

# Byron Center High School Curriculum Guide 2025-2026

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## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

### **ENGLISH 9 Grade 9**

**Year - 1 credit**

In English 9, elements of the reading and writing workshop model are used to engage students in a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts, including books of choice, and narrative, informative, and argumentative writing. Additionally, students participate in public speaking opportunities and class discussion and study vocabulary and grammar. This course is designed to grow students' skills in the areas of comprehension, critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis.

### **HONORS ENGLISH 9 Grade 9**

**Year - 1 credit**

An intensive curriculum that provides in-depth study and analysis of the various components of an English classroom: reading, writing, listening, speaking, grammar, and vocabulary. It differs from the regular English 9 curriculum in the amount of reading, depth of analysis, and number of full-class book studies. Students are expected to have a solid foundation in organization, time management, and communication skills. The course will revolve around classic and contemporary Western literature, exploring the works that have helped shape Western thought. The reading and writing workshop format is also used to help students maintain their personal reading lives while challenging them to deepen their exploration of an author's craft. This is NOT a prerequisite for Honors English 10.

**PREREQUISITE:** Must have an B+ in English 8 (both semesters) and be an independent learner (read and write without intervention). Quality of work will be reviewed and on-time work completion is also required. The high school English department will review a writing sample (WMS will submit the same sample for each student) for final approval.

Summer reading is an expectation for all BCHS students.

### **ENGLISH 10 Grade 10**

**Year - 1 credit**

This course builds upon the knowledge and skills gained in English 9. Students will learn to read and think critically, using a variety of class readings and books of choice. Vocabulary skills will be enhanced throughout the exploration of these texts. In addition, students will be required to produce both formal and informal writing assignments.

### **HONORS ENGLISH 10 Grade 10**

**Year - 1 credit**

This course goes beyond English 10 in the amount of reading, depth of analysis, and number of full-class book studies. Honors English 10 is designed for students who want an early start in preparing themselves for college. The course centers on classic and contemporary American literature, exploring the works that have given us a shared American heritage. Students will also strengthen their communication and use of language through genre studies in podcasting, poetry, rhetorical writing, and profile writing, which combines elements of narrative, rhetorical, and research writing. Students' personal reading lives are also supported through our independent reading program. Honors English 10 will prepare students for either English 11 or AP English Language with an eye toward AP English Literature.

**PREREQUISITE:** Subject to Department Approval. Summer reading is an expectation for all BCHS students.

### **ENGLISH 11 Grade 11**

**Year - 1 credit**

English 11 uses a reading and writing workshop format to focus on independent reading and various kinds of writing. Reading based units include one novel and one nonfiction reading unit completed in groups. Writing units consist of personal vignettes, literary analysis, and a research editorial, as well as shorter writing responses to prompts. Throughout the year, emphasis is placed on grammar, quote integration, and analysis. There is also a strong focus on the skills needed in preparation for college, career, and the SAT.

**English 12: College Focus (1st semester only)**

**Semester - ½ credit**

**Grade 12**

College-Ready English 12 will emphasize skills needed to enter and succeed in college. Writing will focus on the genres needed for college applications, college courses, and eventual entry into a professional career. Activities include research-based writing, college and/or scholarship application essays, argumentative writing, informative writing, and resume writing. Though the course focuses on writing, there is also a choice reading component to the class. Reading activities will also include analyzing mentor texts and reading short selections relevant to the content of the course. Students will engage in communication skills needed to enter the professional workforce.

**English 12: Career Focus (1st semester only)**

**Semester - ½ credit**

**Grade 12**

Career-Ready English 12 will focus on the skills needed to enter and succeed in the professional workplace. Learning will focus on the practical written interactions involved in exploring professional careers. Activities include in-depth career research, resume and cover letter composition, and interview preparation. Though the course focuses on career exploration, there is also a choice reading component to the class. Reading activities will also include analyzing mentor texts and reading short selections relevant to the content of the course. Students will engage in communication skills needed to enter the professional workforce.

**English 12: (Communications) (2nd semester only)**

**Semester - ½ credit**

**Grade 12**

Modern Communications English 12 will focus on the written and spoken communication skills required in today's world. Learning will focus on tailoring our message to particular audiences and contexts, from email to social media to verbal communications. We will critically consume and artfully produce various forms of modern text. Activities include closely examining professional texts and social media, practicing speaking skills, and a capstone project. Students should expect to leave this class with a broader understanding of how to navigate today's communications.

**English 12: Modern Literacy (2nd semester only)**

**Semester - ½ credit**

**Grade 12**

Modern Literacy English 12 will focus on the reading and analytical skills required in today's world. Learning will focus on both critically engaging with published media and self-directed exploration of texts. Students will read as adults do: to learn. They will identify adult skills they wish to learn, conduct research and create a project. They will also form self-selected book clubs to foster reading enjoyment and conversation skills. We will critically consume pop culture and its texts. Activities include closely examining news and social media, practicing reading and conversation skills, and a capstone project. Students should expect to leave this class with experience in the forms of literacy encountered in adulthood.

**AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION**

**Grades 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

An English course for students who love to write and want to take the AP English Language test for potential college credit or college course waivers. This course is skills-based, focusing on various traits of writing. Students will

experiment with many different forms of expository writing as well as an in-depth study of rhetoric. Students will use short pieces of literature to study the way professional authors craft their language. This is a valuable and rewarding experience for the serious college-bound student. This is a college course, and college-level standards will be applied. AP English Language and Composition is a weighted course available to juniors and seniors. All students taking this course are expected to take the AP Exam in May. This course does not emphasize the skills needed on the SAT as much as the English 11 course.

**PREREQUISITE:** PSAT 9 ERW Score 490+, success in SS and ELA courses, and Department Approval. Summer reading & assignment is mandatory.

**AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION**  
**Grade 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

An English course for students who love to read and plan to take the AP English Literature exam for potential college credit or college course waivers. This skills-based course prepares students for college-level reading, writing, and literary analysis with a focus on fiction, including poetry and drama. In order to become active and insightful readers, writers, and thinkers, students will engage with complex literary texts similar to those found on the AP English Literature exam. This valuable and rewarding experience is for the college-bound student who enjoys reading, is interested in the world of ideas, and is ready to engage with literature from Shakespeare to the present. AP English Literature is a weighted course available to seniors. All students taking this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

**PREREQUISITE:** Success in ELA courses and Department Approval. Summer reading & assignment is mandatory.

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

### **INTRO TO PHYSICS**

**Grade 9**

**Year - 1 credit**

Intro to Physics is an introductory science course where students explore the laws of nature. This year-long course will cover topics that include motion, forces, energy, power, heat, waves, circuits, and electricity. Students will use a variety of inquiry methods including simple mechanical procedures, online laboratories, and lab-based investigations to apply and create both conceptual and mathematical descriptions of the physical world. Intro to Physics meets the graduation requirement for Physics for graduation.

### **BIOLOGY**

**Grade 10**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students in Biology will be able to identify the association between cellular processes and maintaining homeostasis in living organisms. Focus will be placed on the interaction of the cell components with the functions of the cell as a whole. They will understand both at the cellular level and organismal level how food is transformed into energy, how the body rids itself of toxic wastes, fights disease and infection, maintains an internal balance in temperature, pH and biochemical processes, and facilitates growth and development. Students will also demonstrate understanding of DNA and the laws of heredity as mechanisms for change for the organism, population and ultimately an ecosystem. Earth Science standards are also integrated into this course per the NGSS requirements.

PREREQUISITE: Intro to Physics or Physics

### **CHEMISTRY**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

This Chemistry course covers a wide range of topics, which are taught in class and investigated in the lab. Major units of instruction covered are atomic structure, matter, and measurement, chemical reactions and energy, solids, liquids and gases, chemistry of solutions, mixtures, acids, bases and titrations. In addition to the content covered, there are additional laboratory skills that are taught and utilized throughout the year. Earth Science standards are also integrated into this course per the NGSS requirements.

PREREQUISITE: Biology

### **EARTH AND CHEMICAL SYSTEMS**

**Grades 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students gain an understanding of chemistry with applications to the real world as well as understanding earth systems and processes. Students will apply knowledge as it pertains to elements, atomic structure, and chemical reactions. There will be a heavy emphasis on lab activity as an application of learning. Earth and Chemical Systems meets the Chemistry requirement for graduation.

PREREQUISITE: Biology

### **PHYSICS**

**Grades 9-12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students in the Physics curriculum will use scientific inquiry to cover topics that include energy transfer and conservation of mechanical energy, Newton's laws of motion, conservation of momentum, electrostatics and simple circuits, and waves and electromagnetic radiation. Students will apply the laws of physics and formulate connections between theory and real-life application. Physics topics will be studied and applied through inquiry-based learning and lab application.

Starting in fall of 2022, Physics will be offered as a freshman level course for those interested in pursuing a career in engineering, or other physics related future endeavors.

**PREREQUISITE:**

- Class of 2026+: Successful completion of Algebra or Geometry with an A or A-, AND an A or A- in Science in 8th grade.
- Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry.

**ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY**

**Grades 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students will study each body system with emphasis placed on the naming of structures and functions of those structures. Students will use dissections, diagrams, microscopes and models to gain insight on arrangement of anatomical parts. The cause and effect relationship of disease to the human body will also be emphasized. This rigorous course relies on *memorization* and will benefit any student, but is highly recommended for those interested in a healthcare career. Units include: Intro to Anatomical Terminology, Tissues, Integumentary System, Skeletal System, Articulations, Muscular System, Senses, Endocrine, Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Digestive and Urinary Systems.

**PREREQUISITE:** B or better in Biology

**FORENSIC SCIENCE**

**Grades 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Forensic Science will introduce students to the fields of applied science and law. The major topics of study will include: the crime scene and physical evidence, observational skills, ballistics, fibers and hair, fingerprints, ballistics, serial killers, blood and blood spatter, forensic serology and DNA, drug analysis, handwriting analysis, and true crime case studies. In order to merge theory with practice, a hands-on approach will be taken in the presentation of all course materials. In addition, students are expected to participate in all laboratories and activities.

**AP BIOLOGY**

**Grades 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory Biology course. AP Biology aims to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal with the science of Biology. This class would be very useful to all students desiring to enter a career in Biology and its sub-disciplines, Health Sciences or Nutrition. Laboratory experiences will be consistent with those of an introductory college course as well. Students taking this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

**PREREQUISITE:** “B” or better in Biology and Department Approval

**AP CHEMISTRY**

**Grade 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Advanced Placement Chemistry is equivalent to a college chemistry course. Students can earn anywhere from 5 to 12 credits of chemistry at participating universities (depending on their performance on the AP test). This class would be very useful to all students desiring to enter a career in the Health Sciences, engineering, as well as all math and science related fields. Students taking this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

**PREREQUISITE:** “B” or better in Chemistry and Department Approval

**AP PHYSICS C: Mechanics**  
**Grades 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

AP Physics C: Mechanics is a calculus-based, college-level physics course. It covers kinematics; Newton's laws of motion; work, energy, and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; circular motion and rotation; oscillations; and gravitation. Students will apply the laws of physics and formulate connections between theory and application. Students taking this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

CO-REQUISITE: Calculus is a co-requisite for AP Physics C so students will need to either be taking or have taken AP Calculus AB.

**MATH DEPARTMENT**

(math placement is determined by the department)

**ALGEBRA 1****Grade 9****Year - 1 credit**

Students in the Algebra I course will cover all of the Algebra I standards set by the Common Core curriculum. Students will be introduced to variables, solve and graph equations and inequalities in standard, linear and quadratic form, and apply various problem solving skills in real life situations. Students will use properties of powers to calculate compound interest and exponential growth. They will be introduced to solving systems of equations, multiplying and factoring polynomials and solving quadratic equations by factoring.

**GEOMETRY****Grades 9, 10, 11****Year - 1 credit**

Students in the Geometry course will work with Geometric shapes and develop an understanding of their properties using reasoning as they explore principles related to the 2D and 3D structures. Algebraic skills will be used throughout the course as the Geometric and Algebraic properties intertwine. Students will work to develop problem solving skills and apply those skills to the world around us.

PREREQUISITE: Algebra 1

**ALGEBRA 2****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

Students in the Algebra 2 course will apply and extend knowledge of familiar ideas such as properties of numbers, graphs, expressions, equations, and inequalities. Algebra 2 contains the mathematics that most colleges want or expect students to know. The study of functions is woven throughout the course and includes linear, quadratic, and polynomial functions. In preparation for subsequent courses, students are introduced to trigonometry, sequences, logarithms, and exponential functions, and probability and statistics.

PREREQUISITE: Algebra 1 and Geometry

**HONORS ALGEBRA 2****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

This course is designed so that students will be better prepared for the variety of topics they will encounter in their future mathematics courses and in life. These topics include the following family of functions: Linear, Quadratic, Polynomial, Exponential and Logarithmic, Rational and Radical. Other topics include: Probability and Statistics, and Sequences and Series. In addition, Honors Algebra 2 completes the trigonometry standards necessary to take Precalculus the following year.

PREREQUISITE: Algebra 1, Geometry, and department recommendation

**ALGEBRA 2 - Part 1****Grades 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

Students in Algebra 2 - Part 1 will cover the 1<sup>st</sup> semester content of the Algebra 2 class, over the entire year. Algebra 2 contains the mathematics that most colleges want or expect students to know. The study of functions is woven throughout the course and includes linear, quadratic, and polynomial functions. In preparation for subsequent courses, students are introduced to trigonometry, sequences, logarithms, and exponential functions, and probability and statistics.

PREREQUISITE: Algebra 1 and Geometry



**ALGEBRA 2 – Part 2**  
**Grades 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students in Algebra 2 - Part 2 will cover the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester content of the Algebra 2 class, over the entire year. Algebra 2 contains the mathematics that most colleges want or expect students to know. The study of functions is woven throughout the course and includes linear, quadratic, and polynomial functions. In preparation for subsequent courses, students are introduced to trigonometry, sequences, logarithms, and exponential functions, and probability and statistics.

PREREQUISITE: Algebra 2 Part 1

**SAT MATH/COLLEGE READINESS:**  
**Grade 11**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Students will use past PSAT data to determine a plan to improve in math in preparation for the SAT. Students will work with a math teacher through personal intervention along with Khan Academy to help students improve their score. This is recommended for ANY student. Students will also create and receive feedback on college readiness decisions such as college/career focus, college admissions searches, resumes, cover letters, and scholarship applications. Students will have an opportunity to explore post-secondary options and begin preparing for the student's next step after high school.

**STATISTICS**  
**Grades 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

In Statistics, students will examine how procedures for analyzing data, together with rules of inference, affect decision-making. Topics of study will include the collection of data, organizing the data, finding and analyzing measures of central tendency and measures of spread, making predictions based on probability, understanding correlation & regression, making inferences based on data and studying data distributions including normal curves. A TI-84 calculator is highly recommended.

PREREQUISITE: Algebra 2

**COLLEGE ALGEBRA**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

College Algebra is a course that overlaps the conclusion of Algebra 2, builds on the algebraic foundations, focuses on Algebraic and Trigonometric functions, and builds a strong foundation for PreCalculus and future college math courses. The College Board offers a CLEP test for College Algebra that a student may take on their own.

PREREQUISITE: Algebra 2 or Statistics

**AP PRECALCULUS**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

AP Precalculus prepares students not only for the AP Precalculus test but also gets them ready for AP Calculus AB. Throughout this course, students develop and hone symbolic manipulation skills, including solving equations and manipulating expressions, for the many function types throughout the course. Students also learn that functions and their compositions, inverses, and transformations are understood through graphical, numerical, analytical, and verbal representations, which are useful for solving problems in mathematical and applied contexts. In turn, the skills learned in this course are widely applicable to situations that involve quantitative reasoning. The main topics covered in this course include: Polynomial and Rational Functions, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, Trigonometric and Polar Functions, and finally functions involving Parameter, Vectors, and Matrices.

PREREQUISITE: Honors Algebra 2, College Algebra, or Statistics

**AP CALCULUS AB****Grades 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

This year-long course will cover topics that would be found in a college Calculus I course. This is Calculus I spread over 2 semesters. There is an AP test at the end of the year that could earn students college credit at most universities. Students are expected to take the AP Exam in May.

PREREQUISITE: Precalculus

**AP CALCULUS BC****Grade 12****Year - 1 credit**

This year-long course will cover topics that would be found in a college Calculus II course. This is Calculus II spread over 2 semesters. There is an AP test at the end of the year that could earn students college credit at most universities. Students are expected to take the AP Exam in May. This is an ideal class for students accelerated in math and looking to enter college for a degree in engineering, mathematics or some variation of a physical science.

PREREQUISITE: A student must be a senior who has already successfully completed AP Calculus AB with a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam.

**AP STATISTICS****Grade 12****Year - 1 credit**

This is a college level Statistics course. The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes:

- \*Exploring data-describing patterns & departures from patterns
- \*Sampling & experimentation; planning and conducting a study
- \*Anticipating patterns: exploring random phenomena using probability & simulation
- \*Statistical inference: estimating population parameters & testing hypotheses.

PREREQUISITE: Precalculus, Statistics, or College Algebra

\*Seniors may take AP Statistics after successful completion of Honors Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 (in their junior year) with department approval.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

### **WORLD HISTORY**

**Grade 9**

**Year - 1 credit**

World History students will develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will allow them to analyze past and current world processes and events. In this course, students will learn and practice historical thinking skills that will enable them to better interact in the modern global world. Students will use historical context to develop their writing skills and make informed decisions about the world.

### **HONORS WORLD HISTORY**

**Grade 9**

**Year - 1 credit**

This course is for those 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who are ready for a more advanced level of World History. Students will be expected to expand their critical thinking and problem solving skills to a more advanced level as they analyze current world processes and events using a historical context. The course will explore more in depth the historical events from each major region on earth. Students will need to be able to work independently to complete research-based projects and papers.

**PREREQUISITE:** Must have B+ in Social Studies 8 and English 8 both semesters. Quality of work will be reviewed and on-time work completion is also required.

### **U.S. HISTORY**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade U. S. History curriculum will complete appropriate assignments using textbooks, media, and outside research that pertain to the subject area and that reflect the cultural heritage of America. Students will integrate learning strategies to expand their knowledge of the foundation of America. Students will evaluate how social studies will help them with life challenges, opportunities, and personal success. In addition, they will see how the past is related to the present and how it serves as a guide for the future.

### **AP U.S. HISTORY**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students in the AP U.S. History curriculum will complete intensive assignments using appropriate readings, media, and research material that reflect the historical activities of the United States. The class is designed as a college level class, and students have the potential to earn college credit if they pass the College Board exam. This is a valuable and rewarding experience for the serious college-bound student who is willing to work hard and has the skills to read and write independently. All students are expected to take the AP exam in May. AP US History meets the U.S. History requirement for graduation.

**PREREQUISITE:** Department Approval

### **ECONOMICS**

**Grades 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Economics includes the study of the allocation of scarce resources and their alternative uses for satisfying human wants. This course should examine basic models of decision-making at various levels and in different areas including: decisions made as a consumer, producer, saver, investor, and voter; business decisions to maximize profits; and public policy decisions in specific markets dealing with output, and prices in the national economy.

**AP MACRO/MICROECONOMICS****Grades 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

The first half of this **year-long course** examines economic rationale and how national economic systems work as a whole. Students study how economic goals are measured by using concepts such as gross domestic product (GDP) and other indicators. Inflation, unemployment, world trade and the role of the Federal Reserve Bank are a few of the concepts studied in this portion of the course. AP Microeconomics is the study of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the economic system. Primary emphasis is on the functions of product markets and includes the study of factor markets and the role of government in promoting efficiency and equality in the economy. Students are expected to take both AP exams in May. The course meets the Economics requirement for graduation.

PREREQUISITE: Department Approval

**GOVERNMENT****Grades 11, 12****Semester - ½ credit**

Government is a semester class that teaches how our government system works and the role of citizens in our government. Particular attention is given to the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Federalism, the election process, and the three branches of government. Students will study the core democratic values and apply those principles to their lives.

**AP GOVERNMENT****Grades 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

Students in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade AP Government curriculum will complete intensive college-level assignments using appropriate readings, media, and research material that reflect the foundation of American government. Students will use learning strategies in order to expand their knowledge of American politics and to evaluate and determine how the student of American government will help with life challenges, opportunities, and personal fulfillment. This course meets the Government requirement for graduation.

PREREQUISITE: Department Approval

**AP EUROPEAN HISTORY****Grades 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

Are you interested in the history of art, architecture, religion, philosophy, warfare, or politics? All of these historical topics will be covered in this year-long AP elective course. We will study a variety of topics through the lens of European history from 1350 to the present. As is the case for all history courses, examining what has happened in the past from various points of view helps us to understand today's world around us better. Just like other AP courses, there is an opportunity to earn college credit through a test at the end of the year. The format of the test is the same as for AP US History, so if you liked or did well in APUSH, chances are good you know what to expect to be successful in AP Euro. If you haven't taken APUSH, don't worry -- you can still be successful in this course! This is a college level course so there are expectations of college level reading and writing required for the course.

PREREQUISITE: World History and US History

**PSYCHOLOGY****Grades 10, 11, 12****Semester - ½ credit**

Why are you the way you are? How did your personality become what it is today? Are you a product of genetics or of your environment? Students in this 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade elective class will explore answers to those questions while also getting a glimpse into mental health, child development, the brain, and dreams. Throughout this class, we will be critical thinking in order to better understand human behavior and the mind. This class relies on questions, discussions, projects, and class participation so that you can see yourself in the content.

**AP PSYCHOLOGY****Grades 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

AP Psychology is designed to help you dive even deeper into how the mind works! Students are exposed to units such as Abnormal Behavior, Personality, Social, and Motivation (among others). You will become experimenters as you apply the content of this class to your life, while hopefully earning some college credit! This class does require a lot of participation and reflection. You do not need to have taken the regular Psychology class to take this class. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

PREREQUISITE: Department Approval

**MODERN PSYCHOLOGY****Grades 10, 11, 12****Semester - ½ credit**

Did you know that there is now a map of the brain that resembles Google Maps? Did you know that humans are being recruited to help teach AI morality? Did you know you are able to project dreams onto computers and people can see what you are dreaming? Modern Psych will take you into all of the groundbreaking and future topics in the field of psychology. This class is designed for people who have a passion for the subject. Modern Psychology will require heavy participation through experiments, book studies, documentaries, and discussions. This class will be equal parts fun, interesting, rigorous, and adaptable to what students want to focus on.

PREREQUISITES: Completion of Intro to Psychology and/or completion or currently taking AP Psychology.

**SOCIOLOGY****Grades 10, 11, 12****Semester - ½ credit**

This class is designed to get you thinking about the concepts within society: wealth/poverty/class, race, gender, crime, education, and culture. We will discuss ideas of equity and equality. Students will explore what they think and believe while learning to discuss topics in a deeper fashion. We will spend time looking at current events as well as historical development of the concepts above. Sociology relies heavily on documentaries, socratic seminars, guest speakers, and participation!

**HISTORY THROUGH MEDIA****Grades 11, 12****Semester - ½ credit**

History is full of action and adventure, mystery and suspense, terror and joy, heroes and villains, victorious underdogs and failed superstars. "History through Media" will examine significant stories and people throughout our history at a depth where students can better understand and appreciate the intricacies of our past. While using typical historical resources like maps and primary sources, students will also explore different topics and eras through a variety of media, such as movies, television, music, art, and literature to learn about those incredible stories and unique individuals who have inspired such media. The course will build on students' abilities in historical analysis and interpretation, research, and decision-making, but also take opportunities to discuss and deliberate over the human side of history as we examine the personal and moral aspects of our topics.

PREREQUISITE: World/Honors World History; US History/ AP US History

## **WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

### **GERMAN I**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students in German I will learn the basics of the German language, including vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure. Students will learn how to talk about themselves and others, countries around the world, school, weather, clothing, and holidays and celebrations. Students will also gain an understanding of the culture in German-speaking countries as it relates to the content of the curriculum, as well as relevant historical and current events that occur in the year.

### **GERMAN II**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students in German II will continue to grow in their learning and understanding of the German language and cultures of German-speaking countries. Students will learn how to describe houses and rooms, daily routines, health, food, travel, giving and understanding directions, and places around town. Students will continue to learn how to communicate in the present tense and will also begin to learn how to communicate in the past tense. Students will continue to gain an understanding of the culture in German-speaking cultures as it relates to the content of the curriculum, as well as relevant historical and current events that occur in the year.

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of German I

### **GERMAN III**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

German III is an advanced course for students who wish to continue developing their knowledge and understanding of the German language and culture of the German-speaking countries. Students will dive deeper into new and familiar topics, including: learning about the environment, reflecting on childhood memories/activities, reading fairy tales and other German literature, exploring cultural differences in post-high school opportunities, and learning about current events. Students will continue using present tense, hone skills in the past tense, and learn the future tense. Students will continue to gain an understanding of the culture in German-speaking countries as it relates to the content of the curriculum, as well as relevant historical and current events that occur in the year.

PREREQUISITE: C average or higher in German II

### **GERMAN IV**

**Grades 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

German IV is an advanced course for students who wish to continue developing their knowledge and understanding of the German language and culture of the German-speaking countries. German IV dives deeper into new and familiar topics which align with the AP German exam and is the prerequisite class for AP German. Students will continue honing their skills and developing their language proficiency through a variety of reading, listening, writing, and speaking tasks. Students will continue to gain an understanding of the culture in German-speaking countries as it relates to the content of the curriculum, as well as relevant historical and current events that occur in the year.

PREREQUISITE: C average or higher in German III

**AP GERMAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE****Grade 12****Year - 1 credit**

AP German Language and Culture is an advanced, college level German course. Students will improve their language skills through reading, listening to native speakers, and writing in German. Communication in the class will be almost exclusively in German. Passing the AP exam earns students up to 16 college credits (credits vary by university and score earned).

PREREQUISITE: C+ or better in German IV

**SPANISH I****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

Students in Spanish I learn vocabulary and basic grammar concepts through activities, games, music, and presentations. Students gain an appreciation for the various cultures of Spanish-speaking countries by celebrating holidays, participating in cultural experiences, and learning about Spanish-speaking countries. All students will participate in a market activity where they must negotiate prices in Spanish.

**SPANISH II****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

Students in Spanish II enhance their understanding of the Spanish language and culture. Activities include reading a short novel in Spanish, watching a soap opera in Spanish, singing cultural songs, and giving verbal presentations. In addition to learning more vocabulary and grammar concepts, students will practice the present and past verb tenses and learn idiomatic expressions (slang terms).

PREREQUISITE: B- average in Spanish I

**SPANISH III:****Grades 10, 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

Spanish III is an advanced course for students desiring to expand their knowledge of the Spanish language. They will be immersed in the language and spend the majority of time using new vocabulary and grammar concepts while speaking in Spanish. Students will read a novel, and watch videos in Spanish. Spanish art and cooking will enhance students' appreciation for the various cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.

PREREQUISITE: B- average in Spanish II

**SPANISH IV****Grades 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

Spanish IV is an advanced Spanish course that will prepare students for AP Spanish Language and Culture the following year. Students will focus on improving their language skills through reading, listening to native speakers, and writing in Spanish. Students will learn advanced grammar concepts, vocabulary, and unique aspects of the cultures of Spanish speaking countries. Communication in the class will be exclusively in Spanish. This course is the prerequisite for AP Spanish Language and Culture.

PREREQUISITE: B- average in Spanish III

**AP SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE****Grade 12****Year - 1 credit**

AP Spanish Language and Culture is an advanced, college level Spanish course. Students will improve their language skills through reading, listening to native speakers, and writing in Spanish. Communication in the class will be exclusively in Spanish. Passing the AP exam earns students up to 16 college credits (credits vary by university and score earned).

**PREREQUISITE:** B- average in Spanish IV



## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

### **LIFETIME FITNESS AND WELLNESS**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Lifetime Fitness and Wellness (LFW) is a course that is for students who are interested in enhancing their health related personal fitness in a non-competitive environment. On a daily basis students will engage in health enhancing physical activity that will equip them with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for lifelong physical activity & wellness. Students will demonstrate competence in general fitness, yoga, pilates, basic weight training and various aerobic based activities to maintain their physical fitness into adulthood with periodic self-evaluation. Students will exhibit appropriate personal-social character traits while participating in this class. This course does meet the Physical Education requirement for graduation.

\*\* LFW cannot be taken in the same semester as Bulldog Power.

### **LIFETIME SPORTS AND WELLNESS**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Lifetime Sports and Wellness (LSW) is a course that will engage students in health enhancing physical activity that will equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for lifelong physical activity and wellness. This course emphasizes active participation, teamwork and sportsmanship. Students will demonstrate competence in selected motor skills; assess, achieve, and maintain physical fitness with quarterly examination. Students will exhibit appropriate personal-social character traits while participating in physical activity in this class. Units of instruction may include: personal fitness, badminton, 3 on 3 basketball, pickleball, volleyball, table tennis, back-yard games, disc golf, flag football, and/or ultimate disc. This course does meet the Physical Education requirement for graduation.

### **BULLDOG POWER STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Bulldog Power (BP) is a course for students that will develop and master, through practice and testing, the basic skills and principles applied from the BP program. Bulldog Power will focus on improving the sports performance factors of muscular strength, power, speed, agility and jumping ability. The concepts of speed, jumping, strength and agility will be tested quarterly. Topics for student comprehension are exercise training, weight room safety, weight room techniques, goal setting, sports nutrition, hydration, agility, plyometrics, speed, cardiovascular health, strength and flexibility training. Students will be able to track their training by using an online platform and/or app. This course may be taken multiple times throughout high school. Bulldog Power does not meet the Physical Education requirement for graduation.

\*\* Bulldog Power cannot be taken in the same semester as Lifetime Fitness and Wellness (LFW).

### **HEALTH**

**Grades 9-12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Students in Health will learn to obtain, interpret, and apply health information and services in ways that protect and promote personal, family, and community health. Instruction will be clearly relevant to today's rapidly changing world. Topics of study include: Nutrition and Physical Activity, Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs, Safety and Prevention, Social and Emotional Health, Personal Health and Wellness, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, HIV and Prevention, and Reproductive Health.

## **BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

### **ACCOUNTING**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

This course is a must for any student desiring a career in the business world! Accounting focuses on the planning, keeping, analyzing, and interpreting of financial records for businesses. Students will use spreadsheets and Peachtree Accounting software to solve financial problems.

### **BUSINESS LAW**

**Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Business Law is a survey of the American legal system designed to develop an understanding of the fundamentals of business law. Classes are conducted by using text and actual case studies for the purpose of observing the development and application of legal principles in a business environment. Topics covered include the nature of law, courts and court procedures, crimes and torts, contracts, sales, and negotiable instruments. This course provides the student with a working knowledge of the legal framework within which formal business organizations must operate.

### **INTRO TO BUSINESS**

**Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Introduction to Business is designed for the student to be introduced to the ownership and workings of a business both from the perspective of an owner and the consumer. This class will help to make you a well-prepared employee and a better informed citizen. Topics studied include basic economics, business organization, international business, business ethics, business law, social responsibilities of consumers, businesses and government, community involvement, business structures and profiles of different career opportunities in the business world. This course will serve as a core class for other business classes you will take to help prepare for future employment or business ownership.

### **MARKETING**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Students will explore key concepts such as the Four Ps of Marketing (Product, Price, Place, Promotion), market research, consumer behavior, and the processes of segmentation, targeting, and positioning. The course explores product strategy, branding, and pricing models, emphasizing the development of effective marketing strategies. Through hands-on projects and presentations, students will apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios, gaining a deeper understanding of how to craft and communicate compelling marketing campaigns. By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of core marketing concepts and be able to apply them in practical, real-world situations.

### **PERSONAL FINANCE**

**Grades 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Learning to save and use money wisely now will increase your chances of having financial security in the future. Personal Finance class will cover topics such as planning personal finances, budgeting, earnings, banking and credit, investing, and protecting your finances. All this in just one semester!

### **SPIRIT STORE MARKETING AND OPERATIONS**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

This course trains students in marketing foundations and functions, and demonstrates strategies used to merchandise and sell products and services effectively in a competitive market. Students learn basic sales techniques, customer service, marketing strategies, promotions, inventory control, marketing math, merchandising techniques, store operation, global marketing, and entrepreneurship. This course combines classroom instruction with on-the-job training experiences using the high school Spirit Store. Students will be required to work in the Spirit Store during and outside of class.

## **TECHNOLOGY/APPLIED ART DEPARTMENT**

(these courses meet the VPAA requirement for graduation)

### **INTRO TO COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Semester-½ credit**

Students will learn the foundation and basics behind computer science theory and get an introduction to coding. Students will learn the basic foundation to determine whether they have interest and aptitude for future computer science courses.

### **AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 Credit**

AP Computer Science A is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level course in computer science. The course introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design using Java language. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems. The AP Computer Science A course curriculum is compatible with many CS1 courses in colleges and universities. This course will prepare students for the end-of-course AP Exam.

PREREQUISITE: Algebra 2, AP Computer Science Principles or Intro to Computer Science or Instructor Permission

### **AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 Credit**

AP Computer Science Principles offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The college level course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. AP Computer Science Principles also gives students the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem solving. Together, these aspects of the course make up a rigorous and rich curriculum that aims to broaden participation in computer science.

PREREQUISITE: Algebra 1 and department approval

### **CAM/CNC**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

This course is designed to teach students the basic principles of precision machining and how it applies to engineering and manufacturing. This class will teach students the essential techniques and skills necessary for using hand tools, precision and semi-precision measurement instruments, blueprint reading, 3D Printing, and general machine safety.

Students gain experience in the setup and operation of conventional machine tools including milling machines, lathes, surface grinders, saws, and drills, as well as introductory skills in computer aided manufacturing (CAM), computer aided design (CAD), and Computer Numerical Control (CNC).

### **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING**

**Grades 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students will build upon skills learned in STEM (Drafting) and/or CAM/CNC in machining, CAD, and additional manufacturing skills. Students will learn CNC programming and machine operation, advanced machining principles, sheet metal design, welding, advanced CAD skills like 3D modeling and assembly, 3D printing, and automation.

PREREQUISITE: CAM/CNC

**STEM (DRAFTING)****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

Have you ever wondered how things are made? Students enrolled in this course will learn to design mechanical parts like an engineer and draw an entire house like an architect. The use of drafting and Computer Aided Design (CAD) software will be taught and incorporated into the projects, allowing the student to imagine and create drawings. Students will learn 2D design first in drafting by hand, on the computer in Autocad, and will learn the basics of 3D design and solid modeling with Inventor. Students will also learn how to design parts to be 3D printed, and will design and print their own projects to take home.

**ELECTRIC CAR****Grades 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

This course is designed to teach and expose students to the many areas of manufacturing and different aspects of the engineering field. This is a capstone course in the Technology Department. The focus of this class is to have students use their acquired knowledge and skill as they work in teams to problem solve, design, create, and assemble components for the electric race cars. This class will prepare students to work in a team environment, and in addition to continuing to learn advanced manufacturing, will introduce them to welding, electronics, mechanical systems, heat transfer, fluid dynamics, and other engineering topics. Students will leave this class with skills necessary to succeed in entering a career, or technical/engineering school.

PREREQUISITE: CAM/CNC

**ADOBE CREATIVE CLOUD****Grades 10, 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

The Creative Cloud class is a year-long study in the Adobe Creative Cloud. You will learn the basic skills of photo editing, info graphic design, media editing, UI/UX design, digital drawing and painting, 3D imaging, AR/VR, social media marketing, and business tech knowledge. Presentation skills are in such great demand and colleges across the United States are using these Adobe applications in their course work and authentic academic projects. This class is intended for everyone, whether you plan to attend college or head into the world of work. You will learn visual design and communication skills to make your projects stand out and get noticed!

## **VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT**

(these courses meet the VPAA requirement for graduation)

### **FOUNDATION OF MEDIA, VIDEO & PHOTO**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

The students in the Foundations of Media, Video & Photo curriculum will learn the fundamentals of media production including the techniques of operating a camera, lighting, audio, podcasting and editing. Focus will be put on media ethics and literacy while learning communication skills vital to enhance education and career opportunities.

### **FOUNDATION OF VISUAL ARTS**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Students will experience drawing and painting, illustration techniques, two-and-three dimensional design, sculpture, pottery, life drawing, and 2D/3D computer graphics.

### **ANIMATION AND GAME DESIGN**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

This class emphasizes the art and craft of animation in both traditional and digital media. Drawing, speed, velocity, time, physics, game design and observational skills are emphasized throughout this hands-on class. Special effects, frame-by-frame animation, claymation, object animation, cell animation, and 3D animation will be explored.

PREREQUISITE: Foundation of Visual Arts is recommended.

### **AUDIO VISUAL EDITING**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Learn to edit video like the pros using Premiere Pro. Students in A/V Editing will concentrate on editing skills while producing a variety of projects. We will utilize programs such as After Effects, GarageBand and Photoshop to enhance our editing experience. We will study special effects in filmmaking to further understand the editing process. Camera work and pre-production planning will also be emphasized.

PREREQUISITE: Foundation of Media is recommended.

### **COMPUTER GRAPHICS**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Students will learn skills related to graphic/web design, gain skills and knowledge in drawing, design, typography, illustration, and technical production. This class has connections to business, marketing, and advertising media, and the digital tool sets will help students to become better 21st century learners and media artists.

PREREQUISITE: Foundation of Visual Arts is recommended.

### **DRAWING**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Students in the Drawing curriculum will study the fundamental concepts of drawing using a variety of media. Use of varied media will be directed toward observational, technical, descriptive, and expressive solutions of fine art. Students will explore pictorial concepts with emphasis on understanding and using the elements of art and principles of design. Curriculum will include study of drawing in the history of art as well as contemporary artists who use drawing as a primary means of expression in their work. Drawing is a studio art course in which the process is stressed along with development of a well-crafted project.

PREREQUISITE: Foundation of Visual Arts is recommended

**FILM STUDIES**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Through the study of “visual texts” the filmmakers and cultural contexts surrounding film productions, this course will emphasize interpretation and appreciation of cinematic works through discussion and written work. Each class period will be spent discussing various aspects of each film viewing, including cinematic merit, classification, and impact on the evolution of the film genre. This will also include information covered in the lectures and articles as we progress through them, student discussions and editing and critique of assignments by groups and the class as a whole.

**PAINTING**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Students in Painting will explore pictorial concepts using paint as their primary medium. Students in this course will further their compositional and color skills as well as their knowledge of various painting methods and media. The coursework emphasizes the creation of technical, unique, imaginative, and meaningful solutions to artistic problems posed. Curriculum also includes the study of painting in the history of art as well as contemporary artists using paint as their primary medium. Painting is a studio art course in which process is stressed along with development of a well-crafted project.

PREREQUISITE: Foundation of Visual Arts is recommended

**PHOTOJOURNALISM (PHOTOGRAPHY)**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

This course will provide a solid introduction to the medium of photography and its practice today. Students will develop their visual skills and begin to “think in pictures”, while they learn about the essential features of a digital camera and how to control them. Working with tools such as digital cameras, and Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom software, students will further their ability to communicate visually. Shutterbugs welcome!

PREREQUISITE: Foundation of Arts is recommended.

**PODCASTING**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12**

Have you ever dreamed of sharing your voice with the world? This course is designed to acquaint you with all aspects of podcasting and help you to become a better storyteller. It will train you to think critically about stories you consume, and it will give you a working knowledge of current trends in audio production. There will be lessons on sound gathering using professional sound gear as well as cell phones, interviewing, script writing, audio editing and developing a “radio voice.”

**POTTERY**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Pottery is a studio art course in which hands-on learning is emphasized. Students in Pottery will utilize and advance their understanding of the variety of ceramic construction techniques including pinch, slab, coil, mold, and wheel forms. The coursework will also give students an understanding of various firing and glazing techniques as well as exposure to the history of pottery. Process is stressed along with the development of a well-crafted project.

PREREQUISITE: Foundation of Visual Art is recommended

**SCULPTURE**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Sculpture is a studio art course in which students will learn to use a variety of materials and methods to create 3D artwork. Students will apply design skills learned in the course including the elements and principles of 3D design and apply them to a design or sculpture project. Curriculum will cover some of the history of sculpture as well as contemporary sculpture artists. Process is stressed along with the development of a well-crafted project.

PREREQUISITE: Foundation of Visual Arts is recommended

### **VISUAL ARTS MEDIA COMMUNITY**

**Grades 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Advanced students will focus on portfolio development as they continue to develop skills in producing high quality works of art. Emphasis is placed on creating more complex visual statements. A wide range of materials and processes will be further explored, and students will have the opportunity to focus on a chosen subject or medium. The course is intended for advanced students creating a portfolio.

PREREQUISITE: 2 years of visual art classes or instructor's permission is required.

### **YEARBOOK**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

In this 21st century, cross curricular, project-based class, students work collaboratively by using technology such as digital cameras, photo editing software and online design software to digitally produce a yearbook. Students use writing skills, communication skills and creativity to tell the story of the school community and peers in an engaging way. Students demonstrate knowledge of graphic design and think creatively when organizing information within the yearbook. In this college and career ready course, students think critically to meet deadlines, track goals and utilize multimedia to market and disseminate information that aligns with and models an actual business. Students may be required to sell ads as part of the course requirements. Students will need to attend events outside of the school day to obtain photos for the yearbook. This year-long course requires a full year commitment and can not be dropped mid-year.

## **PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT**

(these courses meet the VPAA requirement for graduation)

### **INTRO TO ACTING**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Intro to Acting is intended as an overview of theatre history and the various professional avenues for the theatre artist. Students will develop vocal, physical, and mental preparation as well as freedom of expression through the study of acting and improvisation. Students will also develop their craft as storytellers through the study of dramatic literature, theatre history, introductory directing techniques and basic concepts of stage design. The student will also be required to observe professional and amateur acting and design in community theatre productions. Intro to Acting serves as a prerequisite for Advanced Acting.

### **ADVANCED ACTING**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Advanced Acting is a course designed for serious students of theatre to further develop their craft as storytellers through an understanding of dramatic structure, characterization, language, style, rhythm, and idea through advanced scene-work and directing projects. Students will explore and apply the techniques of Stanislavski, Strasberg, Adler and Meisner among others. Students will also explore acting and directing approaches to classical texts such as Shakespeare and Moliere as well as contemporary theatrical styles such as musical theatre. The class will culminate with a community performance. (*10<sup>th</sup> grade by permission of the instructor*)

PREREQUISITE: Intro to Acting and Instructor's permission

### **BEL CANTO CHOIR (SSAA Choir)**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

In this entry level choir for soprano and alto voices, students learn the basics of proper vocal production, music literacy and sight-singing. Music aptitude and cooperative learning are emphasized and developed through rehearsals and performances. Students sing a variety of choral literature across many musical style periods and cultures. This course requires participation in concerts and activities throughout the year, scheduled outside of the school day. These concerts and activities are a major part of the final grade; students who cannot commit to this requirement should not consider Bel Canto as their elective.

PREREQUISITE: Students must demonstrate potential to match pitch when they sing. To determine placement, students must schedule an appointment with the director for a vocal skills and range test.

### **BELLA VOCE CHOIR**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Bella Voce is an advanced audition-only soprano and alto choir made up of students who have been in the high school choral music program for at least one year, and demonstrate a high level of music aptitude and teamwork. This advanced group performs diverse and challenging music with consistent excellence. Students in this group must be committed to developing and perfecting skills such as vocal technique, blend, intonation, and ensemble tuning necessary to produce a quality choral music performance. These students will continue to study essential music theory and music literacy skills. Students will participate in a variety of performance opportunities including festivals and community performances, solo and ensemble, and the Michigan honors choir program.

PREREQUISITE: One year of High School choir experience. Audition with the Director. Open to soprano and alto voices only.



**CHOIR (TTBB Choir)**  
**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

In this entry level choir for tenor and bass voices, students learn the basics of proper vocal production, music literacy and sight-singing. Music aptitude and cooperative learning are emphasized and developed through rehearsals and performances. Students sing a variety of choral literature across many musical style periods and cultures. This course requires participation in concerts and activities throughout the year scheduled outside of the school day. These concerts and activities are a major part of the final grade; students who cannot commit to this requirement should not consider Cantare as their elective.

**PREREQUISITE:** Students must demonstrate potential to match pitch when they sing. To determine placement, students must schedule an appointment with the director for a vocal skills and range test.

**CONCERT ORCHESTRA**  
**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Concert orchestra is a performance based course focused on developing stringed instrument repertoire, individual technique and ensemble skills. This class is open to students that play the violin, viola, cello, and bass with permission of the instructor. Grading will consist of individual progress on the instrument, study of music theory and history, and performances completed both individually and as a class. School concerts and orchestra festival performances are required.

**PREREQUISITE:** Previous instrumental experiences or interview with the director.

**CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**  
**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Chamber orchestra is an advanced performance based course focused on developing stringed instrument repertoire, individual technique and ensemble skills. This class is open to students that play the violin, viola, cello, and bass with permission of the instructor. Grading will consist of individual progress on the instrument, study of music theory and history, and performances completed both individually and as a class. School concerts and orchestra festival performances are required.

**PREREQUISITE:** Audition with director

**CONCERT BAND/WIND ENSEMBLE**  
**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students will participate in all areas of traditional band programs including, but not limited to, Concert Band, Marching Band, Festivals, Clinics, Tours, and Concerts. The marching band season runs from the beginning of the year until November. The concert band season will begin in November and last through the rest of the school year. Concert season will include performing ensembles: Concert Band and Wind Ensemble. Students perform for home football games, marching competitions, formal concerts, and festival performances.

**CONCERT BAND PREREQUISITE:** Previous instrumental experiences or interview with the director.

**WIND ENSEMBLE PREREQUISITE:** Previous instrumental experiences and audition for director.

**JAZZ ORCHESTRA/JAZZ BAND**  
**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Jazz Band includes performance opportunities of contemporary music. Students experience styles, interpretation, and cultural awareness, as well as historical art forms referred to as Jazz, Dixie, Ragtime, Rock, Gospel, Bebop, and more. Performance opportunities are similar in nature to all the performances of the Byron Center Band.

**JAZZ ORCHESTRA PREREQUISITE:** Audition for director. Previous instrumental experience. Limited to saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, and drums.

**JAZZ BAND PREREQUISITE:** Previous instrumental experience. Any instrument may join. Members of the Jazz Band II are required to be enrolled in and participating in the Byron Center High School Band and be in good standing.

## **MUSIC APPRECIATION**

**Grades 9-12**

**Year - 1 credit**

This course is geared towards any students who wish to take a non-performing music course to earn their fine arts requirement for graduation. Students will learn about composers, music genres, and masterworks as well as basic music theory and form. Students will also explore the enjoyment of music through various movement, vocal, and ukulele explorations.

**PREREQUISITE:** No prior music experience is needed.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

**Grade 10, 11, 12**

**Semester ½ credit**

A course designed to introduce the students to a variety of writing genres. Students will experience writing short stories, poetry, plays, monologues, and other genres of writing. Throughout their studies, they will discuss many aspects of all genres: voice, character development, plot, wording, etc. Student Creative writing will be doing a great deal of informal writing and choosing specific pieces to take through a more rigorous writing process. The course can culminate in a variety of major projects; literary magazine, public readings, or a writing portfolio are just some of the possibilities. This course is an elective course and does not count for English credit.

### **HEALTHY FAMILY LIVING**

**Grades 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Students in Healthy Family Living will be prepared to function in multiple adult roles of day-to-day living and working throughout life. Students develop an individual sense of well-being to become contributing members of society as a family member, nurturer, worker, consumer, citizen, and lifelong learner. Topics covered will include: mate selection, marriage, parenting, child development, housing selection, nutritious meal planning, and caring for the elderly. Students are required to take home a Real-Care baby for the weekend.

### **SAT MATH/COLLEGE READINESS:**

**Grade 11**

**Semester - ½ credit**

Students will use past PSAT data to determine a plan to improve in math in preparation for the SAT. Students will work with a math teacher through personal intervention along with Khan Academy to help students improve their score. This is recommended for ANY student. Students will also create and receive feedback on college readiness decisions such as college/career focus, college admissions searches, resumes, cover letters, and scholarship applications. Students will have an opportunity to explore post-secondary options and begin preparing for the student's next step after high school.

### **STUDENT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students in Student Life & Leadership will focus on skills necessary to become selfless servant leaders and study the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. They will be given the opportunity to build their own leadership skills while working with their peers and with members of the community through guest speakers and collaborative events. The course will help students develop real-world skills for life leadership. Members of the class will be required to participate in outside school-related and community-related events. Therefore, there will be after school commitments throughout the year.

PREREQUISITE: Application and approval required.

### **SUCCESS LAB**

**Grade 9**

**Semester - ½ credit**

The focus of this course is to help students to improve their study habits, better understand time management, and learn other techniques and skills that are linked to a positive high school experience and to adult life. The course will also provide regular and consistent accountability and progress monitoring with a mentor teacher.

PREREQUISITE: Students in grade 9 must receive counselor approval.

**STUDY SKILLS**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

This course is designed to teach students how to take notes, prepare for tests, and manage their time in order to achieve more academic success. The course includes daily time for work completion and weekly progress checks with the instructor.

PREREQUISITE: Students in grades 10-12 must receive counselor approval.

**SCHOOL TO CAREER**  
**Grade 12**

**Semester or Year - ½ to 3 credits**

Work Based Experience: time spent in business, industry, or other agency for the purpose of providing students with an opportunity to gain insight and direct experience related to one or more functions of the organization. The School to Career Program gives a student paid or unpaid work experience in a career in which they have interest. Students may take up to 3 credits their senior year.

PREREQUISITE: Students must secure their own placement in a legitimate business/career which is related to their career pathway/career goal as shown on their EDP. Students must also enroll in an approved, related course for the entire work experience. Applications must be turned in to the School to Career Coordinator. Application will be reviewed, placement site will be visited, and counselor/administrative approval must be obtained. Students who are not on track to graduate or who have issues in attendance and/or discipline may not be approved.

**LINKS**  
**Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

The student enrolled in the Links course will be a mentor, role model, and friend to a student with a disability. In this role, the Links Program student will be with their assigned peer one class period per day, and they will be interacting with their peer throughout social activities during the entire school day. This peer could be in a resource room setting, a cognitive impaired setting or in the Northstar Academy program setting. In addition to being a mentor, role model, and friend, they will assist the peer student in such things as appropriate classroom behavior, organization of assignments and supplies, and focusing on what the teacher is presenting or the classroom activities.

For Links students, this course will cultivate leadership skills, advance inter/intra personal skills, expand and deepen their understanding of the process of learning and creating relationships, implement and model self-directed behaviors, and create relevance to possible future career paths. It will also further develop and grow their potential for more meaningful understanding of the teaching and learning process through service and application of strategies and theories learned.

**The Link student will attend 2 monthly Case Conferences during a flex time to discuss the progress of their peer student, and contribute ideas on how to more effectively help the peer student progress toward his/her goals.**

During a normal school week, the Link student will also be required to complete weekly disability awareness lessons using an online classroom environment. The Link student will learn more about the causes and prevalence of many common disabilities, methods/techniques for working with individuals with disabilities, developing social networking supports, and developing a social climate of awareness, acceptance, and inclusion. This class can also help prepare students who may want to work with individuals with disabilities as a profession such as a Social Worker, Teacher, School Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist, Physical and Occupational Therapy and more. This course may be taken for one or both semesters.

PREREQUISITE: Application and approval required.

**DUAL ENROLLMENT**  
**Grades 9,10,11,12**

**Semester - ½ credit**

**KENT CAREER TECH CENTER**

**Grades 11, 12**

**Year - 3 credits**

**ESL BASIC  
Grades 9 – 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

The Basic ESL class is for lower-level (1-2 on the WIDA ACCESS test) English Learners (ELs) who are in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Byron Center High School. Typically this class is for newcomers to the United States who know little English. This course provides English language instruction in the four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. The focus is on creating a foundation of English academic vocabulary and grammar skills.

PREREQUISITE: WIDA TEST

### **English Language Development Foundations**

**Grades 9 – 12 Year - 1 credit**

The ELD Foundations class is for lower-level (1-2 on the WIDA ACCESS test) English Learners (ELs) who are in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Byron Center High School. Typically this class is for newcomers to the United States who know little English. This course provides English language instruction in the four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. The focus is on creating a foundation of English academic vocabulary and grammar skills.

PREREQUISITE: WIDA TEST

### **English Language Development**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 Year - 1 credit**

This class is for upper-level (2-6 on the WIDA ACCESS test) English Learners (ELs) who are in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Byron Center High School. This class is for 9th-12th- grade students who are proficient (or near proficient) in English, but have not demonstrated proficiency on the state-required assessments yet in English, reading, or writing, and therefore are not able to be exited from the ESL program. The purpose of the class is to increase students' English, reading, and writing skills and to work on study and testing strategies (SAT, PSAT, M-STEP, etc.) so that ELs can be at the same grade level as their peers and then exit from the ESL program. Ultimately the goal is success for ELs in all of their regular-education classes. This class consists of study skills and testing skills with a major emphasis on reading, writing, and vocabulary.

PREREQUISITE: WIDA TEST

### **LEARNING STRATEGIES**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Year - 1 credit**

Students in Learning Strategies will receive thirty minutes of pre-teaching, re-teaching, and reviewing concepts taught in English and math classes. In ELA, students will learn different strategies to improve reading skills, reading comprehension, and written expression. In math, students will focus on problem solving and demonstrate the ability to break down various multi-step problems. Students will also discover how math is used in real-world situations.

PREREQUISITE: IEP

**COGNITIVELY IMPAIRED (CI)****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

This program will give students the opportunities to develop pre-vocational, academic, leisure, communication, social, and daily living skills, and to have every student become the best that they can be. It is meant to prepare students to become as independent as possible and participate fully in their communities.

PREREQUISITE: IEP

**LIVING SKILLS****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

The living skills portion of the class focuses on skills the students will need to take care of their personal needs. Some of the skill areas taught in this portion of the class consist of personal finances, home management, food, employment, and mobility in the community. Reading and writing are developed by using these areas as the basis of study.

PREREQUISITE: IEP

**VOCATIONAL MATH****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

This class focuses on functional math skills related to life. Students work on money skills, check writing skills, telling time skills, and budgeting. Students participate in a simulation where they fill out forms and papers related to living on their own. Students also address issues related to grocery shopping and calculating the best deal on a purchase.

PREREQUISITE: IEP

**VOCATIONAL LANGUAGE ARTS****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12****Year - 1 credit**

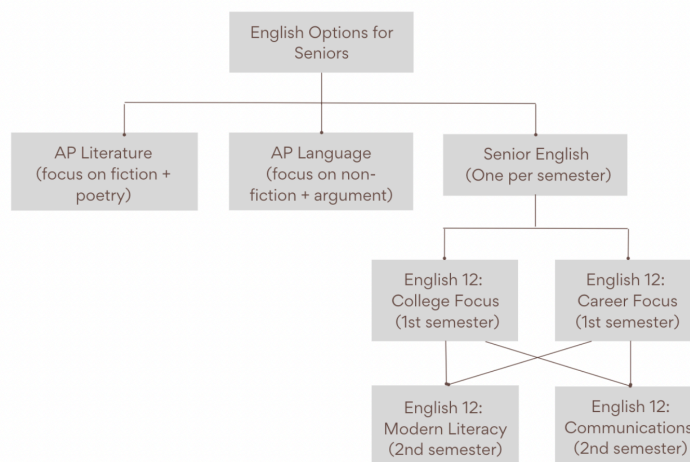
Students will focus on reading skills through various texts including choice reading. Students will focus on literature at grade level, reading for information, and basic understanding of grammar rules and the structure of good writing. Students will show growth in reading level through individual testing.

PREREQUISITE: IEP

## BCHS Course Progression Class of 2026-2028

	9th	10th	11th	12th
<b>English</b> (4.0 credits required)	English 9 Honors English 9	English 10 Honors English 10	English 11 AP English Language	English 12 <i>(please see course selection guide for options)</i> AP English Language AP English Literature
<b>Science</b> (3.0 credits required)	Intro to Physics	Biology	Chemistry Earth and Chemical Systems	Not required, but electives available
	Physics	Biology	Chemistry	Anatomy AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics Forensic Science
<b>Social Studies</b> (3.0 credits required)	World History Honors World History	US History AP US History	Government & Economics (semester each)	Not required, but electives available
	World History Honors World History	US History AP US History	AP Government (year-long)	Economics AP Economics
<b>World Language</b> (2.0 credits required)	German I	German II	German III	German IV
	German II	German III	German IV	AP German
	Spanish I	Spanish II	Spanish III	Spanish IV
	Spanish II	Spanish III	Spanish IV	AP Spanish
<b>Mathematics</b> (4.0 credits required)	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	College Algebra Stats & Personal Finance
	Algebra 1	Geometry	Honors Algebra 2	AP Precalculus
	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2 part 1	Algebra 2 part 2
	Geometry	Algebra 2	Statistics & SAT Math	AP Statistics
	Geometry	Honors Algebra 2	AP Precalculus	AP Calculus AB AP Statistics
	Algebra 2	College Algebra	AP Precalculus Statistics & SAT Math	AP Calculus AB AP Statistics
	Honors Algebra 2	AP Precalculus	AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus BC
<b>Electives</b> (6.0 credits required) must include: .5 Health/.5 PE 1.0 VPAA	See Curriculum Guide for options	See Curriculum Guide for options	See Curriculum Guide for options	See Curriculum Guide for options

## English Course Selection Guide for Seniors



### AP English Literature + Composition (full year)

#### Choose this if you:

- Are hoping to gain college credit
- Want to compete for a spot at more selective colleges
- Usually understand what you read on your own
- Are a more independent / self-motivated reader and writer, and you want to challenge yourself

#### What the course is like:

- Focus on layers of meaning in challenging texts
- Exploration of beautiful language and enduring themes
- Practice with the academic rigor you will see in college
- Read, explore, and discuss both current and classic novels, plays, short stories, and poems
- Write about what you read

### AP English Language + Composition (full year)

#### Choose this if you:

- Took English 11 as a junior but wish to try out a more rigorous academic course
- Want to gain college credit
- Are generally comfortable writing well-crafted sentences, paragraphs, and essays. You're ready to polish your skills

#### What the course is like:

- Focus on argument writing
- Exploration of challenging non-fiction texts
- Practice with the academic rigor you will see in college
- Explore issues by reading and discussing both modern and classic nonfiction texts that can challenge your thinking



### English 12: College Focus (1st semester)

<p><b>Choose this if you:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are planning to attend a two or four year college next year</li> <li>- Desire practical support in the college application process</li> </ul>	<p><b>What the course is like:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on writing college application and scholarship essays</li> <li>- Practice in writing genres needed for college and beyond</li> <li>- Exploration of skills needed in professional world</li> <li>- Time is spent completing college visits, job shadows, mock interviews, and resumes</li> <li>- Capstone project</li> </ul>
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### English 12: Career Focus (1st semester)

<p><b>Choose this if you:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are planning to enter a professional career or trade school after high school</li> <li>- Want more of a focus on practical writing needed in life after high school rather than college-style writing</li> </ul>	<p><b>What the course is like:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on writing that will help you explore and enter a professional career after high school</li> <li>- Preparation for interviewing and other skills needed in the professional world</li> <li>- Time is spent completing job shadows, mock interviews, and resumes</li> <li>- Capstone project</li> </ul>
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### English 12: Modern Literacy (2nd semester)

<p><b>Choose this if you:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are either college or career-bound after high school</li> <li>- Are interested in consuming and analyzing modern media</li> </ul>	<p><b>What the course is like:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on reading as adults do after high school: to learn and for enjoyment</li> <li>- Critically engaging with existing modern “texts” like books, websites, podcasts, social media, etc.</li> <li>- Discussions of self-selected book clubs</li> <li>- Explore texts that teach you life skills</li> <li>- Practice reading and conversation skills</li> <li>- Capstone project</li> </ul>
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### English 12: Communications (2nd semester)

<p><b>Choose this if you:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are either college or career-bound after high school</li> <li>- Are interested in creating modern media</li> </ul>	<p><b>What the course is like:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on current types of communication beyond essays, from professional emails to social media</li> <li>- Analyzing current “texts” including visual media, social media, and pop culture</li> <li>- Creating digital, written, and spoken communications targeted to practical audiences</li> <li>- Regular opportunities for discussion and presentations</li> <li>- Capstone project</li> </ul>
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