are interested in enhancing or learning skills for personal finance. Emphasis is placed on the mathematics needed for checking accounts, credit cards, federal and state taxes, budgeting, loans, mortgages, stocks and bonds, and large money purchases. Problem solving is included throughout the course.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

**SMALL BUSINESS FINANCE****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** JUNIORS AND SENIORS ONLY/ Teacher Recommendation

This course is designed for Juniors and Seniors that are interested in starting a small business or in small business finance. Emphasis will be placed on purchasing, sales, marketing, accounting and corporate planning. Problem solving and investigation of real world situations will be included throughout the course.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES

### HEALTH (WELLENESS AND FITNESS)

ONE SEMESTER

½ CREDIT

5 periods/week

Health (Wellness and Fitness) is a course that deals with personal and community health, fitness and safety. The course is divided into “wellness and fitness”. In “wellness”, students study nutrition, dietary disorders, and mental and social well being. Also, safety, disease prevention and the effects of substance abuse are studied. This course is required for graduation.

**\*\*COURSE IS AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ONE SEMESTER

½ CREDIT

5 periods/week

Team Sports: Basketball, Flag Football, Badminton, Floor Hockey, Racquetball, Softball, Volleyball, Archery, Golf & Ultimate Frisbee

This program is designed for students who have some knowledge and limited skills in team sports. The student is instructed in the basic skills for each building. The student receives an introduction to rules and playing strategy for each game. Students participate in a game situation. Sportsmanship and safety are stressed. The values of recreational play and wellness is reinforced.

Individual Program: Aerobics, Fitness, Running, Weight Training

This program is designed to promote wellness and fitness through weight training and cardiovascular programs. Individual programs are utilized for weight training and cardiovascular workouts. Fitness tests are given periodically to assess individual fitness levels. Students are introduced to weight training techniques and weight room safety. Students learn to develop cardiovascular fitness through varied aerobic workouts and running activities.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

### SWIMMING

ONE SEMESTER

½ CREDIT

5 periods/week

\*Swimming is for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students only. All 9<sup>th</sup> graders will have an opportunity to test out of this course at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, but are still required in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade to participate in Physical Education.

Student work on general swimming and survival skills. Students will work to improve on the major strokes and skills associated with swimming and survival techniques. The students will also play a series of swimming games to help improve their swimming skills and overall physical conditioning.

## SCIENCE

### SCIENCE SEQUENCE TO GRADUATION

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	<u>Mandatory</u> Physical Science Honors Physical Science
	<u>Elective</u> Stem
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	Biology/Lab Honors Biology/Lab Academic Biology
	<u>Elective</u> Physics 1/Lab
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	Chemistry/Lab Honors Chemistry/Lab Academic Chemistry
	<u>Elective</u> Earth Science Physics 1/Lab
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	<u>Elective</u> AP Chemistry/Lab Organic Chemistry AP Biology/Lab Anatomy and Physiology Honors Anatomy and Physiology AP Environmental Science Earth Science Physics 1/Lab Physics 2/Lab Sports Science

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade students who wish to take (2) Science courses must be enrolled in Honors Biology and Algebra 2**

**A student may elect an additional science class, for which the prerequisites have been met, as an elective in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.**

## SCIENCE REQUIRED COURSES

<b><u>PHYSICAL SCIENCE</u></b>	<b>FULL YEAR</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	<b>5 periods/week</b>
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Physical Science deals with matter and energy and their relationships. The course is taught in three major units. The introductory unit includes lab measurements and introduction to applying technical writing to laboratory exercises with scientific calculations. The physical unit includes the study of motion, fluids and energy. The chemistry unit includes the nature of matter, chemical bonds, the periodic table, chemical reactions, acids, bases, salts & solutions. Lastly, students will receive a brief introduction to the world of Biochemistry.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

<b><u>HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE</u></b>	<b>FULL YEAR</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	<b>5 periods/week</b>
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***Prerequisite Requirements:*** 90% or above with Teacher Recommendation

This course is taught in two major sections, which include mathematical functions for Physics & Chemistry. Physics will be taught during the first semester and Chemistry during the second semester. Topics covered during the first semester will include, but not limited to, introduction to SI, laws of motion, forces, fluids and energy. The second semester topics will include states of matter, the atom, the periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, acids, bases, salts and solutions. Demonstrations activities will be done to reinforce the level of understanding. Enrichment activities, projects & fieldtrips will be a requirement of the class. Lastly, students will receive a brief introduction to the world of Biochemistry.

**This is an advanced 105 level course.**

<b><u>ACADEMIC BIOLOGY</u></b>	<b>ONE SEMESTER</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	<b>5 periods/week</b>
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***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Successful completion of Physical Science

Biology is the study of the living world and how organisms interact with their environment. The course offers a focus on Biological concepts through inquiry based investigations-reinforcing the content. This course is designed to provide the student with the basic concepts: experimental design, biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, evolution, microbiology and ecology. Students will be taking a state mandated Keystone Exam at the end of the course and passing for graduation requirement as well entrance into a Tech School of choice.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

<b><u>BIOLOGY /LAB</u></b>	<b>FULL YEAR</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	<b>6 periods/week</b>
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***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Success completion of Physical Science; Must have a GPA of 75% or above

Biology is the study of the living and how organisms interact with their environment. The course offers a focus on Biological concepts through inquiry based investigations & weekly laboratory experiments reinforcing the content. This course is designed to provide the student with the basic biological concepts: experimental design, biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, evolution, microbiology & ecology. Students will be taking a state mandated Keystone Exam at the end of the course and passing for graduation requirements as well entrance into a four year college

<b><u>HONORS BIOLOGY/LAB</u></b>	<b>FULL YEAR</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	<b>7 periods/week</b>
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***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Successful completion of Honors Physical Science or Physical Science; Must have a GPA of 90% or above in Honors Physical Science or a 95% in Physical Science

Biology is the science that seeks to understand, explain and even control the living world by observing, asking questions and forming hypotheses that can be tested by experimentation. The course offers a focus on biological concepts through inquiry based investigations and weekly laboratory experiments reinforcing the content. Honors Biology is taught in a series of themes based on specific content: experimental design, biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, evolution, microbiology and ecology. The students will have the opportunity to work with research equipment through universities and attend field trips to research-based centers where cutting edge scientific research is being performed. Other enrichment opportunities will include special investigations through a lab setting using the latest technology, video conferences, outside speakers and a research project. This course prepares students for the state mandated Keystone Exam that must be taken as a graduation requirement and entrance into a 4 year college.

**This is an advanced 105 level course.**

**ACADEMIC CHEMISTRY****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

This course prepares students for entrance into an associate degree and for future employment as a technician in industry or in a medical field. It may also serve as a terminal final course. The focus is on the application of scientific concepts through traditional classroom instruction, laboratory demonstrations and selected laboratory experiments that can be safely accomplished in one class period. The course is designed to provide the student with basic knowledge in the following concepts: the scientific method and mathematical measures and conversations in the following areas: matter and energy, atomic structure, chemical nomenclature, formulas, the periodic table and periodicity, chemical bonding, the gas laws, solution chemistry and nuclear and environmental chemistry.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE WITHOUT LAB\*\***

**CHEMISTRY 1/LAB****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****6 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of Biology

This course prepares students for entrance into a four year college program pertaining to the science and engineering fields. The focus is on the application of scientific concepts through traditional classroom instruction and weekly laboratory experiments reinforcing classroom materials. The course is designed to provide the student with the basic knowledge and mathematical skills involving differential analysis (the solving of problems using units as a guide) in the following concepts: the scientific method, stoichiometry, matter and energy, atomic structure and molecular geometry, chemical nomenclature, formulas, the periodic table and periodicity, chemical bonding and the gas laws.

**HONORS CHEMISTRY 1/LAB****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****6 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Teacher recommendation

This is a course that is geared to those students who desire to pursue a career in science or for those students who like to move at a faster pace. The course covers all of the topics included in Chemistry 1. However, this class allows time for a lab, includes supplemental information, and is more rigorous than Chemistry 1. A summer assignment and participation in an enrichment project is a class requirement. It is essential that the student has a strong mathematical background. The successful student must have completed or presently be taking Algebra 2. Students will need a TI-30XIIS calculator for class.

**This is an advanced 105 level course**

**SCIENCE ELECTIVES****AP CHEMISTRY/LAB****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****7 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of Chemistry 1, Biology 1 and Algebra 2 with a GPA of 90% or above/ Teacher Recommendation

**Note:** A course in Physics is highly recommended.

This course is designed to be equivalent of a college course in general chemistry. The main goal of the course is to prepare students to take the AP Chemistry exam resulting in college credit. Students must see the teacher in the spring for a summer assignment. In this course, students obtain an in depth understanding of fundamental chemistry topics such as the concept of atom and chemical bonding, structure of matter, chemical equilibrium, kinetic theory of gases, chemical kinetics, basic concepts of thermodynamics, modern theory of acid-based interactions in liquid and solid states, and electrochemistry. An essential part of the course is the involvement of students into a working laboratory that allows the students to gain experience and participate in traditional exercises. Furthermore, it provides the students opportunities to conduct novel investigations. Laboratory activities are cyclic continuum of inquiry-based problems, the solution of which requires conducting chemical experiments and analyses of the results that have been obtained utilizing different chemical concepts. This course contributes to the development of the students' ability to think clearly and critically and to express their ideas in writing, with clarity and logic.

**This is an advanced 110 level course.**

**AP BIOLOGY/LAB****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****6 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of both a biology lab course and a chemistry lab course with a GPA of 90% or above in each of these courses. Teacher Recommendation

This Advanced Placement Biology course has been developed to offer students a foundation in introductory college level biology. The course will center on four big ideas: The process of evolution drives that diversity and unity of life, biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis, living systems use information essential to life processes, and biological systems interact. (25%) of course time will be dedicated to laboratory experiments.

**This is an advanced 110 level course**

**ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of Biology or Honors Biology

Anatomy and Physiology is a course designed to acquaint the high school student with the structure and function of the human body. The course begins at the cellular level with a review of the cell and their functions. The students will then investigate how the cells create the basis for the hierarchy of the body. A short survey of the eleven organ systems will introduce the students to how the structure is directly related to its function. Students will then focus on specific structures in the respiratory, cardiovascular, endocrine, digestive, lymphatic urinary and reproductive systems.

**HONORS ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of Biology /Lab and Chemistry/Lab with an 80% or above

Honors Anatomy and Physiology is a course designed to acquaint the high school student with the structure and function of the human body. The course begins at the cellular level with a review of the cell and their functions. The students will then investigate how the cells create the basis for the hierarchy of the body. Students will learn about tissues, organs and organ systems. A short survey of the eleven organ systems will introduce the students to how the structure is directly related to its function. Students will then focus on specific structures in the respiratory, cardiovascular, endocrine, digestive, lymphatic urinary and reproductive systems. Activities, labs, research paper, and guest presenters to help them achieve a better understanding of the human body.

**This is an advanced 105 level course**

**SPORTS SCIENCE****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of Physical Science. Must have a 75% GPA or above

This course introduces students to the career opportunities, scope of practice and background anatomy and physiology associated with sports medicine. The focus is on the application of skills and knowledge needed to enter a fitness profession. It will allow students to explore the scope of an athletic trainers practice as well as other career fields that are based on sports medicine. These include fitness professions, kinesiology, coaching, physical education and athletes. It will also provide students with an introduction to the normal anatomy and physiology of the human body as a springboard into understanding injury prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. Students in this course will not provide patient care. This course is designed to be a project based, group work orientated course that requires the student to research current topics in the field of sports medicine and produced products such as Power points, videos, posters, pamphlets and other multimedia projects which will allow students to demonstrate their ability to research current trends in a quickly changing field.

**AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Biology 1/Lab, Chemistry 1/Lab and Algebra (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders only)

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Students learn to identify and analyze both natural and man-made environmental problems and to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems. Students examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. Students have the option to receive college credit for the course but are required to take the Advanced Placement test in May. (Summer assignments are a requirement for this course.)

*This is an advanced 110 level course.*

**EARTH SCIENCE****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of Honors Biology/Lab or Biology 1/Lab or Honors Chemistry /Lab or Chemistry/Lab

Earth Science is a science course designed to study planet Earth and its place in space. The four subtopics of Earth Space are Geology, Meteorology, Oceanography and Astronomy. In Geology, students study such topics as the layers of Earth, rock cycle, volcanoes, earthquakes and soil types. In Meteorology, ideas like climate, weather patterns and layers of the atmospheres are looked at in great detail. While studying Oceanography, students view marine life, chemistry of ocean water and ocean currents. Finally, in Astronomy, students observe stars, life cycles of stars, planets, galaxies, comets and moon phases.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

**PHYSICS 1****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of Algebra 1 and Plane Geometry with a GPA of 70% or above

**Note:** Honors course work and grading option will be determined by instructor based on pre-assessment.

Physics 1 is the science of matter and energy and of interactions between the two. The course deals with the study of motion, force, vectors, simple machines, energy, and momentum through calculations. The class is used to demonstrate how physics is related to the real world through inquiry, investigations, labs, lecture/demonstrations and related long and short pattern projects. The focus of the class calculations are algebra based.

**PHYSICS 2/LAB****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****7 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of Physics 1 with a GPA of 80% or above; 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE ONLY

This course is an advanced continuation of Honors Physics. The course covers the principals of density, fluids, simple harmonic motion, rotational motion, light, mirrors and lenses, waves and sound, electricity magnetism, relativity, and modern physics. The class demonstrates the theory of these principals through lecture and inquiry based activities. Lab demonstrations as well as long and short term projects related to real world applications. Physics 2 is recommended to students that plan to major in Physics, Engineering or other related scientific fields. The majority of calculations are algebra based with trigonometry and calculus applications.

*This is an advanced 110 level course.*

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **SOCIAL STUDIES SEQUENCE TO GRADUATION**

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	American Cultures Honors American Cultures
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	World Cultures Honors World Cultures
11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> Grades:	American Government AP Government and Politics Honors American Government AP European History AP United States History AP Government and Politics

### **ELECTIVES**

9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> Grades:	Contemporary World Issues 1 Contemporary World Issues 2 African American Humanities
:	Intro to Economics Local History Movers and Shakers
10 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> :	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Military History I 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Military History II Psychology Recent American History 1946-Present World Geography
11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> :	Modern Asian Studies Sociology

## SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

### AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

FULL YEAR

1 CREDIT

5 periods/week

**Prerequisite Requirements:** 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders / Teacher Recommendation/Successful completion in World Cultures and American Cultures/ 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grader/ Strong Interest in History

Advanced Placement European History is offered to juniors and seniors. This course allows for an in depth study of the Renaissance Period through post World War Europe. Religion, politics, economics and social problems are analyzed as interactive forces in the development of European History. Emphasis is placed on research, class discussion, note taking and writing. Students are given the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement Test that could qualify for college credit. This test is given each May.

**STRONG WORK ETHIC AND GOOD ATTENDANCE IS IMPERATIVE FOR SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS**

*This is an advanced 110 level course.*

### AP U. S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

FULL YEAR

1 CREDIT

5 periods/week

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Teacher Recommendation / Excellent Attendance / Strong Work Ethic

AP United States Government and Politics is designed to give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. The course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam, although the course is not limited to only individuals planning to take the exam. The course has been designed to prepare students for the demands of college reading and writing by providing students with the analytical and interpretation skills necessary to examine and respond to a variety of media sources. There is an intense focus on analysis of the Constitution, the institutions, groups, beliefs and ideas that are used to interpret the Constitution. Students will also become acquainted with a variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various political behaviors and outcomes. This is a student-centered class that demands active student participation. It also fulfills the standards and requirements for our basic government class, students who elect to take this course are not required to take the regular or honors class.

**STRONG WORK ETHIC AND GOOD ATTENDANCE IS IMPERATIVE FOR SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS**

*This is an advanced 110 level course.*

### AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

FULL YEAR

1 CREDIT

5 periods/week

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion in World Cultures and American Cultures with a GPA of 86% or above / 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grader / Strong Interest in History.

The purpose of this course is to examine United States history from European exploration to the present. This course has been designed to model a freshman-level college course by providing students with the content knowledge and analytical skills necessary to understand the ever-changing field of history. Special focus will be paid to the politics, economics, religion and social conditions throughout our nation's history. Class assignments include substantial readings, formal writings and document interpretation. Students will prepare themselves for the Advanced Placement Exam available in the spring semester while enhancing their skills at historical and interpretation. *Students will need to complete the required summer assignment.*

**STRONG WORK ETHIC AND GOOD ATTENDANCE IS IMPERATIVE FOR SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS**

*This is an advanced 110 level course.*

### AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

FULL YEAR

1 CREDIT

5 periods/week

This course is designed to acquaint high school students with the governmental system under which they live. Specifically, the course covers a foundation of the dynamics of the American system of government through growth, adaptation and innovation. It is a study of the role of citizenship, American foreign policy, major global events and the constitution. Students analyze the functions of the legislative branch, executive branch and the judicial branch. Comparative political and economic systems are studied as well as the operation of the state and local governments. A study of United States government is heavily emphasized in the course.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

**AMERICAN CULTURES****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

The 9<sup>th</sup> grade American Cultures course is a required study of the development of the present day American cultures system. It includes a cursory review of Civil War America and a more thorough study of the post-Civil War growth of this unique society. All sections of study are designed to include materials from 1864 to present.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

**CONTEMPORARY WORLD ISSUES 1****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

This course provides an opportunity for all students to broaden their public awareness and to increase their ability to analyze and cope with daily events. Important people and places in the news are studied. The course is organized as a forum for student collection, analysis and discussion of current news events. Student materials are newspapers, magazines, the CNN Newsroom and other supplementary resources dealing with the news media and related concerns.

**CONTEMPORARY WORLD ISSUES 2****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of Contemporary Issues 1

Current Events 2 provides students an opportunity to analyze all phases of the news. Students use a variety of sources for current information. Magazines, television and newspapers are used to provide course content. Time is spent learning how to critique those news sources. Improving speaking and writing skills is also a course objective.

**HONORS AMERICAN CULTURES****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies with a GPA of 85% or above / Teacher Recommendation

(9<sup>th</sup> grade students only) **Completion of Summer assignment is Mandatory**

Following the same curriculum path as American Cultures, this course provides additional opportunities to explore various time periods and groups of people with an in depth study of America from 1864 to the present. This writing-intensive course allows students to express ideas on the subject matter in both traditional and non-traditional ways. Profound discussions relate content to current events. Historical novels provide outside information to enhance student understanding of the time periods. In addition, focus is placed on the examination of primary sources throughout the American experience. Good attendance and work ethic are necessary to be successful in this course.

***This is an advanced 105 level course.***

**HONORS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Teacher Recommendation / Excellent Attendance

Honors American Government focuses on the origins and functions of government as well as the intellectual influences in the development of representative democracy in America. Through a detailed study of the United States Constitution, students become knowledgeable of the structure and workings of government at all levels, national, state and local. You will also learn the role of politics in creating public policies and the interrelationship between people, institutions and policies in the U.S. political system. The course will cover these topics through analysis of six principles: federalism, separation of powers, check and balances, judicial review, limited government, and popular sovereignty. Students will draw on their knowledge of US history, world history, and geography as background information in their study of politics. There is a strong emphasis on current political events. The course requires extra outside reading and writing exercises, as well as a summer assignment not routine to a standard government course.

***This is an advanced 105 level course.***

**HONORS WORLD CULTURES****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of American Cultures with a GPA of 85% or above / Teacher Recommendation

This class follows the curriculum for World Cultures with added investigation of society, politics, economics and military actions. Students have the opportunity to research topics of interest and share information. Class focuses on periods of history and the detailed examination of unique and critical events. The students read selections from several supplemental books, primary sources and articles during the course. Emphasis is placed on class discussion and writing.

**This is an advanced 105 level course.**

**INTRO TO ECONOMICS****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

Economics is the social science which investigates how people use their limited resources to satisfy their extensive wants. This course in economics surveys the fundamentals of economics, microeconomics, macroeconomics and world economic systems. A partial list of specific topics, case studies, models and concepts for analysis includes: supply, demand, graphing, money, credit, banking, national debt, employment, investing, saving, economics isms, inflation, business organizations and labor unions.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\*****SOCIOLOGY****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders

Sociology is a behavioral science that focuses on the study of human relationships. The course emphasizes the exploration and appreciation for cultural diversity. Students highlight traditional American values in order to identify the principles of social control, social change, socialization, peer group pressure and the influence of heredity and environment. Much of the course content deals with the challenges of adolescence in a complex dynamic society.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\*****MODERN ASIAN STUDIES****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Successful completion of World Cultures / Teacher Recommendation / 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Note:** Students have a strong interest in Asian history and culture.

The course seeks to understand Asia's significance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a specific cultural focus on India, China and Japan. Furthermore, this class facilitates learning by using primary sources, current events, foreign films and other enrichments. The student examines historical background to give him or her a firm foundation for cultural studies and current events. In addition, the class enjoys fieldtrips to local restaurants, theaters and universities. Class discussion is very important.

**PSYCHOLOGY****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Teacher Recommendation / 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade

This course focuses on individual behavior and why an individual thinks, feels and reacts to certain stimuli. Major emphases will be placed on research methods, human sensation, learning and conditioning, altered states of consciousness, psychological testing, and psychological disorders. Classroom participation is an important part of the evaluation process, good attendance and respectful attention to the viewpoints of others is absolutely essential. Classroom discussions may include controversial issues and encourage students to defend, examine and reassess widely held beliefs in the light of current psychological research.

**REQUIRES EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE AND A GREAT DEAL OF OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM COMMITMENT**

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\*****AP PSYCHOLOGY****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Grade / Psychology Teacher Recommendation

AP Psychology is a college level course providing students an overview of the development of human behaviors and thoughts. Along with preparation for the AP Psychology Exam, the goals of this course are to immerse students in modern psychological investigation techniques, to accentuate the ethics and morality of human and animal research, and to emphasize scientific critical thinking skills in application to the social sciences. Psychology is a diverse social and biological science with multiple perspectives and interpretations. AP Psychology is an academically rigorous course, students must take a great deal of individual responsibility for their work. By nature, AP Psychology is a survey course, so the class covers a huge range of topics. The course moves at a very fast pace but, there is truly something of interest for everyone.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN HUMANITIES****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** The class is designed for grades 9-12

This semester course is designed for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who wish to take a more specialized study of American people of African descent. It is a history course that surveys black American history, and because Africa is the ancestral birthplace, thousands of years of African history are also surveyed. Students are required to provide an oral presentation about a current African American issue of their choosing. The search for black identity in historical, literary, art and musical forms will be explored.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

**RECENT AMERICAN HISTORY 1946-PRESENT****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of American Cultures with at least an 80%

Recent American History 1946-Present examines the economics, politics, and society of the United States and its role as a world power since the end of the Second World War. Topics include: the post war years, the rise of suburbia, the Cold War, the Korean War, the impact television, atomic power, the Civil Rights and Women's Movements, the Vietnam War and protests, the space race, Watergate, the Reagan presidency, the two Iraq Wars, the rise of the internet, 9-11 and the War on Terror, and the Obama/Trump presidencies. Although the class will cover key historical concepts moments and individuals', it will emphasize their impact on the culture of the period - art, literature, music, sports, television, religion, and film- and the influence of national events on the life of normal Americans.

**20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MILITARY HISTORY I****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of World Cultures or currently enrolled in World Cultures with a strong interest in Military History with Teacher Recommendation.

20<sup>th</sup> Century Military history is a **READING INTENSIVE** course that will examine the major wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century through literature. Topics include theories of war, the Spanish-American War, the World Wars, and the Korean Conflict as a part of the larger Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Students will have the opportunity to read a variety of different genres such as a short story, poetry and novels from famous authors such as Stephan Crane, Mark Twain, Wilfred Owen, and a variety of contemporary historical interpretations. One novel of focus will be *All Quiet on the Western Front* with much of the reading to be completed outside of class. The role of the author within war will be examined as well as the conflicts themselves. Critical thinking skills will be implemented while relating to historical concepts.

**20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MILITARY HISTORY II****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of World Cultures or currently enrolled in World Cultures with a strong interest in Military History with Teacher Recommendation. **\*\*It is strongly recommended to take 20<sup>th</sup> Century Military History I prior to this course in order to have the better understanding of the material, although this is not required.** \*\*

20<sup>th</sup> Century Military History II is a **READING INTENSIVE** course that will examine the major wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century through Literature. Topics include the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, military operations of the 1980's & 1990's, the Persian Gulf War, intervention into Afghanistan and Iraq, and modern military concerns including the rise of ISIS/ISIL and the War on Terrorism. Students will have the opportunity to read a variety of different genres such as a short story, poetry, and novels from famous authors such as Tim O'Brien as well as a variety of contemporary historical interpretations and current issues. One novel of focus will be *The Things They Carried* with much of the reading to be done outside of class. The role of the author within war will be examined as well as the conflicts themselves. Critical thinking skills will be implemented while relating to historical concepts.

**WORLD CULTURES****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

World Cultures is a required course for sophomores. This course provides an overview of history from the Roman Age to modern times. Students explore the rise and fall of ancient empires and the political, economic and social problems shaping history from the Middle Ages to post World War II. Students compare the various political systems including communism, socialism, totalitarianism and democracy. Emphasis is on establishing and improving basic skills of reading, note taking and writing. Class participation and group work are very important.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

## WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES

### World Language Philosophy

World Language education provides students with the opportunity to learn skills necessary for communicating in another language. For modern world languages, there is a balanced curriculum to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing within a culturally relevant context in the target language. Instruction promotes international awareness and sensitivity to other cultures and fosters concern and respect for oneself and one's own culture through a broadened perspective of other cultures. The learners' awareness of career possibilities, relating to the target language, will be enhanced.

**\*Please be aware that all world language courses are full year, one credit courses.** All world language study requires time, effort and practice. All world languages require memorization skills for learning vocabulary as well as a grasp of grammar concepts in both English and the world language the student studies.

\*\*Students transferring into the district are assessed by the appropriate world language teacher as to proper placement.

#### **FRENCH 1, GERMAN 1, SPANISH 1**

**FULL YEAR**

**1 CREDIT**

**5 periods/week**

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** a 70% or above in English/Language Arts & Reading

The first year class is an introduction to the target language, including appropriate oral and written practice in forming simple sentences and using vocabulary, referring to topics including, but not limited to: sports, school, shopping, weather and food. The students have frequent practice listening, speaking, reading and writing in the world language. Throughout the year, students are tested on their proficiency in those areas. Cultural, geographical and historical information are integral parts of the world language program.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

#### **FRENCH 2, GERMAN 2, SPANISH 2**

**FULL YEAR**

**1 CREDIT**

**5 periods/week**

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Successful completion of Level 1 with a GPA of 70% or above and Teacher Recommendation

After a review of skills acquired in the first year, the students listen, speak, read and write continued emphasis on vocabulary, syntax and additional verb tenses. Oral and written skills are emphasized. Culture, geography and history of the world language continue to be integral parts of the World Language program.

**\*\*COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

#### **FRENCH 3, GERMAN 3, SPANISH 3**

**FULL YEAR**

**1 CREDIT**

**5 periods/week**

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Successful completion of Level 2 with a GPA of 70% or above and Teacher Recommendation

Communicative skills are continued with emphasis on vocabulary, syntax and additional verb tenses. Comprehension, accuracy and fluency are stressed at this level and are relative to the national PA proposed state standards for World Language learning. Knowledge of other cultures are integrated in the World Language program.

#### **FRENCH 4, GERMAN 4, SPANISH 4**

**FULL YEAR**

**1 CREDIT**

**5 periods/week**

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Teacher Recommendation ONLY

As a Level 4 class, this course is based in communication. Previously learned skills from earlier levels of the language should be applied. Students are expected to use the world language daily, demonstrating oral and written communicative skills. World cultures including their lifestyles, history, traditions and literature are the basis of many activities. Students are required to frequently express their own thoughts, opinions and daily routine to achieve a low-intermediate level of the spoken language. Communications is the emphasis as set forth in Goal One of the national standards and proposed state standards for World Language. **This is an advanced 110 level course.**

**HONORS SPANISH 5****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 periods/week**

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** 90% or above in Spanish 4 and Teacher Recommendation

Honors Spanish 5 is a rigorous, immersion based course that is taught almost exclusively in Spanish. This course is about *language in practice*, and is **not** grammar focused. Students will be expected to regularly implement (speak, read, write, and listen) the skills gained over their four years of Spanish. The aim of the course is to have students improve proficiency across the three modes of communication

(interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive). This class will regularly use authentic materials, such as podcasts, film and video, and print texts to provide students with a diverse learning experience. Students will be exposed to and use a wide variety of rich vocabulary in order to progress to the intermediate to pre-advanced range of language use.

**This is an advanced 110 level course.**



**INTRO TO COMPUTER SCIENCE****ONE SEMESTER****½ CREDIT****5 periods/week**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grades

This course is designed to offer an introduction to computer science. Students will learn the basics of computer programming along with the basics of computer science. The material emphasizes computational thinking and helps develop the ability to solve complex problems, while informing students about computer science careers, such as computer science in medicine, game designers and developers, computer science in entertainment, and scientists that code. This semester course covers the building blocks of programming along with other central elements of computer science. It gives a foundation in the tools used in computer science. The primary language for this course is Python. The course will consist of video lectures, daily programming exercises, longer coding assignments, regular quizzes, projects and exams.

**AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC ELECTIVES****AIR FORCE JUNIOR R.O.T.C. 1, 2, 3, 4****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT****5 period/week**

The Air Force Junior R.O.T.C program is a four year program for high school students. Each year is divided into two categories; Academic and Leadership. Academic studies include; aviation history, science of flight and space, global studies and survival. Leadership studies include; Air Force customs and courtesies, cadet corps activities, study habits, time management, communication skills and leadership and management studies. The curriculum is comprised of 40% Aerospace Science, 40% Leadership Education and 20% physical fitness for life training. Each daily instruction period consists of students in grades 9-12. All required books, materials and uniforms will be provided.

# *McKeesport Area Technology Center*

## **TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS**

The McKeesport Area Technology Center affords students the opportunity to develop skills in one of eleven technical fields which prepares them to enter the world of work or a post-secondary or technical school. The technology programs are open to students beginning in grade ten. Students are encouraged to participate in the technical program for a three year period so that they may graduate with a certificate of completion. In many technical programs, college credit can be earned through articulation agreements with post-secondary schools and/or training centers.

Students enrolled in the Technology Center programs may join career and technical student organizations such as Skills USA, National Technical Honor Society, FIRST Robotics Team, LEO Club, Future Teachers of America, FBLA, The Future is Mine and Culinary Club. Many of these organizations encourage students to compete at State, National and International levels.

All seniors who have completed 50% or more hours in a CTE program are required to participate in NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Test Institute) skills assessment given in the Spring of their senior year.

## **PROGRAMS OF STUDY**

**Programs of Study (POS)** is an educational plan that articulates the secondary career and technical programs to post-secondary degree or diploma or certificate programs. **(POS)** programs lead students into a career pathway that align the secondary courses to a post-secondary program to complete a degree of certification. When you see the SOAR logo it denotes that the technology program is a PDE approved Program of Study.

## **SOAR**

**SOAR** stands for Students Occupationally Ready. SOAR programs articulate skills and tasks gained at the secondary school (high school) level to course credit earned in a postsecondary (college) degree, diploma or certificate program. Soar programs can help students:

- Prepare for entering the job market with college and career ready skills
- Choose the best career pathway
- Save money on college tuition
- Save time by not duplicating coursework in college

## **MANDATORY UNIFORM/KIT REQUIREMENTS**

Before making a final selection on a Technology Center Program, please be aware that most programs require a uniform and/or tools of the trade. These items must be purchased through the Technology Office. In order to participate in classroom activities, student must obtain a uniform and/or tools, where required. Failure to comply with this **State** regulation will result in loss of daily grades and may result in failure of the course. Provisions are made to each family to purchase the uniform and/or tools on a payment plan.

Following enrollment in the program a letter will be mailed home outlining the purchasing cost and procedure.

**School to Career Opportunities  
“Bridging the Gap between School and Workplace Success”**

The Cooperative Education Capstone Program is a Pennsylvania Department of Education program designed for SENIORS enrolled in an approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) class at the McKeesport Area Technology Center.

This 3 credit program provides seniors the opportunity to “Cap-Off” their technical training with a RELATED, paid work experience at a school-approved site in lieu of time spent in the CTE classroom.

Students must complete their daily academic classes in school before traveling to the approved work site for on the job work experience.

Additionally:

- The Capstone student must attend all required academic classes and remain in good academic standing. Students will sign an agreement committing to a 90% on-time-to-school and 90% in-school attendance policy while participating in Capstone.
- The Capstone student must adhere to all company policies and perform their duties in a professional manner as stated in their Training Plan developed by the Cooperative Education Coordinator and the work site supervisor.
- Periodic evaluations of job progress are made by an experienced supervisor, who mentors the student to give them a thorough understanding of required job skills and work related responsibilities.
- Many of these positions lead to full time employment after the student graduates from high school.
- The Capstone student is required to complete the NOCTI Pretest and the NOCTI final exam for their related technical area.

Senior Technology students wishing to choose the Capstone option must complete the following:

- Contact their grade level counselor who will coordinate with the Cooperative Education Coordinator
- Complete all mandatory State and Federal approved application forms in cooperation with the employer, parent, and Technology Center.
- Students under the age of 18 must acquire a Work Permit in the High School office.

**Transportation:** All Capstone students are required to provide their own transportation for all work experiences.

**Drug Screening:** Capstone students MAY be required to undergo a workplace required drug screening. Generally this cost is incurred by the individual workplaces, primarily those that require driving, working on machinery and operating equipment.

**Diversified Occupations/Work Experience is a one-year program offered to seniors only. This program combines school-based classroom study in work orientations (job readiness and employability) with work-based, on the job career preparation at a training site in business or industry.**

**Each semester, .5 credit is earned in the classroom and 1 credit is earned at the work site. The program selection must be renewed each semester. The Diversified Occupations (D.O.) Program prepares students with workplace readiness skills through individual and class study and encourages attitudes and habits that meet employment standards.**

**Criteria for enrollment:**

Evaluation of student for the Diversified Occupations/Work Experience program:

- The student must be entering the 12<sup>th</sup> grade upon enrollment into the program and be at least 16 years old.
- The student must have a good attendance record and be in good academic and behavioral standing.
- A student must have a parent/guardian complete an approved State and Federal Training Agreement.
- A student between 16 and 18 years old must complete working papers; A Work Permit is available in the High School office.
- The student must have the desire to participate and have tentative career goals.
- The student must take the Diversified Occupations course that relates to the on-the-job training.
- The student should master the personal traits that are targeted in the Diversified Occupations course necessary to obtain and maintain initial employment.
- The student must be able to get along with others and follow directions.
- The student is responsible for his/her transportation to and from work.
- The student must exhibit a desire to learn while working.
- The student’s schedule must be able to permit the student to be involved in the program.
- The student must have school supervision and receive credit for the on-the-job experience.

**In addition:**

All Diversified Occupations students are required to:

- Complete the Pre-NOCTI and the NOCTI 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills for Workplace Success final exam
- Attend the Workplace Skills class for 45 minutes per week
- Coordinate the class with the grade level counselor and the Cooperative Education Coordinator

 MCKEESPORT AREA School District		Diversified Occupations				Job-Seeking/Changing Skills		
		CIP CODE: 32.0215						
Diversified Occupations (1 Year Program)	1st Nine Weeks		2nd Nine Weeks		3rd Nine Weeks		4th Nine Weeks	
	Orientation	7.5	Human Relations	7.0	Employment Retention	9.0	Economics	9.0
	Career Development and Planning	10.0	Health and Safety	9.0	Legal Awareness	8.0	Consumer Skills	6.5
	Employment Acquisition	12.0	Employment Retention	6.0	Youth Organizations	6.0	Future Planning	7.0
	Human Relations	2.0	Communications Development	9.5	Consumer Skills	8.5	Technical Related Instruction	9.0
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>31.5</b>

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**



**Length of Course:** This is a three-year technical course, beginning in grade 10 and available to all students.

This course may be utilized as a three credit elective for those pursuing careers in the medical field. This course is also recommended for those who wish to pursue a career in nursing. This course is a cluster approach addressing the variety of specialized technical health-related careers. The initial phase of curriculum provides students with the knowledge and skills to work as a homecare/personal care assistant. Students in all levels receive community service experience. The remainder of the program has been designed to acquaint students with a variety of Allied Health careers. This course provides students with skill development in health occupations, so that they make informed career decisions prior to enrolling in a post-secondary program. Students will participate in shadowing experiences through the McKeesport Area Technology Center/UPMC Healthcare Awareness Youth Apprenticeship at UPMC McKeesport. This apprenticeship is intended for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year juniors and seniors. Some first year upper-class students may be considered for participation in the Apprenticeship.

Allied health technologists may find work as sonographers, medical assistants, medical lab technicians, nuclear medicine technicians, occupational therapy assistants, pharmacy technicians, physical therapy assistants, radiation therapy technologist, radiology technicians, respiratory therapists and surgical technicians. In addition, CPR Training and Certification will be offered to all students that participate in the program.

**Recommended Entrance Requirements:** The student must understand basic math and science concepts, be able to communicate verbally and in writing, and be in good health. **Students are required to purchase and wear a designated uniform and specified leather shoes.**

**Shop Safety:** Correct and safe practices will be enforced.

**Certification:** CPR certification, NOCTI Skills Certificate

Employment opportunities are available in the following areas:

- Hospitals
- Laboratories
- Research Centers
- Medical Clinics
- Public Health Agencies
- Nursing Homes
- Pharmacies
- Physician's Offices
- Rehabilitation Centers

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**

**Length of Course:** This is a three-year technical course, beginning in grade 10 and available to all students.

Instruction is provided in basic entry level skills of carpentry, masonry, plumbing, steel framing, heating, electrical, painting and decorating, and a variety of activities associated with building construction. These include, but are not limited to cost estimating, cutting, fitting, fastening, and finishing various materials, the professional use of a variety of hand tools, power tools and building materials. Blueprint reading and following technical specifications. Students in this class participate in building a modular home on-site as well as other on-site projects. Upon completion of this program students are eligible to apply for the Building Trades Apprenticeship Program. This course may be considered as an elective for those interested in architecture, engineering and design.

**Recommended Entrance Requirements:** The students should have some mechanical aptitude, an understanding of basic mechanical principles, dexterity with tools, a physical ability to handle construction equipment and an ability to meet and talk with the general public. Students must purchase leather work boots and have appropriate work clothes. Building Construction Experience is NOT a pre-requisite for this program.

**Shop Safety:** Correct and safe practices are enforced at all times. **All students are required to have proper safety work shoes, wear safety glasses and wear assigned uniform daily.**

**Certification:** Career Safe Workplace Safety, NOCTI Skills certificate

Employment Opportunities are available in the following areas:

- Schools
- Colleges-Universities
- Hardware Stores
- Lumber Yard Companies
- Hospitals
- Housing Developments
- Equipment Sales Firms
- PA Carpenter's Union
- Apartment House Establishments
- General Construction
- Factories/Corporations
- Entrepreneurship

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**



**Length of Course:** This is a three-year technical course, beginning in grade 10 and available to all students.

This course is designed to prepare students for a career working with children at various levels and interests. Theory studies focus on basic child development and parenting skills. Learning experiences also include instruction in the areas of child health and nutrition, infant-toddler care, preschool, school-age care, special needs children and child care administration. Practical experience is provided both on and off site. Students are also given the opportunity to visit other facilities that care for children in various capacities. Eligible students may benefit through collaboration with CCAC by earning six college credits if a career in early childhood education is pursued. Students work towards the CDA (Child Development Association) credential.

**Recommended Entrance Requirements:** Students choosing child care should be in good health and well groomed. Students must be mature, responsible, practice patience and have a serious interest in working with children of all ages.

It is strongly recommended that students enroll in the child development courses offered through the Family and Consumer Sciences Department before graduation.

**Shop Safety:** Correct and safe practices are enforced. **Students are required to wear smocks and practice safety standards as set forth by the Department of Public Welfare.**

**Certification:** CDA (Child Development Association) credential, NOCTI Certificate  
Employment opportunities are available in the following areas:

- Day Care Aide
- Children's Clothing/Furniture
- Head Start Teacher
- Foster Parent
- Licensing Specialist
- Babysitter
- Toy Designer/Sales
- Elementary Teacher
- Author of Children's Books
- Parent Educator
- School Supply Sales
- Preschool Teacher
- Designer/Sales
- Nanny
- Art Instructor
- Recreation Director

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**



**Length of Course:** This is a three-year technical course beginning in grade 10 and available to all students.

At McKeesport Area Tech Center you can prepare for a profitable career in automotive collision repair. Our program instructs students in the latest techniques and practices within the industry. Students study all phases of auto collision repair. Their skills are put to the test when working on school owned and actual customer vehicles. Students also learn to estimate cost of repair and how to manage an auto body shop.

**Recommended Entrance Requirements:** Interested students should possess manual dexterity, mechanical thinking skills, physical strength and stamina, the ability to pay attention to detail and complete projects accurately.

As a student you will learn:

Surface preparation  
Panel patching and shaping  
Glass installation  
Mig welding

Alignment procedures  
Surface damage repair  
Cost estimating  
Oxy-Acetylene Welding

Painting  
Frame straightening  
Auto detailing

Other course offerings:

Job seeking techniques  
Cooperative Education

NOCTI Skills testing  
ASE Certification

Professional Development/Work ethic

Career direction:

Graduates of the Auto Body program are prepared for entry-level employment or may choose to further their employability with post graduate training.

**Shop Safety:** Correct and safe practices are enforced at all times. **All students are required to have proper work shoes. Students are required to purchase uniforms.**

**Certification:** NOCTI Certificate

Employment Opportunities are available in the following areas:

- Painter/Refinisher
- Detailer
- Glass Installer
- Sheet Metal Worker
- Welder
- Auto Body Technician
- Paint Representative
- Insurance Adjuster
- Auto Body Shop Owner

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**



**Length of Course:** This a three-year technical course, beginning in grade 10 and available to all students.

This course provides students with the opportunity to be creative thinkers while learning about the numerous careers in the field of media arts. Course assignments include but are not limited to: graphic design, animation, game/character design, videography, photography, and equipment training to encourage students to own or manage a business. This course prepares graduating students for entrance into either the workforce, an Associate’s Degree or a Bachelor’s Degree.

Students have the opportunity to use the latest equipment and technology while enrolled in the course. While completing project-based assignments students will have the opportunity to learn the latest Adobe Creative Cloud Software, edit video, design a web page, produce laser engraved projects, produce embroidered and screen printed clothing, as well as vinyl application.

**Recommended Entrance Requirements:** It would be beneficial for students interested in this course to have artistic or creative abilities. The ability to follow written and verbal instructions as well as knowledge in basic computer usage is necessary.

**Shop Safety:** Correct and safe practices are enforced.

**Students are required to purchase and wear a uniform.**

Employment opportunities are available in the following areas:

● Graphic Design Agencies	● Animation Studios	● Advertising Agencies
● Photography Studios	● Game Design Studios	● Art Teacher
● Video Production	● Character Design Studios	● Sign Companies
● Television and Radio	● Visual Marketing for Sports Teams	● Interior Decoration
● Entrepreneur or Freelance Work: Laser engrave, embroidery, vinyl application	● Special Effects (video and makeup)	● Web Design

**Prerequisite Requirement:** Student kit and uniform payment must be deposited before the start of class. **Length of Course:** This is a three-year technical course, beginning in grade 10 and available to all students.

**Cosmetology Technology Experience is NOT a pre-requisite for this program**

**Recommended Entrance Requirements:** Students must be well-groomed, have a sense of form, have a sense of artistry and willingness to follow instruction, and have an above average degree of manual dexterity. Furthermore, participants must purchase a cosmetology tool kit/uniform and provide a social security number for documenting their attendance to the state.

This program meets the state requirements for licensure those students graduating after three school terms of training. Basic information is provided in areas of hair care, skin care, nail care, and professional practices which lead to licensure by the State Board of Cosmetology. Students may enter the career immediately upon graduation, or for those wishing to own or manage a business, he or she may articulate and transfer credits to earn an associate degree in specialized technology at the following institutions:

Douglass Career Center  
Empire Beauty Academy

Students in this program participate in both theory and practical workshops daily. Program focuses on immersing trends in hair care, skincare, makeup and nail care. Students will learn all required technical skills and apply them to re-create current trends in the beauty industry. Students are able to work with multi-cultural hair types, as well as men's, woman's and children's styling needs. Studies include shampooing, rinses, haircutting, clipper cutting, styling, braids, thermal styling, permanent waving, relaxers, hair color, artificial hair, highlighting, facials, skincare, hair removal, brow shaping, manicuring and nail design. Theory studies include: state laws, bacteriology and sanitation, salesmanship, professional ethics, salon mathematics and preparation (including the state board application process).

**Certification:** Career Safe Cosmetology Certification, NOCTI Skills Certificate  
Employment Opportunities are available in the following areas:

- Salon Stylist
- Nail Technician
- Beauty Publication Writer
- Theater and Television
- Private School Owner/Teacher
- Braiding Wig and Extension Specialist
- Wedding/Fashion Hair Designer
- Skin Care Salons
- Beauty Laboratories
- Fashion Design Establishment
- Cosmetics Chemist
- Makeup Artist
- Hair Color Specialist
- Beauty Supply Sales
- Day Spa Technician
- Massage Therapy
- Salon Owner
- Barber Stylist
- Hair Braider/Natural & Artificial

**\*\*Students completing this program and the 1250 hour requirement are eligible to take PA State Board of Cosmetology Licensure Exam**

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**



**Length of Course:** This is a three-year technical course, beginning in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and available to all students.

This course instructs students in the skills necessary to continue their education in a chef apprentice program in partnership with post-secondary colleges. This class prepares students in all facets of employment related to institutional and commercial food services. Specialized learning experiences include: prep work, pantry, baking, grill, line work and grand manager. Theory is offered in safety, sanitation, utensils, equipment usage and food science. Training is provided to persons desiring to become employed in all entry level areas of the food service industry. Additional experiences may include job shadowing, event catering, evening and weekend work experiences.

**Recommended Entrance Requirements:** The student should have a mature attitude and as strong interest in preparing and serving food. Basic people skills are required and a desire to work with the public is essential. The student should have strong basic math and communication skills.

**Dress Requirements:** Uniforms and rubber-soled shoes are necessary for this shop. Uniforms are ordered through the school and paid for by the parents.

**Shop Safety:** Correct safety and sanitary practices are enforced. **The Pennsylvania Department of Health and United States Food Service Department requires students to wear uniforms, hair nets or cook hats and proper work shoes (rubber sole) when in the commercial kitchen. Open shoes, excessive jewelry, artificial nails, nail polish and excessively baggy clothes are not permitted in the shop. Gloves must be worn when handling food.**

**Certification:** Safe Serve, NOCTI Certificate

- Restaurants
- Industrial Plants
- Commissaries
- Fast Food Establishments
- Country Clubs
- Cafeterias
- Hospitals & Institutions
- Wholesale Food Companies
- Hotels
- Cruise Lines
- Special Food Service Companies
- Resorts
- Retail Food Shops
- Retirement & Convalescent
- Caterers
- Grocery Stores (Gourmet Sections)

Employment opportunities are available in the following:

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**



**Prerequisite Requirements:** Successful completion of Stem 1/Engineering Experience and Stem 2 or Teacher Recommendation

**Length of Course:** This is a two-year technical course, beginning in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and is available to all students

Engineering Technology is offered to students entering their junior year who qualify by meeting established requirements and who successfully complete the selection process. Students in Engineering Technology will be introduced to a real world approach to solving complex problems in a highly engaging, hands-on classroom. Engineering students will learn the design process and its applications through team projects developed to build communicational, organizational and critical thinking skills. While working through projects students will infuse Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) as essential components to successfully gain access to more advanced skills. The technical aspects of the course will be combined with developing documentation and public speaking skills through working logs, report writing and project presentations. Throughout the course students will become equipped with the necessary attributes required to becoming a well-rounded engineer. This course is a great precursor to either an Associate’s Degree as an Engineering Technician or a Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering.

**ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY II**

**Prerequisite Requirement:** Successful completion of Engineering Technology 1 and Teacher Recommendation

Engineering Technology 2 builds on concepts taught in Engineering Technology 1. Hands-on, minds-on learning occurs in the areas of safety, robotics, structures, Computer Automated Machining (CAM), electrical concepts, 3D solid modeling, problem solving, aerodynamics and materials. Partnerships with industry provide the opportunity for “real-life” situations and experiences outside the classroom. Essential requirements for the workplace such as health and safety, standards, specifications and job readiness skills are covered.

It is recommended that students have earned a 70% grade point average or above in the following subjects:

**MATH**

- Algebra 1
- Plane Geometry

**SCIENCE**

- Physical Science
- Biology 1/Applied Biology

**TECHNOLOGY**

- Computer Essentials
- Computer Fundamentals

**ENGLISH**

- Two Full Credits

**Certification:** NOCTI Skills Certificate

# *McKeesport Area Technology Center*

## *Technology Experience Electives*

Explore your future! The Technology Center Programs offer electives for students wishing to explore Career Education. Programs are offered for a semester earning 1/2 credit each. Technology Experience Programs are **NOT** required for acceptance into the two and three-year technology programs. Programs are designed to help students in determining career aptitude and interest.

**Allied Health Technology Experience**                      **1 semester**                      **1/2 credit**                      **5 days/week**

Students will explore health care related careers, and educational requirements for each, including Nursing, CNA, EMT, surgical technicians, medical lab technicians, and more. Various media, research, and in-class activities are a part of this program.

**Building Construction Technology Experience**                      **1 semester**                      **1/2 credit**                      **5 days/week**

Ready to “build” your future? Explore building construction related careers including **carpentry**, plumbing, electrical, masonry, and all aspects of homebuilding. Basic hand tools and safety are practiced.

**Child Care Technology Experience**                      **1 semester**                      **1/2 credit**                      **5 days/week**

For those who enjoy working with children. Explore child care related fields, and requirements for each. Early Childhood Education, toddler and pre-school activities, along with infant and child development are studied.

**Collision Repair Experience**                      **1 semester**                      **1/2 credit**                      **5 days/week**

Car and truck enthusiasts; explore automotive body repair, painting, estimating, and related career opportunities. Basic tool, material usage and safety are practiced. It is recommended that students bring change of clothes and shoes for lab activities.

**Commercial and Advertising Art Experience**                      **1 semester**                      **1/2 credit**                      **5 days/week**

Recommended for students who enjoy art, and would like to explore art-related careers. Graphic and advertising design, the use of T-shirts, embroidery, advertisement layout, photography and other promotional arts are incorporated in this program.

**Cosmetology Experience**                      **1 semester**                      **1/2 credit**                      **5 days/week**

Students will explore a variety of related careers and educational requirements for each including hair designer, barbering, nail technicians, skin care specialist and make-up artists.

**Culinary Arts Experience**                      **1 semester**                      **1/2 credit**                      **5 days/week**

For those students considering a career in the food service industry. Basic safety, sanitation, measuring, recipe preparation, cooking, and baking and serving are explored.

**Engineering Technology Experience**                      **1 semester**                      **1/2 credit**                      **5 days/week**

Engineers design and troubleshoot everything! For those students interested in STEM related careers, this program explores career opportunities and educational requirements for each.

## ONLINE ELECTIVE COURSES

### **PRINCIPLES OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, & TRANS.**

**ONE SEMESTER**

**1/2 CREDIT**

Throughout this course, your students will learn about various career options in the agriculture, food, and natural resources industries. They will learn about technology, safety, and regulatory issues in agricultural science. They will also learn about some topics related to agriculture, such as international agriculture and world trade, sustainability, environmental management, research, development, and future trends in the industry. The course helps students navigate the rising demand for sustainable food sources while also meeting the challenge of producing higher yields to feed a growing world.

### **PRINCIPLES OF ARCHITECTURE/CONSTRUCTION**

**ONE SEMESTER**

**1/2 CREDIT**

This interactive course empowers students with the knowledge to appreciate and evaluate career opportunities in architecture and construction. With an emphasis on developing critical thinking skills, this one-semester course includes a variety of activities as students learn about structures and loads, materials and costs, urban design, and other aspects of these fascinating career opportunities. This easy-to-manage course will help build a solid foundation for their career options.

### **PRINCIPLES OF ARTS, AUDIO/VIDEO TECH, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**ONE SEMESTER**

**1/2 CREDIT**

This course appeals to your students' familiarity with a variety of sensory inputs and stimulus. With an emphasis on visual arts, the 14 lessons introduce learners to careers in design, photography, performing arts, fashion, and journalism, among others. This engaging course covers inherently engaging topics that will stimulate your students as they consider careers in which the arts, technology, and communications intersect.

### **PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS, MARKETING, FINANCE**

**ONE SEMESTER**

**1/2 CREDIT**

This course has a broad application for almost every career path that your students might choose. This course supplies both essential career skills and life skills. Designed for early high school students, the course offers you the flexibility to customize it to the unique needs of your program and your students. Interactive games and other engaging online and offline activities make practical real-life application of essential business principles understandable useful in the daily lives of your students and in the careers that they choose.

### **PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY**

**ONE SEMESTER**

**1/2 CREDIT**

This easy-to-manage course provides students with essential STEM knowledge and an effective overview of STEM careers. The course's 15 lessons are interspersed with activities and online discussions that engage learners and promote understanding and achievement. Topics covered include biotechnology, mechanics, and fluid and thermal systems. The concluding lesson provides a valuable overview of the overall engineering design process.

### **PRINCIPLES OF FINANCE**

**ONE SEMESTER**

**1/2 CREDIT**

Financial literacy is an increasingly essential capability as students prepare for the workforce, and this 18-lesson course provides the information they need to determine if a career in finance is right for them. The course uses games and online discussions to effectively facilitate learning, while introducing your learners to a variety of topics, including investment strategies, money management, asset valuation, and personal finance.

### **PRINCIPLES OF HEALTH SCIENCE**

**ONE SEMESTER**

**1/2 CREDIT**

With an engaging and interactive instructional approach, this rigorous course provides your students with a comprehensive overview of health science topics and careers. Health science professionals are in increasing demand and of increasing interest, and this semester-long course is an effective way to introduce students to the wide array of health science careers. Beginning with medical terminology, the course includes an overview of physiology and human homeostasis and more

**PRINCIPLES OF HOSPITALITY & TOURISM****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

The hospitality and tourism industry offers a dynamic career path that will pique the interest of many of your students. This course emphasizes learning the practical aspects of the industry and the development of critical-thinking skills that lead to real-world solutions. This 14-lesson one-semester course will introduce your students to an exciting industry and will help them evaluate and prepare for a career in this growing and exciting industry.

**PRINCIPLES OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 1A****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

This course develops practical skills in the ever-expanding IT industry. The course includes lessons that cover the increasingly relevant and important areas of privacy and data security, as well as addressing some essential skills such as word processing and spreadsheet software, and then advancing to cutting edge networking and database software concepts.

**PRINCIPLES OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 1B****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Completion of Principles of Information Technology 1A

Building on the fundamentals learned in Information Technology 1A, this course takes the next steps in preparing learners for a career in information technology. Covering software, hardware, and implementation topics, the course also addresses the security and ethical issues that your students will face in an IT career. Combining lessons, online and offline activities, and interactive discussions, the course will provide a practical yet cutting edge look at the issues faced by leading IT professionals today and in the future.

**PRINCIPLES OF LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS, AND SECURITY****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

For many reasons, high school students are drawn to learning about the careers addressed in this course. This one-semester course includes 15 lessons that help students learn about careers that make a powerful impact in all of our lives. From criminal law to every phase of the trial process, the course moves on to include lessons on the correctional system and the implications of legal ethics and the constitution.

**PRINCIPLES OF MANUFACTURING****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

Principles of Manufacturing is a one-semester course comprising 15 lessons to help your students understand various manufacturing processes, concepts, and systems, and to introduce them to the various career paths available to them in manufacturing. This course emphasizes STEM principles while also covering practical aspects of manufacturing such as marketing and regulatory issues, as well as issues related to launching and managing a manufacturing business.

**PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING, ADVERTISING, SALES****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

Issues in marketing, advertising, and sales promotion are evolving rapidly in an increasingly digital environment. This course effectively helps your students prepare for a career in that environment through a comprehensive look at essential marketing principles, interactive tools and channels, and the growing impact of data in marketing and advertising. Simple to manage and easy to customize, the course provides an overview of all of the fundamental topics necessary to effectively put your students on a career path that unleashes their creativity and develops and leverages their critical thinking skills.

**PRINCIPLES OF PARENTING****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

As adulthood and its accompanying responsibilities become closer for many of your students, this one-semester course with 12 lessons introduces them to the basics of parenting. Students will learn the nuances of parenting including learning about prenatal and postnatal care and gain insights on the nurture of children. Students will also learn about the importance of positive parenting skills, parent-child communication, and ways to use community resources for effective parenting. Activities will help your students connect leading research to real-life experience.

**PRINCIPLES OF TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION, & LOGISTIC****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

In an increasingly interconnected world, this course will introduce your students to an industry that delivers what people want, when and how they want it. The TDL industry is essential to creating global economic growth through increasingly more efficient delivery of goods and services. This course will help to develop both the quantitative and qualitative skills and knowledge required for students to prepare themselves for a successful TDL career. The course addresses the relevant logistical and geopolitical issues that impact global trade.

**INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics identifies accounting as one of the best careers for job growth in the next decade. This course empowers high school students with the essential skills they need to understand accounting basics. Lessons include Account Types (assets, liabilities, expenses, etc.), The Accounting Cycle, and Balance Sheet Elements. Engaging and relevant, this course particularly helps both those students with an accounting career orientation, and those in need of an overview of essential accounting principles.

**INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

Introduction to Business Administration is specifically designed to provide high school students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in high-demand careers. This full semester course includes 15 lessons and five course activities that keep students engaged while online discussions leverage their collective knowledge for the benefit of all learners. The course is both flexible and simple to manage. The wide variety of lessons includes: Entrepreneurship and Management; Organizational Behavior; Fundamentals of Finance; and Quality Management. The course concludes with an end-of-semester assessment.

**INTRODUCTION TO ESSENTIAL CAREER SKILLS****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

The 21 lessons and additional activities in this one-semester course are fundamental to ensuring career readiness on the part of your students. Covering such essentials as developing and practicing a strong work ethic, time management, communication, teamwork, and the fundamentals of workplace organizations, Essential Career Skills develops not just essential skills, but the confidence in themselves and their abilities to present themselves that your students need as they prepare to embark on their chosen careers.

**INTRODUCTION TO FASHION DESIGN****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

From Components of Fashion to Haute Couture to Production, this course is focused on the practical aspects of career preparation in the fashion design industry. The 17 lessons in the course provide students with both breadth and depth, as they explore the full gamut of relevant topics in fashion design. Online discussions and course activities require students to develop and apply critical thinking skills while the included games appeal to a variety of learning styles and keep students engaged. Fascinating and practical, Introduction to Fashion design will appeal to, and enrich, many of your students.

**INTRODUCTION TO GAME DEVELOPMENT****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

Are any of your students gamers? That's what we thought. In this course, they'll learn the ins and outs of game development to prepare them for a career in the field. Whether it is the history of video games, character development, mobile game design, user interface design, social gaming, or the principles of development design and methodologies, this 20-lesson course covers it all. As you might guess, games are included in the course to enhance the learning experience and help assess student progress. While fun and highly engaging, the course focuses on laying a strong foundation for a career in game development.

**INTRODUCTION TO MARKETING****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

This one-semester course provides a comprehensive overview of marketing principles and practices in today's dynamic digital context. The five course activities are career oriented and encourage the development of critical thinking skills in practical applications. Marketing is a rapidly changing discipline, and this course helps prepare your students for the challenges and excitement of a career in marketing. Lessons include Branding, Segmentation, Advertising Fundamentals, and Online Marketing.

**INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

Built on the same sound pedagogy and proven course design methodologies as all of our courses, Medical Terminology helps students understand the structure and meaning of medical terms and identify medical terminology associated with various body systems. As the health care industry becomes more and more complex, developing expertise in accurately and efficiently identifying medical terms and their specific application is essential to a growing variety of health care careers. This course begins to prepare your students for those careers.

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL MEDIA****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

This cutting-edge course develops social media skills and knowledge that will have a practical and positive impact in helping your high school students succeed in today's economy. Of course they already engage in social media, but this course enhances their skills and knowledge in order to apply them in a practical way in their careers. Online discussions are a critical aspect of creating a collaborative learning environment, while games and other interactions ensure engagement and promote a strong career orientation.

**INTRODUCTION TO WEB DESIGN****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

Whether they know it or not, almost all of your students have an interest in web design – but this semester-long course takes them inside the essentials of web design and helps them discover what makes a site truly engaging and interactive. Lessons such as Elements of Design, Effects of Color, and Typography help them understand the elements of effective and dynamic web design. The course covers the basics of HTML, CSS, and how to organize content, and helps to prepare them for a career in web design.

**ACT PREPARATION ENGLISH/READING****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

The ACT assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. Our course prepares students to take the test by learning the content ideas they will be tested on.

**ACT PREPARATION MATH/SCIENCE REASONING****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

The ACT assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. Our course prepares students to take the test by learning the content ideas they will be tested on.

**SAT PREPARATION MATH****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

The SAT assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. Our course prepares students to take the test by learning the content ideas they will be tested on.

**SAT PREPARATION READING/WRITING****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

The SAT assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. Our course prepares students to take the test by learning the content ideas they will be tested on.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE 1A****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

An engaging interdisciplinary course, Computer Science 1A provides a fundamental understanding of computer science principles while emphasizing the practical application of computer science to other areas of learning. It encourages critical thinking while developing specific skills in scripting, program structure, logic and languages, functions, and data sets. The course's 14 lessons and five activities are specifically designed to address the relevant standards prescribed by the Computer Science Teachers Association.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE 1B****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Completion of Computer Science 1B

Part of the Plato Courseware Career Technical Education (CTE) Library, Computer Science 1B combines engaging online and offline activities in a rigorous one semester course for your high school students who may be aspiring to technical careers. Building on lessons covering the software development lifecycle and software development methodologies, the course uses online discussions, activities, and lessons to lead your students through additional key topics such as quality control, system implementation and maintenance and the increasingly important issue of system security.

**ART HISTORY AND APPRECIATION****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

This course explores the main concepts of art, expression, and creativity as it helps students answer questions such as what is art; what is creativity; and how and why people respond to art. It covers essential design principles such as emphasis, balance, and unity. Units include: Art, History, and Culture; Western and World Art Appreciation; and Art and the Modern World.

**DIGITAL ART****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

This is an effective and comprehensive introduction to careers in the rapidly expanding world of digital art. The course covers creative and practical aspects of digital art in 15 lessons that are enhanced with online discussions and a variety of activities. Beginning with a history of digital art, the course goes on to issues of design, color, and layout. While students will experience creation of digital art, they will also learn about converting traditional art to digital formats. They will also learn about creating a personal portfolio to prepare themselves for career opportunities.

**DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

Few recent technical innovations have changed an industry as fundamentally as digital photography has changed everything about the way we capture our lives in the way we take, edit, store, and share pictures. Digital Photography provides you with the flexibility to not only use it as an independent individual course or as a group or class course, but to also easily customize the course to the unique needs of your situation. The course combines 15 lessons with online discussions that promote the development of critical thinking skills as your students explore digital photography as an enriching activity or a career.

**DRAFTING & DESIGN****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

From the history of drafting and design to a look at the latest in the industry's latest computer-aided tools, Drafting and Design gives your students a comprehensive look at a dynamic and in-demand career. With 14 effective lessons and five engaging activities that lead to mastery of the course content, the course review and end of course assessment help ensure that mastery. The course features skill-embedded content that connects student learning to real-life

**AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

This semester-long course traces the experiences of Africans in the Americas from 1500 to the present day. In this course, students will explore history, politics, and culture. Although the course proceeds in chronological order, lessons are also grouped by themes and trends in African American history. Therefore, some time periods and important people are featured in more than one lesson.

**EAST ASIA GLOBAL STUDIES****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

This semester-long course traces the experiences of Eastern Asia. In this course, students will explore history, politics, and culture.

**ECONOMICS I****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

This courses leverages diverse resources from the National Council on Economic Education in partnership with the National Association of Economic Educators, and the Foundation for Teaching Economics. It begins with providing a basic understanding of the U.S. economy and its relationship to the world economy. It then covers macro issues such as government and the economy and micro issues such as entrepreneurship and consumer issues.

**ECONOMICS II****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

***Prerequisite Requirements:*** Completion of Economics I

This courses is a continuation of Economics I and goes deeper into the concepts of global economics.

**EUROPEAN HISTORY****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

This is an engaging, course offering students an in-depth but easily understood view of the human experience, from the earliest civilizations through the Age of Enlightenment. Interactive features allow students to apply their mastery of lessons through such activities as customizing maps and designing feudal villages.

**GEOGRAPHY I****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

In an increasingly interconnected world, equipping students to develop a better understanding of our global neighbors is critical to ensuring that they are college and career ready. These semester-long courses empower students to increase their knowledge of the world in which they live and how its diverse geographies shape the international community. Semester A units begin with an overview of the physical world and the tools necessary to exploring it effectively. Subsequent units survey each continent and its physical characteristics and engage students and encourage them to develop a global perspective.

**GEOGRAPHY II****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Completion of Geography I

This courses is a continuation of Geography I and goes deeper into the concepts of understanding the world.

**PSYCHOLOGY****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

This flexible, customizable course gives your students an overview of the history of psychology while also giving them the resources to explore career opportunities in the field. Students will learn how psychologists develop and validate theories and will examine how hereditary, social, and cultural factors help form an individual's behavior and attitudes. Students will also evaluate the effectiveness of different types of psychological counseling and therapy. Highly interactive content includes online discussions that help develop critical thinking skills.

**SOCIOLOGY****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

In this course, students will explore the evolution of sociology as a distinct discipline while learning about sociological concepts and processes. They will learn how the individual relates to and impacts society. Students will also learn about the influence of culture, social structure, socialization, and social change on themselves and others. The course combines a variety of content types, including lessons, activities, discussions, and games to engage learners as they discover sociology as a subject and as a career.

**EARTH/SPACE SCIENCE****ONE SEMESTER****1/2 CREDIT**

This course surveys basic physical sciences such as geology, biology, meteorology, oceanography, astronomy, botany, and physics and their impact on the earth. Students are guided to a better understanding of how the earth and the universe are structured.

**SPANISH I****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT**

Spanish is the most spoken non-English language in U.S. homes, even among non-Hispanics, according to the Pew Research Center. There are overwhelming cultural, economic, and demographic reasons for students to achieve mastery of Spanish. Spanish 1A and B engage students and use a variety of activities to ensure student engagement and to promote personalized learning. These courses can be delivered completely online, or implemented as blended courses, according to the unique needs of the teacher and the students.

**SPANISH II****FULL YEAR****1 CREDIT**

*Prerequisite Requirements:* Completion of Spanish I

Spanish 2A and B utilize three assessment tools that are designed specifically to address communication using the target language: Lesson Activities, Unit Activities, and Discussions. These tools help ensure language and concept mastery as students grow in their understanding and use of Spanish. Learning games specifically designed for language learning are used and can be accessed on a wide variety of devices.

The McKeesport Area School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, ancestry, handicap, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Employees and participants who have an inquiry of complaint of harassment or discrimination, or who need information about accommodations for handicapped persons, should contact:

Mr. Charley Kiss  
McKeesport Area School District  
1960 Eden Park Boulevard  
McKeesport, PA 15132

The McKeesport Area School District Career & Technical Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Career and technical education program offerings include, Allied Health; Collision Repair; Childcare; Cosmetology; Engineering; Culinary Arts; Building Construction; Commercial Art; and Diversified Occupations. Inquiries may be directed to the McKeesport Area School District's Title IX Coordinator or the Section 504 Coordinator at 1960 Eden Park Boulevard, McKeesport, PA 15132 or 412-664-3650.



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