



NWHS 2020-2021 Course Descriptions

ART

Drawing 1 (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Being able to draw what you see in front of you or in your mind's eye is an essential skill for any creative person. The class is for beginning students who want to learn all of the special effects that can make your drawings look 3-D and realistic. Students will learn basic drawing fundamentals and develop skills that will enable them to draw anything and everything.

Design 1 (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

The Principles and Elements of Design are used in the design industry worldwide in areas such as fashion, culinary arts, interior design, photography, architecture and graphic design. Come and learn the tricks and tools of the trade and how to use them to communicate visually.

Sculpture 1 (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Welcome to the third dimension! Do you like to work with your hands? In this Sculpture class students will create clay vessels, sculptures, and figurines. We will also explore other types of sculptures such as mobiles, stabiles, toy making and mosaics. Master artists will be studied.

Painting 1 (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

In this class we explore various art mediums such as painting, ink and cut paper while learning the fundamentals of color using Betty Edward's book entitled, Color Theory. Students will learn about color encoding to create 3-D effects when using 3-D glasses. Master artists will be studied.

Drawing 2 (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Drawing 2 is for the student who loves to draw and likes to take their time to provide more depth detail to their work. Students will use the fundamental drawing skills learned in Drawing 1 to tackle more complex ideas such as multiple perspective, advanced portraiture, layered colored pencil techniques, and special effects created through texture such as animal skin, bark, stone, etc. Prerequisite: A student must have taken the level 1 class for this area of study and passed with a "C" or better.

Design 2 (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Using the Principles and Elements of Design, students will design spaces and products using given criteria such as a building, a room, clothing and a book that they write and illustrate themselves. Master designers will be studied. Prerequisite: A student must have taken the level 1 class for this area of study and passed with a “C” or better.

Sculpture 2 (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Building upon what students have learned in Sculpture 1 class. Students will learn the process of mask making, mold making, stained glass, advanced clay techniques and a group life size sculpture in addition to other three dimensional projects. Students will apply the Principles and Elements of Design to their creative processes. Master Sculptors will be studied.

Prerequisite: A student must have taken the level 1 class for this area of study and passed with a “C” or better.

Painting 2 (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Through in depth training in different types of paint and painting techniques, students will work on large 18” x 24” panels to develop their ideas and their own personal style. Students will review and critique each other’s work and set goals for 12-15 major projects to be completed during the trimester. Upon approval from the instructor, students will produce a body of work. The collection of work will be presented to their peers as a final grade using a set format. All work will be photographed and formatted into a slide show presentation so that each student will have a portfolio. Prerequisite: A student must take at least two trimesters of Art 1 courses and pass them with a “B-“ or better before moving on to Art 2.

BUSINESS

Accounting 1-Financial Accounting (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This exciting course introduces students to the concepts of financial accounting including the completion of the accounting cycle, preparation of the financial statements, and detailed coverage of cash, receivables, inventory, fixed assets and liabilities. This course is being offered with direct credit to Baker College (4 credits) with the completion of the course with a grade of 83% or better. Completion of two terms of accounting also articulates with Jackson College. Please see the Michigan Transfer Network for credit transfer guidelines.

Accounting 2-Managerial Accounting (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This course introduces students to the concepts of managerial accounting, including financial statement analysis, job order costing, budgeting, cost-volume-profit analysis, and use of other managerial decision-making tools. This course is being offered with direct credit to Baker College (4 credits) with the completion of the course with a grade of 83% or better. Completion of two terms of accounting also articulates with Jackson College. Please see the Michigan Transfer Network for credit transfer guidelines.

Computer Science Discoveries (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Computer Science Discoveries introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. More than a traditional introduction to programming, it is a rigorous, engaging, and approachable course that explores many of the foundational ideas of computing so all students understand how these concepts are transforming the world we live in. Taking this course will replace the requirement of taking Computer Tech and Trades.

AP Computer Science Principles (9, 10, 11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

AP Computer Science Principles is a course designed to prepare students who are new to computer science for the AP CS Principles exam. The course covers many topics including the Internet, Big Data and Privacy, and Programming and Algorithms.

Intro to Computer Science-A (10, 11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

This 3 trimester course introduces students to computational thinking based on the Beauty and Joy of Computing at UC Berkeley, using the Snap! visual programming language and Python.

Prerequisite: AP CS Principles

NW CEO Challenge (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

CEO Challenge is the introductory business and entrepreneurial thinking course that is an interactive learning experience designed to engage and inspire students who are innovative, or dream of someday being a part of a successful business community. Working with local business connections, students will develop a business and present their final ideas in a shark tank style exhibition. Students will also have the opportunity to present their projects for cash prizes, scholarships and more in a county-wide competition!

Personal Finance (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This class will expose students to personal financial management and budgeting strategies. This will include research and investment strategies, discussions on credit and interest, and other financial matters. Provides a balanced exposure to development and understanding the various aspects involved in managing one's personal finance. This course is being offered with direct credit to Baker College (4 credits) with the completion of the course with a grade of 83% or better and articulates with Jackson College. Please see the Michigan Transfer Network for credit transfer guidelines.

Personal Finance-Financial Peace Academy (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

As an alternative to College Direct Credit, this Personal Finance course is offered only for high school credit, and provides valuable real life explanations of essential Personal Finance skills through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace high school program. It is essential that students have this knowledge as they move on to the "real" world, and students are encouraged to take at least one of the Personal Finance options before they graduate!!!

Web Animation/Multimedia Creation (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Students will work with Adobe Flash to learn animation basic principles. Students will be introduced to key frame animation, basic tweening, sound and video integration, as well as basic Actionscripting programming. Also students will use all available tools to learn how to create multimedia presentations.

Image Manipulation (Photo Shop) (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

In this course students will work with professional image editing software. An emphasis will be placed on creating images for web pages. Creating images for print and multi-media productions will also be covered. During the 12 week course students will work with Adobe Photoshop, Fireworks, Illustrator, and various open source image editing software.

HTML Web Design (Creating Web Sites with Word and Dreamweaver): (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

In this course, students will be exposed to various techniques in web page design and creation. Students will work on the techniques and skills required to create web pages. Topics in this class will be HTML programming, Graphic Creation, and Critical web design technique. Students will

leave the course with enough knowledge of web design elements that they will be able to develop their own professional and personal web sites.

Externship Opportunity (12) (2-3 Trimesters)

This is a 2-3 trimester course (two for early graduation students only), with a required first trimester where students prepare a resume, practice interviewing, job shadow, and complete other preparation for their future careers. During the last two trimesters, students will extern off campus at a business in their Career Pathway after completing a full interview experience with partner businesses in our area. Students will complete OSHA training and have the opportunity to pursue other certifications per their career field as well. This is an exceptional opportunity. If you feel you qualify, please see Mrs. Watts to begin the application process, or discuss possible scheduling alternatives if you are not sure you can fit it into your schedule. Applications **MUST** be submitted during our *SPRING* 2019 trimester for fall admission!!!

CAREER PREP

Energy Industry Fundamentals A & B (11,12) (2 Trimesters)

Prerequisites: None

Energy Industry Fundamentals (EIF) provides a broad understanding of the electric and natural gas utility industry and the energy generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure, commonly called the "largest machine in the world," which forms the backbone for the industry. The course includes business models, regulations, types of energy and their conversion to useable energy such as electric power, how generated power is transmitted and distributed to the point of use, emerging technologies, and the connection to careers in the energy industry. Students participating in this course have the opportunity to earn an EIF certificate which goes toward 'Electric Utility Lineman' coursework at local community college programs. Field trips/activities may include, but are not limited to, Consumers Energy Lineman Training Facility in Marshall, Trail Street Laboratory, Natural Gas Power Generation Plant, Fire Safety/Slippery Surface Training, and First Aid Training.

Introduction to Engineering Design A & B (9, 10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Introduction to Engineering Design is an introductory engineering course that develops student problem solving skills, with emphasis placed upon the concept of developing a 3-D model or solid rendering of an object. Students focus on the application of visualization processes and tools provided by modern, state-of-the-art computer hardware and software. The course emphasizes the design development process of a product and how a model of that product is

produced, analyzed and evaluated, using a Computer Aided Design System (CAD). Using design briefs or abstracts, students create models and documentation to solve problems.

Activities may include, but are not limited to: designing and fabricating a puzzle cube, designing a desktop organizer and reverse engineering projects. This is the first course in a four year sequence of courses which, when combined with traditional mathematics and science courses in high school, introduces students to the scope, rigor and discipline of engineering prior to entering college.

3D This – Introduction to SolidWorks 3D Design Software (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Students will explore the essentials to applying SolidWorks to the design process. We will investigate beginning and intermediate features of the software and applications toward Manufacturing and Industrial Design. We will also inquire various career fields that utilize SolidWorks and the different processes related to those careers for local manufacturers. Various training opportunities will be unveiled at Jackson Area Career Center, Proprietary training, College programs and Courses and Skilled Apprenticeship programs for your future choice of studies.

Prototype This – Plasma CNC Fundamentals (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Students will explore the CNC Plasma Star Lab and the operation software programs (IONscape, DraftSight, Sheetcam and Command CNC) that work with it. We will look at 2D DraftSight design software and discover the essentials to 2D design. We will investigate various sheet metal characteristics and metal bending operations including forming, fabrication and fastening. Safety practices will be discovered and followed. We will also inquire various career fields that utilize Plasma CNC and the different processes related to those careers for local manufacturers. Various training opportunities will be unveiled at Jackson Area Career Center, Proprietary training, College programs and Courses and Skilled Apprenticeship programs for your future choice of studies.

Machine This – Lathe & Mill Fundamentals (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Students will explore the machining world of the Lathe and Mill. We will look at various materials, set-up and tooling for machining. The course will focus on problem solving and include mathematical concepts applied to reading blueprints. Safety practices will be discovered and followed. We will also inquire various career fields that utilize Lathe and Mill Machining and the different processes related to those careers for local manufacturers. Various training opportunities will be unveiled at Jackson Area Career Center, Proprietary training, College programs and Courses and Skilled Apprenticeship programs for your future choice of studies.

Press This – CNC Press Brake Operations* (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Students will explore the fabrication field as it relates to metal press brake solutions. We will look at various materials, set-up and tooling for press brake processes. The course will focus on problem solving and include mathematical concepts applied to reading blueprints. Safety practices will be discovered and followed. We will also inquire various career fields that include press brake certification and the different processes related to achieving a career for local manufacturers. Various training opportunities will be unveiled at Jackson Area Career Center, Proprietary training, College programs and Courses and Skilled Apprenticeship programs for your future choice of studies.

Robots For Real – FANUC and Beyond* (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Students will explore Industrial Robots and FANUC programming. We will inquire their operation and purpose in various manufacturing environments. The course will focus on problem solving and include mathematical concepts applied to both Blueprint Reading and Workstation Design. Safety practices will be discovered and followed. We will also inquire various career fields that utilize Lathe and Mill Machining and the different processes related to those careers for local manufacturers. Various training opportunities will be unveiled at Jackson Area Career Center, Proprietary training, College programs and Courses and Skilled Apprenticeship programs for your future choice of studies.

Motors, Controllers and Gears - Competitive Robotics *

We will look at a number of competitive robotic events and playing fields for problem solving and process development. Teams will work to solve problems related to all functions of a competitive robot for a specific purpose/problem/field. This WILL NOT BE A BATTLE BOTS destructive competitive robot. Students will be using tools and machines to construct their team's solutions for competition with other teams. Safety practices will be discovered and followed. We will also inquire various career fields that utilize Lathe and Mill Machining and the different processes related to those careers for local manufacturers. Various training opportunities will be unveiled at Jackson Area Career Center, Proprietary training, College programs and Courses and Skilled Apprenticeship programs for your future choice of studies.

*Course is dependent on acquisition of required equipment

Teaching Academy 1 (11, 12) (Application)

This class is for students attending the elementary schools as a pre-teaching experience. The criteria for successful completion of the class includes: Three educational journal article critiques, exit interview with Principal of Northwest Early Elementary, keeping of weekly log and creation of a bulletin board.

The objective of this class is to offer an experience similar to pre-teaching experiences offered at many colleges and universities. Students must apply for entry into this class and be accepted by the Northwest Early Elementary Principal.

Teacher Academy 2 (12) (By interview only)

This class is designed to give students a real-life experience of what working with young students will entail. Students will be required to maintain a critical reflection notebook, participate in class activities by assisting and leading the teacher and classroom students, attend required students development trainings.

Pre-requisite: Complete Teacher Academy 1 successfully. Interview with Northwest Early Elementary Principal and Mr. Buchler.

Intro to Peer Connections (10, 11, 12) (T1 Only)

This introductory course will help individuals make wise personal decisions while establishing wholesome attitudes toward other people. Discussions and units of study include exploring the different types of disabilities, effects of disabilities on the individual and family, and how communities work together to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. Students will learn how to have healthier friendships and personal and professional relationships with their peers and adults. As part of this course, students will work regularly with peers with disabilities but will also do in class assignments and projects. This class is especially appropriate for anyone interested in the Human Services Career Pathway. Students must maintain a 3 or higher in all Soft Skills Grades to continue with the course. (Application Only – upperclassmen get preferential placement.) *This course is first-trimester only and is a prerequisite for *Peer Connections*.

Peer Connections (10, 11, 12) (T2 and/or T3)

Peer Connections is an elective course that connects Peer Connection mentor students (those from the general education classroom) with students from our mild and moderate cognitive impairment classrooms to participate in a one-on-one peer class setting. The role of the Peer Connection student is to develop friendships and to mentor and assist their peers when participating in the elective course curriculum. The mentors will model proper classroom behavior and assist with communication, social interactions, reading, writing, and all hands-on activities. Students must maintain a 3 or higher in all Soft Skills Grades to continue with the course. (Application Only – upperclassmen get preferential placement.) *Pre-requisite: *Peer Connections Foundations*.

Peer Connections 2 (11, 12) (1-3 Trimesters)

In this course, students will have real-life experience of working with students with disabilities. Students will be required to maintain a critical reflection notebook, participate in class activities

by assisting the teacher and leading and assisting classroom students. Students may be placed at NWHS or KMS in Adapted PE or may be placed in a classroom at the Torrent Center. Students must maintain a 3 or higher in all Soft Skills Grades to continue with the course. (Application Only) *Prerequisite: *Peer Connections*

Externship Opportunity (12) (2-3 Trimesters)

This is a 2-3 trimester course (two for early graduation students only), with a required first trimester where students prepare a resume, practice interviewing, job shadow, and complete other preparation for their future careers. During the last two trimesters, students will extern off campus at a business in their Career Pathway after completing a full interview experience with partner businesses in our area. Students will complete OSHA training and have the opportunity to pursue other certifications per their career field as well. This is an exceptional opportunity. If you feel you qualify, please see Mrs. Watts to begin the application process, or discuss possible scheduling alternatives if you are not sure you can fit it into your schedule. Applications **MUST** be submitted during our *SPRING* 2020 trimester for fall admission!!!

COMMUNICATION ARTS

Advanced Broadcasting (9, 10, 11, 12) (3 Trimesters) – Note: this course description will change over the next several years both in duration of class and responsibilities of class members

This is an elective course available to 9-12 grade students. Students will be required to enhance their skills in a variety of forms of broadcast media, software and equipment. Students will learn additional and practice more often journalism basics, interviewing, reporting, and researching techniques. Students will be reminded of media ethics and laws, terminology and enhanced video and broadcast journalism techniques. Assignments will be based on broadcast requirements and include video stories, presentations, off site assignments, sporting assignments, local civic items of interest projects, and regular “column” creation with specific rubrics. *Mountie Nation Station staff roles will be defined (director, on air talent, etc.) and staff will be shooting weekly newscasts to be broadcast that include a mix of stories (see list in previous sentence).*

Special Notes:

- *Acceptance to this class is by application ONLY.*
 - *MUST earn a B or better in Introduction to Broadcasting*
 - *This class REQUIRES that students make after-school commitments to cover stories, videotape, complete deadlines, etc. DO NOT TAKE THIS CLASS IF YOU ARE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO MAKE THIS KIND OF COMMITMENT.*
 - *Students MUST use computers to complete projects in this class. If you should lose your computer privileges for any reason, you may receive a failing grade.*
 - *Students should be aware of their professionalism at all times. Students in the Advanced Broadcasting program consistently deal with the public (videography and interview assignments, potential ad sales, etc.). Students who display unprofessional behavior may receive a failing grade in this class.*
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Advanced Digital Media (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This is an elective course available to 9-12 grade students. Students are introduced to a variety of advanced forms of digital media. Students will enhance their knowledge of photography, digital storytelling, various digital software, media ethics and laws, terminology, and photojournalism techniques. All assignments will be based on photo requirements, digital presentations and designs with specific rubrics. Students will be required to create photo story packages based on after school, and local cultural and civic events. Students will be encouraged to enter multiple local and/or national photo contests.

Prerequisite: Digital Media (at least a B average or better) and/or the permission of the instructor.

Digital Media (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This is an elective course available to all 9-12 grade students. Students are introduced to a variety of forms of digital media. Students will learn photography, digital storytelling, various digital software, media ethics and laws, terminology and basic video and photojournalism techniques. All assignments will be based on photo requirements, digital presentations and designs with specific rubrics.

Introduction to Broadcasting (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This is an elective course available to all 9-12 grade students. Students are introduced to a variety of forms of broadcast media, software and equipment. Students will learn journalism basics, interviewing, reporting and researching techniques. Students will be introduced to media ethics and laws, terminology and basic video and broadcast journalism techniques. Assignments will be based on broadcast requirements and include video feature story presentations with specific rubrics.

Introduction to Print Media (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Introduction to Print Media is open to students interested in student publications or those who wish to gain experience in writing, layout/design and media publication skills.

Writing emphasis will be placed on features, leads, headlines, captions, editorials, and columns. Layout/design elements discussed will include introductions to basic standards for both newspaper and magazine styles (emphasis on Adobe InDesign). Media Publication skills such as journalistic styles, ethics, advertising (both salesmanship and design), student press law, copy-editing, and students' rights and responsibilities under the First Amendment will also be covered. Students will be responsible for completing an end project that combines all basic print media elements explored in class.

Students interested in joining the Moxie Mountie (Newspaper) or Retrospective (Yearbook) staffs are encouraged to successfully complete this course before applying for positions on either staff.

Journalism (9, 10, 11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

Students wishing to be members of the newspaper staff must apply with the advisor and be accepted the spring prior. Journalism is designed for students interested in newspaper writing and layout design. Students will write news, features, editorials, and sports stories. They will also be involved in the writing and production of the Northwest High School student newspaper. They will study press law, ethics, Adobe InDesign and Photoshop software, and participate in state journalism competitions. In addition to editors and writers, there is a need for a photographer, a cartoonist and business manager. (Application Only). **Prerequisite:** A "B" or better in English and teacher approval.

Yearbook (9, 10, 11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

Yearbook is a journalism-based course designed around the creation of the school's yearbook. It is the job of all class members to take pictures, sell ads, write copy, organize the design and layouts, write headlines and captions, etc. – in other words, students are responsible for all aspects of the organization and presentation of each year's worth of memories.

Special Notes:

- ***Acceptance to this class is by Application ONLY.***
- ***This class REQUIRES that students make after-school commitments to cover stories, take pictures, complete deadlines, etc. DO NOT TAKE THIS CLASS IF YOU ARE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO MAKE THIS KIND OF COMMITMENT.***
- ***Students MUST use computers to complete layouts in this class. If you should lose your computer privileges for any reason, you may receive a failing grade.***

Students should be aware of their professionalism at all times. Students on the yearbook staff consistently deal with the public (photography and interview assignments, ad sales, etc.). Students who display unprofessional behavior may receive a failing grade in this class.

ENGLISH

Accelerated American Literature A & B (10) (2 Trimesters)

See American Literature 10 for course description.

Accelerated students will learn the American literature curriculum at a faster pace with greater depth and understanding. Expectations will be high with additional vocabulary, writing, projects and reading. Two additional novels will also be completed.

Prerequisite: Students are required to fill out an application and obtain teacher approval.

Accelerated Literature & Composition A & B (9) (2 Trimesters)

See Literature & Composition 9 for course description, plus additional information provided below.

This course is required of ninth grade students who desire a deeper knowledge of literature / composition and have proven – through numerous criteria – that they are capable of such. Students will be required to complete the Common Core Curriculum of all ninth grade students while advancing through the process with additional practice and advanced pacing. Students not functioning at the teacher’s level of expectations may be removed from the class.

Prerequisites: Candidates are nominated by 8th Grade Language Arts Teachers

American Literature A & B (10) (2 Trimesters)

This course is required for all tenth grade students. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with some major authors and movements of American literature from the pre-colonial times to the present. Students will learn how history has shaped American literature and how it reflects the human experience of the time. Students will explore many aspects of American literature-fiction, non-fiction, poetry, media, art, drama, and speech, all while following the common core, as set through the American Literature curriculum. Students will also learn writing techniques, vocabulary, and the rules of proper grammar usage. The course will focus writing based on the common core standards, which will be developed through two major formats for students to illustrate growth. Therefore, students will be required to utilize the writing process with depth, clarity, reflection, and practice, all while engaging in a personal and narrative essay. Along with the essays, students will be asked develop descriptive and reflective writing assignments through guided focus questions.

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition A, B, C (11) (3 Trimesters)

The purpose of this course is to help students "write effectively & confidently in their college courses across the curriculum & in their professional & personal lives." (The College Board, *AP® English Course Description*, p. 6) The course is organized according to the requirements & guidelines of the current *AP English Course Description*, and, therefore, students are expected to read critically, think analytically, & communicate clearly in both writing & speech. There is a required summer assignment that must be completed upon the first day of class.

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition A, B, C (12) (3 Trimesters)

AP Literature is a class designed to cover Common Core Curriculum while also preparing students for college and offers the ability to receive possible college credit by taking the AP test at the end of the school year. The official description of AP Literature and Composition Course, taken from the AP College Board is as follows:

The AP Literature and Composition Course engages students in careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

Prerequisite: Students are required to fill out an application form and must have teacher approval. It is recommended that students take a literature elective course prior to or in conjunction with this course.

British Literature A & B (11) (2 Trimesters)

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the major authors and movements of English literature from the Anglo-Saxon times to the present. Students will learn how history has shaped English literature and how it reflects the human experience of the time. They will also learn writing techniques and the rules of proper grammar usage. We will explore many aspects of English literature-fiction, poetry, media, and the novel. The class includes discussion, lecture, group work, projects, a research paper, and presentations.

Children's Literature (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This elective course is for those who have a love for literature, no matter what the age! We'll explore favorites from childhood, grade school, and go up through young adult and discuss why children's books can be just as beneficial as classics. This is also an excellent course for students planning to go into elementary education. Classes will be based around reading, discussion, and written responses to books. Come relive your childhood with this class!

Creative Writing (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Creative Writing is an English elective that provides students with opportunities to develop their literary talents and interests. This course includes a study of varied forms writing, including memoirs, satire, poetry, nonfiction, short story, and script-writing. It will give students the experience of creating their own writing pieces in these different genres. In addition, student

work will be on showcased. This class would be a great elective choice for students interested in the arts and communications career pathway.

Greek Mythology (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Mythology is an elective course designed to explore the origins of mythology with a focus on the Greeks and Romans, paying close attention to their importance to past cultures, and their relevance to modern society. Material will focus on Greek mythology and its influence on mythology in other regions and countries. Strategies are incorporated for effective learning, stressing all communication skills, (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Cooperative learning strategies are utilized almost daily! Projects and creativity are the basis for this class. Reading activities will include common "whole class" reads, short stories, and individually selected texts. Writing will be expected to demonstrate competency in analysis, synthesis, and application of literary ideas, as they pertain to mythology. Group analysis will reflect problem-solving, decision-making, critical thinking, and communication skills.

Hispanic Literature, Culture and Film (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

The purpose of this course is to expose students to authors in Hispanic Literature from the numerous Spanish speaking countries. Students will get a glimpse at how history, society, class and gender have shaped Hispanic literature over the years. We will scratch the surface of Hispanic literature, fiction, poetry, film and the novel. The class includes discussion, lecture, group work, project, presentations and the opportunity to read some great works.

Investigative Writing Academy (10) (Required) (3rd Trimester Only)

Students taking this course will be required to identify and discuss numerous current events throughout the world. Along with identifying and discussions related to these events, each student will learn techniques and skills that are required for research based writing. These skills include and are not limited to the following: identifying common themes and events throughout history, developing appropriate thesis statements, understanding of valid research materials, and properly citing research in writing (Modern Language Association). Students will complete a research paper that will be required for credit in this course.

Literature and Composition 9 A & B (9) (2 Trimesters)

This course is required of all 9th Grade students. The course will focus on both reading and writing elements for 9th grade students and follows the Common Core Curriculum and the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements and recommendations. Reading objectives include

reading of fictional works such as poetry, short stories, novels (*To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Stotan*), and plays (*Romeo and Juliet*). Writing objectives include focusing on grammar, sentence structure, thesis statements, argumentative writing, persuasive writing, literary analysis, and using quotations as support. In each term, students are required to complete 1 extended paper and CANNOT pass the course if they choose not to complete this.

Monsters and Mayhem (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

In this elective course, students will interact with the monsters and mayhem found in classic and contemporary fiction. Students will analyze what monsters and mayhem may symbolize within the literary content and within our culture today. This class will involve group reading, close-readings, character analysis, discussion, and creative projects. Students who love fantasy and enjoy taking a deeper read at literature would be a perfect fit for this class.

From Books to the Big Screen (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

In this course, students will read a variety of texts, including both classic and contemporary, that have started out as books but then moved to the big screen. Students will analyze the similarities and differences of representations in literature and then how the original content was changed when adapting it for the big screen or television. Students will choose a book to choice read and will compare the movie to the original. This class is perfect for those with a critical eye or those who enjoy looking more in depth at literature and its impact and influence!

A Survey in Shakespeare (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This course is a survey course of literary works by the playwright Shakespeare. The course is designed for students who wish to further their appreciation of Shakespeare beyond the plays taught in the English core curriculum. The course will utilize not only plays by Shakespeare, but his sonnets as well. The focus will be on studying the ways in which his works have impacted the centuries that have followed. While plays will be the main focus of the course, video and other forms of media will be used to fully explore the man known as Shakespeare. Course work will consist of written responses, digital video and audio projects, and short dramatic performances. A genuine interest in a participatory, collaborative, creative, and intellectual literary environment characterizes the qualified student. This course will be a true journey through Shakespeare's world of comedy and tragedy.

Senior Forum (12) (2nd Trimester Only)

Elective Course for Seniors Only

Senior Forum is a class designed to help ALL Northwest students move smoothly from the world of high school to their world after high school (work, school, the military, etc.). However, the class primarily targets those students planning to attend school after high school. Students will be creating professional documents, reflective pieces, completing applications (for scholarships and more), etc. Guest speakers and instructors from throughout the community will present information on careers/post-secondary education plans, interviewing, financial aid, and

communication skills as well. Students will be required to complete their applications, an approved job shadowing and/or community service project, reflective pieces, and final presentation in order to obtain credit in this class.

Senior Reading and Writing / Advanced Composition A & B (12) (2 Trimesters)

Senior Reading and Writing is a class recommended for college preparatory students that focuses on both the reading and writing process. Multiple texts will be read to include emphasis on the writing process. Major papers will include personal, analytical and literature based papers.

Senior Transitions A & B (12) (2 Trimesters)

Senior Transitions is a class designed to help Northwest students move smoothly from the world of high school to their world after high school (work, school, the military, etc.). Students will be creating both computerized and hard copy portfolios, resumes, cover letters, etc. Guest speakers and instructors from throughout the community will present information on careers, interviewing, and communication skills as well. Students will be required to complete their portfolio work and an approved community service project and/or hours (including written proposal and completed service hours) in order to obtain credit in this class.

Sports Literature (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This course is designed for the avid reader and sports fan. Students will be introduced to a variety of literature dealing with common sports themes. The themes could include leadership, character, trends in athletics, rivalries, coaching ethics, etc. Students will also be required to write about their opinions and themes that are discussed in this course.

UB-American Literature A & B (10) (2 Trimesters) Teacher Recommendation Only

This course is designed to facilitate concentrated instruction of similar concepts within American Literature to students that struggle in English.

Teacher recommendation qualifies students for this course placement. Much of the coursework is intended to prepare these students for the real world work experience. The writing component will focus on practical pieces incorporating the 6-traits of writing and selected grammatical components that are needed for students entering the work force after high school.

This class replaces American Literature.

UB-Literature & Composition 9 A & B (2 Trimesters) Teacher Recommendation Only

This course is designed to facilitate concentrated instruction of similar concepts within Literature & Composition 9 to students that struggle in fulfilling their English requirements.

Students will experience a thematic approach to literature through in-depth reading, speaking and writing experiences. The major units will center on the themes of: Identity, Appreciating Others, Choices and Consequences, and Struggles. Teachers incorporate strategies for effective learning, stressing all communication skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). **Active** participation is essential in this course.

Prerequisite: Recommendation by IEP or staff approval of both English instructor and student counselor. Students who earn credit for the completion of Literature & Composition 9 course are **not** eligible for enrollment in this course. **This class replaces Literature & Composition 9.**

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Home Skills (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Basic Principles of kitchen utilization, international cuisine, and career opportunities in food service will be covered. Concepts in entertaining, etiquette, and interior design will also be investigated. Teaching methods include lecture, activities, projects, research assignments, and lab experiences. This class would be a great choice if you have an interest in a career in the Fine Arts Career Pathway. This course is offered only in odd-even school years.

Life Management - Adulthood (11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This class deals with skills for living, focusing on real life situations. Units of study and projects include research of the decision making and goal setting processes, time management skills, and developing healthy personal attitudes, stress, and mental health. A large unit on money management and consumer skills includes managing money and credit, saving, taxes, budgeting, transportation decisions, housing, and insurance. This class is a good choice for anyone interested in the Human Services Career Pathway. This course is offered only on even-odd school years.

Parenting (9, 10, 11) (1 Trimester)

This course examines personal readiness to become a parent and the issues important to raising healthy children with positive parent-child relationships. Topics addressed include the process of deciding to become a parent, examination of parenting issues, and parental and environmental influences on child development. Students will learn about building character in children and will take that information to develop positive parenting skills and learn about discipline. Students

will also have the opportunity to experience the "Empathy Belly." This course is very beneficial for any students interested in following the Human Services or Health Services Career Pathways. This course is offered only on even-odd school years.

Child Development (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This course will examine the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of children pre-natal through school-age. This class includes instruction in parent-child relationships and parenting practices; examination of current parenting issues; recognizing the special needs of children; and parental/environmental influences on child development. This course examines issues important to raising healthy children with positive parent-child relationships. This course is offered only in odd-even school years.

Personal Health (9) (1 Trimester) **REQUIRED**

This trimester course is required for graduation and typically taken freshmen year. This course will stress the importance of good health; not only as teens but emphasizes healthy living throughout life. There will be a focus on health skills, social and emotional health, nutrition and physical activity, safety, reproductive health, and alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Nutrition (9, 10, 11) (1 Trimester)

This course includes the study of different types of foods, nutrients, how food affects our health, and how menus can be changed to reflect the needs of various individuals. The student will learn how the food in our bodies is broken down and used, and what damage can happen to a body if some nutrients are not eaten. Students will analyze their own diets and learn what needs to be improved or maintained. The class will be enhanced with a few cooking laboratories. Students will also learn food consumer skills. Teaching methods would include lecture, daily activities, projects, research assignments and lab experiences. This class is a good choice for anyone interested in the Health Services Career Pathway. This course is offered only on even-odd school years.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish 1 A&B (9, 10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Spanish 1 emphasizes the development of fluency in the language especially in the understanding, speaking, reading, and writing using the Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling. Cultural topics are presented and reviewed. (Criteria for success includes: positive attitude, active participation in classroom activities, and a sincere effort made to use the target language in the classroom.)

Spanish 2 A&B (9, 10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Spanish 2 further develops competence in speaking and understanding; develops increased reading and writing skills using the Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling. Cultural topics are presented and reviewed. (Criteria for success includes: positive attitude, active participation in classroom activities, and a sincere effort made to use the target language in the classroom.)

Spanish 3 A&B (10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Spanish 3 will continue to develop and expand speaking, understanding, reading and writing skills using the Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling in addition to other resources. Students will also read and write on an individual basis. Cultural topics are presented and reviewed. Pre-requisite: Instructor approval. (Criteria for success includes: positive attitude, active participation in classroom activities, and a sincere effort made to use the target language in the classroom.)

Spanish 4 A&B (11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Spanish 4 will continue a study of the language, including grammar, literature, conversation, listening, writing, and culture, using a variety of resources. Pre-requisite: Instructor approval. (Criteria for success includes: positive attitude, active participation in classroom activities, and a sincere effort made to use the target language in the classroom.)

Spanish 5 A&B (12) (2 Trimesters)

Spanish 5 will continue a study of the language including grammar, literature, conversation, listening, writing, and culture. A variety of resources will be utilized to further study. Pre-requisite: Instructor approval. (Criteria for success include: positive attitude, active participation in classroom activities, and a sincere effort made to use Spanish in the classroom.)

American Sign Language 1 A&B (9, 10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

ASL emphasizes the development of fluency in the language through the use of nonverbal communication. Students will learn to express themselves using pantomime, facial expressions, ASL vocabulary and grammar, and will develop receptive skills through the use of sentences and a story telling format. Deaf history and culture will also be discussed/studied.

American Sign Language 2 A&B (10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

The second year of American Sign Language course continues the development of linguistic proficiency and cultural awareness begun in the first year of ASL study. Introducing new vocabulary and more complex grammatical structures will increase comprehension. This will allow students to express themselves in a wider variety of situations and with a greater degree of accuracy.

American Sign Language 3 A&B (11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

This course is designed to expand basic American Sign Language skills toward an intermediate level. Areas of study will include: Vocabulary Development, Grammatical Features, Cultural Awareness, and Conversational Fluency. These components will enable the students to continue to develop visual language skills as well as expand their knowledge of historical information. Classroom activities will present opportunities to explore topic/comment structure, spatial referencing, descriptive classifiers, contrastive structures, temporal sequencing, and storytelling. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

American Sign Language 4 A&B (12) (2 Trimesters)

This course is designed to expand intermediate American Sign Language skills. Areas of study will include: Vocabulary Development, Grammatical Features, Cultural Awareness, and Conversational Fluency. These components will enable the students to continue to develop visual language skills as well as expand their knowledge of historical information. Classroom activities will present opportunities to explore topic/comment structure, spatial referencing, descriptive classifiers, contrastive structures, temporal sequencing, and storytelling. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

MATH

A.P. Calculus – A, B, C (3 Trimesters)

Pre-requisite: Pre-Calculus

This course will be a continuation of Pre-Calculus and will include: analytic geometry, exponential and logarithmic functions, limits and continuity, differentiation and application of derivatives, and integration and application of integrals. The objectives and guidelines will meet the objectives set by College Board. Students will be required to take the A.P. exam if they continue with the third trimester.

Algebra 1 – A, B, C (3 Trimesters)

This course follows the content of linear functions and linear inequalities. Students will solve linear systems in two variables both graphically and algebraically. Students will apply the properties of exponents and use scientific notation in order to simplify and solve equations. Students will write and graph exponential growth and decay functions, simplify polynomial expressions, factor and solve polynomial equations, and graph quadratic equations. Finally, students will graph and solve square root functions, simplify radical expressions and solve radical equations.

Advanced Algebra 2 – A, B, C (3 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 (no term grade lower than B-) and teacher recommendation.

This course follows the content of Algebra 1, combining a review with an in-depth study of quadratic functions in order to solve by factoring, completing the square, using the quadratic formula, and by applying the remainder and factor theorems. Students will extend their understanding of quadratic graphs to analyze the graphs of polynomial functions. Students will also solve rational equations, radical equations, and equations with rational exponents. In addition, students will graph absolute value, square root, cube root, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Finally, students will be introduced to both trigonometry and statistics objectives for the Common Core Curriculum to complete the course.

Algebra 2- A, B (2 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1.

This course follows the content of Algebra 1, combining a review with an in-depth study of quadratic functions in order to solve by factoring, completing the square, using the quadratic formula, and by applying the remainder and factor theorems. Students will extend their understanding of quadratic graphs to analyze the graphs of polynomial functions. In addition, students will graph absolute value functions. Students should continue onto Regular Trigonometry following this course which will also complete more Algebra 2 concepts.

Advanced Geometry - A, B (2 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 (no term grade lower than B-) and teacher recommendation.

Geometry explores the shapes in the world around us and relates them to algebra, graphs, constructions, drawings, and measurements. Emphasis throughout is on developing reasoning skills through logic and proofs. Problems refer to a broad range of real-world topics. Tools used are the compass, protractor, and ruler, while calculators are used only during the chapter on trig functions.

Geometry - A, B, C (3 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and Teacher recommendation

This course is designed for those students who need a slower pace and additional practice to increase their retention of topics discussed. Topics in this course will be from the Common Core Curriculum with a focus on developing reasoning skills through logic and proofs. Major topics include triangles and their properties, polygons including quadrilaterals, and parallel lines.

Pre-Calculus – A, B (2 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: B in Algebra 2 or Trigonometry

This course will give attention to the understanding of concepts and to the refinement of manipulative skills. Some of the topics included will be: Algebra necessary for Calculus, Plane Analytic Geometry, functions and graphs of polynomial, transcendental, and the Calculus topics of limits and derivatives (rates of change).

Statistics – A, B (2 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2

We encounter data and conclusions based on data every day. Statistics provides the methods to help us make sense of the overwhelming amount of information that we have. In this introductory course, we will look at the gathering of data, summarizing and describing it, as well as analyzing and using it for predictive purposes. Emphasis will be on the use of real data. Statistical literacy is important to be informed and to make sound decisions.

Trigonometry – A, B (2 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Geometry and Algebra 2

Trigonometry is the study of triangles, the most basic geometric form. An informal style is used for explanations and theorems. The emphasis is on trig relationships and functions, identities, and graphs. Each section contains many real-life applications in the areas of construction, geometry, physics and engineering. The graphing calculator is used extensively.

Advanced Trigonometry (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: B in Advanced Algebra 2

Advanced Trigonometry is the study of triangles, the most basic geometric form. An informal style is used for explanations and theorems. The emphasis is on trig relationships and functions,

identities, and graphs. Each section contains many real-life applications in the areas of construction, geometry, physics and engineering. The graphing calculator is used extensively.

Music

Cantus Femina (Women's Choir) (Beginning/Intermediate level) (9, 10, 11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

This beginning level choir is designed for the soprano and alto who enjoy singing many different types of music in the female chorus setting. The singers will be exposed to good singing methods and music skills development; rehearsals may be held outside the school day. This group will perform for many audiences during the year, and the students are required to participate in the concerts to receive credit for the class. The singers will be encouraged to participate in the Michigan School Vocal Association Solo and Ensemble Festival, and the Regional and State Honors Choir, and they will be required to participate in District and State Choir Festival. An understanding, appreciation and sharing of the art of music is the goal of this vocal ensemble.

NOTE: All choirs are year long classes and choir students are expected to stay in choir the entire year. If a choir student decides to drop a choir class before the end of any semester, the teacher reserves the right to issue a failing grade for that semester if, in the opinion of the teacher, circumstances warrant a failing grade.

Concert Choir: Intermediate SATB Ensemble (10, 11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

Pre-requisite: Audition. Concert Choir is a **BRAND NEW** Intermediate select male and female vocal ensemble of approximately 35-50 singers designed for the soprano, alto, tenor, and bass who enjoy singing many different types of music in a large chorus setting. The singers will be exposed to good singing methods and music skills development. Rehearsals and performances may be held outside the school day. This vocal ensemble will perform for many audiences during the school year and the singers will be required to participate in these performances to receive credit for the class. The ensemble will participate in the MSVMA Festivals at both the district and state levels. An understanding, appreciation and sharing of the art of vocal music is the goal of this vocal ensemble.

NOTE: All choirs are yearlong classes and choir students are expected to stay in choir the entire year. If a choir student decides to drop a choir class before the end of any semester, the teacher reserves the right to issue a failing grade for that semester if, in the opinion of the teacher, circumstances warrant a failing grade.

Men's Choir (Beginning/Intermediate level) (9, 10, 11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

This choir is for male high school musicians who enjoy singing many different types of music. The singers will be exposed to good singing methods and music skills development; rehearsals may be held outside the school day. This group will perform many times during the school year, and the singers will be required to participate to receive credit for the class. The singers will be required to participate in the Michigan School Vocal Association Solo and Ensemble Festival and the District and State Choir Festival. An understanding, appreciation and sharing of the art of music is the goal of this vocal ensemble.

NOTE: All choirs are year long classes and choir students are expected to stay in choir the entire year. If a choir student decides to drop a choir class before the end of any semester, the teacher reserves the right to issue a failing grade for that semester if, in the opinion of the teacher, circumstances warrant a failing grade.

Serenade (Advanced Female Ensemble) (10, 11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Audition. Serenade is an advanced level select women's vocal ensemble of approximately 24-40 singers designed for the soprano and alto who enjoy singing many different types of music in the female chorus setting. The singers will be exposed to good singing methods and music skills development. Rehearsals and performances may be held outside the school day. This vocal ensemble will perform for many audiences during the school year and the singers will be required to participate in these performances to receive credit for the class. The ensemble will participate in the MSVMA Festivals at both the district and state levels. An understanding, appreciation and sharing of the art of vocal music is the goal of this vocal ensemble.

Vocal Dimension (Advanced SATB Choir) (9, 10, 11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Audition. This choir is a very select, advanced music ensemble of about 34 singers. Admission is through rigorous audition. The group will sing many different kinds of music with the focus being on classical choral music and vocal jazz. There will be many required performances during the year and required after school or evening rehearsals. The group attains a high level of vocal performance through the development of exceptionally talented and interested students. The group will be exposed to good singing methods and music skills and will participate in Michigan School Vocal Association sponsored choirs, festivals and activities. An understanding, appreciation, and sharing of the art of music is the goal of this vocal ensemble. Students must audition each year, and being selected one year does not guarantee selection for subsequent years.

NOTE: All choirs are year long classes and choir students are expected to stay in choir the entire year. If a choir student decides to drop a choir class before the end of any semester, the teacher reserves the right to issue a failing grade for that semester if, in the opinion of the teacher, circumstances warrant a failing grade.

Wind Ensemble* (9, 10, 11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

Length: 3 Trimesters (students are required to enroll in all three trimesters)

Prerequisites: Three years of previous playing experience (i.e. middle school) and director approval.

The Wind Ensemble represents the highest level of music performance at Northwest HS, through the utilization of exceptionally talented and interested students. Membership is gained by audition only. Members of this organization will participate in MSBOA-sponsored band festivals, marching band, school concerts, and daily rehearsals. The size of the wind ensemble will be governed by the instrumentation selected by the director.

Concert Band* (9, 10, 11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

Length: 3 Trimesters (students are required to enroll in all three trimesters)

Prerequisites: Three years of previous playing experience (i.e. middle school) and director approval.

The Concert Band will be composed of students not yet at the proficiency level necessary for the Wind Ensemble and students not able to participate in the Wind Ensemble because of instrumentation requirements. Members of the Concert Band will participate in MSBOA sponsored festivals, marching band, school concerts, and daily rehearsals. Attendance at all scheduled performances is mandatory.

*Membership in any of the bands is dependent upon continuous growth and development of musical skills necessary to perform the assigned literature. Growth and development in either a positive or negative direction can constitute a necessity to reschedule a student into any of the instrumental groups at the appropriate time during the year. Attendance at all scheduled performances is mandatory.

*The Marching Mounties will be made up of all students from the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band. Students who are not enrolled in Wind Ensemble or Concert Band will not be a member of the Marching Mounties. Student obligations include but are not limited to: practice after school or in the evenings, performances at football games and marching band exhibitions, and other activities after school and on weekends.

Jazz Band (9, 10, 11, 12) (2nd & 3rd Trimester only)

Length: 2 Trimesters (students are required to enroll in both trimesters). Some rehearsals will be called during the first trimester

Prerequisites: Three years of previous playing experience (i.e. middle school), enrollment in Wind Ensemble or Concert Band, and director approval.

Membership in the Jazz Band is gained through audition and approval of the Director. Jazz Band will include only standard Big Band instrumentation: Saxes, Trumpet, Trombones, and rhythm section. Students must be members of the Concert Band or Wind Ensemble. Special permission will be granted to guitar, bass, or piano players who do not play a conventional band instrument. The Jazz Band will study the art of improvisation, the history of jazz, and various genres within jazz music. Members of this band will participate in MSBOA sponsored festivals, school concerts, and many other outside performances. The Jazz Band actively performs throughout not only Jackson County but also the state of Michigan. Attendance at all performances is required.

Piano Class (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Length: 1 Trimester

Prerequisites: None

The piano is one of the greatest inventions of mankind. Great art that has been created through composing and performing on piano. Piano Class teaches students skills needed to perform on the piano. It is the goal of the class to give students a firm foundation of music reading and basic piano technique that students can continue their learning once the trimester has finished. A brief introduction into western music history is provided.

Guitar Class (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Length: 1 Trimester

Prerequisites: None

Ever want to be able to pick up an instrument and start to make music? The guitar is the ultimate beginner's instrument: with a small amount of knowledge and a lot of practice, there are 100s of songs available to guitarists. Guitar Class teaches students the basic skills needed to become a lifelong guitar player. It is the goal of the class to give students a set of knowledge and skills that they may elect to continue performing on their own when the trimester ends. Skills such as music/tab/chord reading, song writing, and Guitar history are included. Units about history's great guitarists are also incorporated.

Music Theory and Composition (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisites: One year of band and/or choir OR teacher approval.

The Music Theory and Composition course will teach students the basic skills needed to listen to, understand, and create music. Topics addressed include classical music history, basic ear training, introductory to intermediate music notation/theory, orchestration, and common compositional techniques. Students will compose their own music using both traditional classical) and contemporary (Garage Band, Computer Music) techniques. Students hoping to

major in music at the college level will receive instruction to help in the Music Theory portion of their auditions.

Non-Curricular Ensemble Descriptions

Jazz Band II (9, 10, 11, 12)

Jazz Band II is an exploratory ensemble. No audition will be required for this ensemble, though practice is expected and necessary to maintain membership. Instrumentation will be open, the only exception being a traditional jazz rhythm section (piano, bass, guitar, drum set). This ensemble will study basics of jazz style, improvisation, and history.

Pep Band (9, 10, 11, 12)

The Pep Band is a group of band students that perform at Friday home basketball games. All members of the pep band are also members of Wind Ensemble or Concert Band. Members use marching band instruments and music, except for the use of an electric bass and drum set in lieu of drumline equipment.

Physical Education

Advanced Phys Ed (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: 1 trimester of Physical Education class

This course is designed for students who enjoy team and recreational sports. Activities could include floor hockey, volleyball, soccer, basketball, flag football, basketball, tennis, and other team sports. The students will gain an understanding of offensive and defensive strategies, rules, fair competition, sportsmanship, and gamesmanship in team sports. There will also be additional fitness activities on a daily basis and unit tests.

Basketball Activities (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: 1 trimester of Physical Education class

This class will be studying the rules and strategies of basic play, and officiating of basketball. Students will be able to participate in offensive and defensive methods, through the use of drills, conditioning, and tournaments.

Female Weight Training & Fitness (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: 1 trimester of Physical Education class

Students will develop a personal fitness profile, set personal goals, and learn the importance of including exercise in their lifestyle. Weight training will occur three of the five days of class in a normal school week. Students will also participate in cardiovascular activities which include but are not limited to jogging, zumba and aerobics.

Personal Health (9) (1 Trimester) REQUIRED

This trimester course is required for all freshmen. The course explores the dimensions of health. It will stress the importance of good health; not only as teens but emphasizes healthy living throughout life. There will be a focus on physical, emotional, and social health.

Physical Education (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester) (Co-ed)

The Physical Education requirement for graduation is one trimester. The design of the class is such that each student will experience many kinds of sports and fitness activities. Upon successful completion of the physical education graduation requirement, a student may take other physical education electives.

Weight Training & Conditioning (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: 1 trimester of Physical Education class

The premise behind the class is to involve our students in training and conditioning in a structured environment that could last one, two or three terms. The bigger, faster, stronger lifting program will form the basis of the class. Stretching, weight training, agility, form running, and plyometrics are the activities of the class. Student athletes signing up for this class will be given first priority.

SCIENCE

Astronomy (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Ever since there have been humans we have stared up at the stars and wondered, "What is out there?" Astronomy's task is to decode what is out there. To give form to the formless void of deep space. If you have ever stared up at the night sky and wondered, then this Astronomy class is for you. Topics covered include: Naked Eye Astronomy/Constellations, tour of our Solar System, Stellar Life Cycles and Tour of our Galaxy/Universe.

Biology A & B (9, 10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Biology is a core science course required for graduation. The class covers all of the major topics of Biology including plants, animals, microorganisms, biochemistry, ecology, DNA, genetics, genetic engineering, evolution, and ecology. There will be many demonstrations, dissections, labs and projects including fieldwork and collecting, term papers and model construction. Homework is required.

Course Content

- ✓ From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
 - ✓ Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
 - ✓ Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
 - ✓ Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity
-

Biology C (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This course will develop student's understanding of the three disciplinary core ideas (1. Earth's place in the universe, 2. Earth's systems, 3. Earth and Human Activity) in the Earth and Space Sciences. This course will help students formulate an answer to the following questions: "What is the universe, and what is Earth's place in it?", "How and why is Earth constantly changing?", and "How do Earth's surface processes and human activities affect each other?". Students will develop and use models, plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data and engage in argument. This course is the third trimester of biology, which is required for all taking biology. Biology C can be taken in the same trimester as A or B.

UB – Biology A & B (9, 10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation Only

Biology is a core science course required for graduation. The class covers all of the major topics of Biology including plants, animals, microorganisms, biochemistry, ecology, DNA, genetics, genetic engineering, evolution, and ecology. There will be many demonstrations, dissections, labs and projects including fieldwork and collecting, term papers, and model construction. Homework is required.

Course Content

- ✓ From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
- ✓ Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
- ✓ Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- ✓ Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Chemistry A & B (10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Prerequisites: Biology A & B and Geometry.

(Biology can be taken concurrently with teacher permission)

This course focuses on changes in matter and energy, atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical bonds, nomenclature, basic reactions, chemical changes, solutions, acids and bases, gases and carbon chemistry. Students need a solid math background.

Course Content

- ✓ Structure and Properties of Matter
- ✓ Chemical Reactions
- ✓ Nuclear Processes
- ✓ Definitions of Energy
- ✓ Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer
- ✓ Energy in Chemical Processes and Everyday Life

Conceptual Chemistry A & B (10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Biology A & B and 9th grade math credit

This course provides a conceptual overview of the following topics (see course content) needed for a basic understanding of Chemistry. Students will gain skills in problem-solving as they explore theory and a hands-on approach including laboratory and classroom activities, projects and independent study. Technology is integrated into daily course work where necessary and appropriate to help students master the skills needed for a basic understanding of chemical principles.

Course Content

- ✓ Structure and Properties of Matter
- ✓ Chemical Reactions
- ✓ Nuclear Processes
- ✓ Definitions of Energy
- ✓ Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer
- ✓ Energy in Chemical Processes and Everyday Life

AP Chemistry (11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

The AP Chemistry course provides students with a college-level foundation to support future advanced coursework in chemistry. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations, as they explore content such as: atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium.

Contagion-A (11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: Biology A & B

Students will be taught to use their knowledge to better understand the etiology of health and disease, appreciate how humans adapt to a wide range of environmental challenges, and evaluate the myths and facts associated with the disease treatment and prevention strategies that guide 21st century medicine. Topics include conditions such as, cancer, sickle cell anemia, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, as well as HIV. The study of the brain and neurological diseases will also be part of the curriculum. Students will also learn beginning medical terminology using Greek and Latin suffixes, prefixes, and roots.

Students will be participating in simulated laboratory experiments, role-plays, and research. They will be taking on the role of a medical student, review medical records of four patients and begin to diagnose them using simulated lab work. They will look at and analyze the Hippocratic Oath, among other medical documents and journal articles. Students will also be viewing videos that relate to the study of disease, including, but not limited to: Brain Games, House, Lorenzo's Oil, and more (time permitting).

Contagion B (11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: Biology A&B and Chemistry A&B

This class will have a 5-week unit on cancer. Lessons will revolve around five questions:

What is cancer and why should we care? What does it mean to be a 'normal' cell?
How does a normal cell become cancerous? How does cancer make us sick?
How is cancer treated?

From these questions, we will develop an understanding of what cancer is, and the factors that predispose us towards developing it; go in depth into how cancer develops at the cellular level; look at the biology of cancer from the lens of the entire body; and examine how cancer is diagnosed and treated. Students will also have a research project to complete. Units on illnesses, treatments, and immunity will also be a focus.

Forensic Science (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: Biology A and B

This course focuses on the skills and concepts behind crime scene investigation and forensic science. Whether you desire to be crime scene investigator, forensic pathologist, or some other medical scientist, this course will help you hone your investigative skills and review a wide range of science concepts. You will review physics, chemistry, anatomy, cell biology, environmental science, math, and computer science in the process of learning about forensic

science. You will engage in lectures, labs, case studies, and on-line activities. This course should help you see how science is used to answer questions rather than just learning science concepts.

Course Content

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| ✓ History of Forensic Science | ✓ Glass Comparison |
| ✓ Crime Scene Processing | ✓ Serology |
| ✓ Physical Evidence | ✓ DNA |
| ✓ Fingerprinting | ✓ Hair & Fiber Trace Evidence |
| ✓ Forensic Entomology (determining time of death) | ✓ Digital Forensics |
| | ✓ Careers in Forensics |
-

Human Physiology (11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Biology A & B and Chemistry A & B
(or *Biology and concurrent enrollment in Chemistry*)

This is a very challenging premedical course for all students planning a career in health, nursing or medicine. It emphasizes the structure and function of the systems of the human body in great depth. Memorization of many difficult Latin medical terms and the names of bones, muscles, and organs are required, with extensive dissection of the cat or the mink. Those preparing for medical/health careers should take all three trimesters to be adequately prepared for their college course work.

Human Physiology Structure and Function (1st Trimester)

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ♥ Introduction to the Body | ♥ Tissues and Membranes |
| ♥ The Muscular System | ♥ The Integumentary System |

Human Physiology A (2nd Trimester)

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| ♥ The Blood | ♥ Nervous System |
| ♥ The Senses | ♥ The Endocrine System |

Human Physiology B (3rd Trimester)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ♥ The Heart | ♥ Respiratory System |
| ♥ Blood Vessels and Circulation | ♥ Reproductive System |
| ♥ Digestive System | |
-

Introduction to Organic Chemistry A & B (11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Pre-requisites: Chemistry A & B

This course is designed to provide an introduction to a variety of topics in organic chemistry to help prepare students looking to continue on in the sciences at the college level. Students interested in medicine, engineering, research, or other scientific fields will find the course a helpful preparation for college chemistry classes.

Topics of study in the course include:

- Covalent Bonding and Molecular Structure

- Chemistry of Hydrocarbons and Fuels
 - Acid and Base Chemistry
 - Molecules of Biochemistry
 - A Survey of Chemical Groups
 - Polymers and Plastics
-

Intro to Robotics 1 (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Students will engage in hands-on activities in building robot designs with Pitsco's TETRIX PRIME set and learn how to design, construct, and operate remote control vehicles. Lessons will reinforce concepts in basic mathematics, physics, electronics, sensor feedback, geometry, simple machines, basic science, programming, mechanics, ratios and proportions, engineering, computer science, and measurement while students apply their skills to solving real-world based problems and challenges. Advanced assignments may include an introduction to RobotC programming language, programming with Arduino for autonomous vehicle design, and a possible trip to Asama (or other robotics based industry) as resources allow.

Intro to Robotics 2 (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Robotics 1

Students will engage in a continuation of our hands-on activities in building robot designs through Autonomous Programming. This will require working with Arduino (Open Source) programming and constructing the processing unit on-board our robots. This will, in turn, allow students to practice basic "drop and play" programming then design robot builds to work through challenges in programming for specific tasks. Lessons will reinforce concepts in basic mathematics, physics, electronics, sensor feedback, geometry, simple machines, basic science, programming, mechanics, ratios and proportions, engineering, computer science, and measurement while students apply their skills to solving real-world based problems with the TETRIX PRIME sets and possibly the mBot from Maker Shed (Radio Shack). Advanced assignments may include an introduction to RobotC programming language and a possible trip to Asama (or other robotics based industry) as resources allow.

Investigative Science (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Investigative Science challenges students to design and carry out cutting edge observational and experimental scientific studies related to the basic sciences of: biology, chemistry, geology, and physics. Students will participate in actual scientific research that will be published in the Mountie Science Journal. Student driven research will be designed, conducted, analyzed, and presented in individual and group settings.

Oceanography (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This course will be an exploration of the world's oceans and other critical bodies of water to know (e.g. the Great Lakes). Topics will include geography, physical and chemical oceanography, geology and formation, marine biology, exploration, natural resources, and human impact. Project-based learning will be utilized to immerse students in the mechanics of the oceans and great water bodies' impact on our world.

Physics A (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: Biology A & B and Geometry (C+)

This course provides a conceptual and mathematical overview of Newtonian Mechanics (Kinematics, Dynamics, Energy). Through theory and laboratory work, students address classic and modern applications of physical science. Students develop problem-solving skills by hands-on learning, independent study and projects. Technology is integrated into the course work.

Course Content

- ✓ Kinematics
 - Acceleration in 1-D
 - Projectile Motion
 - ✓ Dynamics
 - ✓ Circular Motion
 - ✓ Gravitational Force
-

Physics B (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: Biology A & B and Geometry (C+)

This course provides a conceptual and mathematical overview of electricity and magnetism, heat, waves, and light. Through theory and laboratory work, students address classic and modern applications of physical science. Students develop problem-solving skills by hands-on learning, independent study and projects. Technology is integrated into the course work.

Course Content

- ✓ Electrostatics
 - ✓ Magnetism
 - ✓ Simple Circuits
 - ✓ Mechanical Waves
 - ✓ Electromagnetic Waves
-

Conceptual Physics A (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: Biology A/B and 9th grade math credit

This course provides a conceptual overview of Newtonian Mechanics (motion, forces, energy, and momentum). Through theory and laboratory work, students address classic and modern

applications of physical science. Students develop problem-solving skills by hands-on learning, independent study and projects. Technology is integrated into the course work.

Course Content

- ✓ Motion
 - ✓ Force
 - ✓ Energy
 - ✓ Momentum
-

Conceptual Physics B (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: Biology A/B and 9th grade math credit

This course provides a conceptual overview of electricity and magnetism, waves, and light. Through theory and laboratory work, students address classic and modern applications of physical science. Students develop problem-solving skills by hands-on learning, independent study and projects. Technology is integrated into the course work.

Course Content

- ✓ Electromagnetic Force (Static Electricity and Magnetism)
 - ✓ Current Electricity (Circuits)
 - ✓ Mechanical Waves
 - ✓ Electromagnetic Waves
-

Advanced Placement (AP) Physics 1 (11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

Prerequisites: Physics A & B (B-) and Concurrent enrollment of pre-calculus or higher

This course provides the opportunity for college credit in physics. Students who are highly motivated in the physical sciences and plan to pursue medicine, engineering, or general science at the college level are encouraged to take this course. Students will be preparing for the AP Physics 1 exam which is administered in the spring.

Course Content

- ✓ Kinematics
 - ✓ Dynamics
 - ✓ Work, Energy, Power
 - ✓ Impulse & Momentum
 - ✓ Circular Motion & Rotation
 - ✓ Gravitation & Oscillation
 - ✓ Electrostatics
 - ✓ Circuits
 - ✓ Mechanical Waves
-

Advanced Placement (AP) Physics 2 (11, 12) (3 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Physics A & B (B-) and Concurrent enrollment of pre-calculus or higher

This course provides the opportunity for college credit in physics. Students who are highly motivated in the physical sciences and plan to pursue medicine, engineering, or general science at the college level are encouraged to take this course. Students will be preparing for the AP Physics 2 exam which is administered in the spring.

Course Content

- ✓ Fluid statics & dynamics
- ✓ Thermodynamics
- ✓ PV diagrams & probability
- ✓ Electrostatics
- ✓ Circuits with capacitors
- ✓ Magnetic fields
- ✓ Electromagnetism
- ✓ Optics
- ✓ Nuclear Physics

Introduction to Engineering Design A & B (9, 10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Introduction to Engineering Design is an introductory engineering course that develops student problem solving skills, with emphasis placed upon the concept of developing a 3-D model or solid rendering of an object. Students focus on the application of visualization processes and tools provided by modern, state-of-the-art computer hardware and software. The course emphasizes the design development process of a product and how a model of that product is produced, analyzed and evaluated, using a Computer Aided Design System (CAD). Using design briefs or abstracts, students create models and documentation to solve problems.

Activities may include, but are not limited to: designing and fabricating a puzzle cube, designing a desktop organizer and reverse engineering projects. This is the first course in a four year sequence of courses which, when combined with traditional mathematics and science courses in high school, introduces students to the scope, rigor and discipline of engineering prior to entering college.

Energy Industry Fundamentals A & B (11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Prerequisites: None

Energy Industry Fundamentals (EIF) provides a broad understanding of the electric and natural gas utility industry and the energy generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure, commonly called the "largest machine in the world," which forms the backbone for the industry. The course includes business models, regulations, types of energy and their conversion to

useable energy such as electric power, how generated power is transmitted and distributed to the point of use, emerging technologies, and the connection to careers in the energy industry. Students participating in this course have the opportunity to earn an EIF certificate which goes toward 'Electric Utility Lineman' coursework at local community college programs. Field trips/activities may include, but are not limited to, Consumers Energy Lineman Training Facility in Marshall, Trail Street Laboratory, Natural Gas Power Generation Plant, Fire Safety/Slippery Surface Training, and First Aid Training.

High School Natural Disasters (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation only

The focus of the elective class Natural Disasters will be to take a look at all of the natural disasters that Mother Nature causes to happen, not only in the US, but all over the world and what happens to the world wide weather, along with the long range changes that are caused. This class will study hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, snowstorms, avalanches, and mudslides, among other disasters that happen to this planet. We will look at video, articles, work in journals recording our thoughts and impressions, and engage in class discussions concerning these disasters. There will be no exam, however, there will be a major project that the students will work on and will prepare a presentation on one natural disaster of their choosing using posters, PowerPoint or any other visual aide they may wish to use. Each student will be given a rubric of the expectations for this project, which will count as an exam grade for the class. The projects will be presented either in the classroom or the media center to administrators, teachers and other students in attendance. Students will work together to investigate, explore, gather information, read, write and observe. Actively participating in the learning process using the Scientific Method, students will be able to discover the power of Nature and how destructive it can be to modern man.

High School Biology A & B (9, 10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation only

The focus of High School Biology A and B will be lab safety, the scientific method, controls and variables. We will follow the general education Biology classes. Topics will include; plants, animals, microorganisms, biochemistry, ecology, DNA, genetics, and evolution. Following the state benchmarks, we will discuss, do projects, labs, write in journals to record findings after our labs and projects. Dissection will be either in the form on online or when schedules permit, we will join the general education Biology classes to participate in the hands on dissection experience. This class is required for graduation.

High School Chemistry (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation only

The focus of High School Chemistry will be the periodic table of elements. This is a one term class. We will also study valance electrons, what the numbers mean that are associated with the elements. We will study matter, lab safety, ions, compounds and solutions. We will have a few labs, but mostly, there will be demonstrations for us to observe and record. There will be a project with the periodic table of elements.

High School Marine Biology (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation only

The focus of High School Marine Biology will be the oceans of the world. This is a one term class. We will study hurricanes, climate change and its affects worldwide, North and South Poles and the Ice Caps, Coral Reefs, Ocean Animals and Plate Tectonics, along with Wind and Wave action.

High School Physics A & B (9, 10, 11, 12) (2 Trimesters)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation only

The focus of High School Physics A and B will be on lab safety, the scientific method, controls and variables. We will study motion, force, energy, momentum, static electricity, current electricity, mechanical waves, and electromagnetic waves. We will follow the Conceptual Physics courses in the science department. Working in teams, we will actively engage in the learning process by reading, gathering information, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. Science objectives for these topics follow the general education physics classes and will give students in this class exposure to the requirements of high school physics and the state benchmarks for physics.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Advanced Placement Psychology (11, 12) (3 Trimesters) (Approval)

Advanced Placement Psychology is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each

of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Students in this course are encouraged to take the AP exam in May.

It is recommended that students take an additional psychology based elective prior to or in conjunction with this course.

Advanced Placement U.S. History (11, 12) (3 Trimesters) (Approval)

Advanced Placement U.S. History is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and enduring understandings necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Students in this course are encouraged to take the AP exam in May.

Amazing Race (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Students “travel” to and within multiple countries utilizing a variety of transportation modes, including airplanes, hot-air balloons, helicopters, trucks, bicycles, taxicabs, car, trains, buses, and boats. Clues provided in each leg lead the teams to the next destination or direct them to perform a task, either together or by a single member. These challenges are related in some manner to the country wherein they are located or its cultures. Students will use skills in language, economics, research, science, mathematics, currency, and fitness. Students will change partners throughout the course and will be acquiring an individual time log for the term. This class is hands-on making good attendance a key to success. Course is offered every other year.

Behavioral Psychology (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This course will study the field of psychology, and several of its related fields. The behavioral aspect will be focused upon in regard to the development of human behavior. The class will explore such components as attitude, stereotyping, prejudices, and discrimination. How have these things developed within us? The course will integrate the biological factors, the psychological factors, and the social factors that have aided in the development of our behavior.

Developmental Psychology (11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This course will study the field of psychology, and several of its related fields. The developmental aspect will be focused upon in regard to the development of human behavior. The class will explore such components as human development, learning, intelligence, language development and cognition. The course will integrate the biological factors, the psychological factors, and the social factors that have aided in the development of our behavior. The course will also touch on things like perception, personality and social psychology as well. There will be in-class work, individual and group projects, and exams. This course will be enhanced through the accompaniment of various video clips and DVD's to help with the understanding of these behaviors.

Civics (11) (1 Trimester)

This course is required of all junior level students at Northwest High School. All students must successfully complete one trimester of Civics with a passing grade in order to fulfill graduation requirements. A variety of activities will be used for assessment in the course. This course emphasizes an understanding of the fundamentals of the American political system. A major area of emphasis is placed on the development of positive citizenship values and behaviors in an effort to instill a sense of responsibility that goes along with being an American citizen.

Economics (11) (1 Trimester)

This course is required of all junior level students at Northwest High School. All students must successfully complete one trimester of Economics with a passing grade in order to fulfill graduation requirements. A variety of activities will be used for assessment in the course. This course emphasizes an understanding of the fundamentals of the American economic system. Macro and micro economics will be taught in this survey course.

Debating Global Issues (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This course gives a thematic overview of issues faced globally in the twenty-first century. It will do so from a variety of disciplines and will focus on four major areas:

- Development and Poverty
- Gender Issues and Family Issues
- Conflict and Diversity
- Health and the Environment

This course will serve as an extension of World History as students analyze and examine issues currently facing the world.

History of American Music (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

The History of American Music is an in depth study of the origins of popular music in the 20th century and the social and historical context that gave birth to it. From blues and country to punk and heavy metal, students will familiarize themselves with landmark groups, music, and movements of different periods.

History Thru Film (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This course will look at major world events using modern cinema. Main assessments for this course will include projects, paper and presentations.

History Thru Sports (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

In this course students will analyze how different sports were developed, changed over time, and most importantly how they changed the world. Students will learn where different sports originated from and after discussing the sport itself, we will research how in certain time frames athletes have used their popularity to change the culture. For example, Tommie Smith, who used the biggest stage in all of sports, The Olympics, to show his pride in “Black Power” during the American Civil Rights Movement.

Native American Studies (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

The course will focus on the history of Native American culture within the continental United States from Exploration to the Present with an emphasis on the relationship between the U.S. Government and the Native American tribes.

Social Psychology (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

Social Psychology is one trimester course for sophomores, juniors and seniors intended to give you a broad picture of the field of social psychology with an emphasis on preparation for college and critical thinking. This course emphasizes problem-solving and working in groups, and will offer you a set of intellectual tools with which to more accurately understand the society in which you live. Your participation, discussion, and feedback are needed. Group activity, work and cooperation are heavily emphasized. Much of the readings in this course are written at college level.

Michigan History (10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

The course will focus on the political, social, and economic history of the State of Michigan from territorial status to the present. Special emphasis will be placed on the development and impact of the automobile on the State.

UB-Economics/Civics (11) (2 Trimesters) Teacher Recommendation Only

This course will cover essentially the same material covered in course Civics. Textbook and vocabulary will be modified for students with language/learning disabilities. Pre-requisite: Staff recommendation and approval.

UB-United States History (9) (2 Trimesters) Teacher Recommendation Only

This course will cover essentially the same material covered in course United States History. Textbook and vocabulary will be modified for students with language/learning disabilities. Pre-requisite: Staff recommendation and approval.

UB-World History (10) (2 Trimesters) Teacher Recommendation Only

This course will cover essentially the same material covered in course World History. Textbook and vocabulary will be modified for students with language/learning disabilities. Pre-requisite: Staff recommendation and approval.

United States History (9) (2 Trimesters)

This course is required for all freshmen who plan to graduate from Northwest High School. Students must complete two trimesters of the course with a passing grade. The course is a continuation of the United States History course, Exploration-1898 offered to students at the middle school level.

The High School course is a general survey course in United States History covering the time period from the Spanish-American War through events to the present time period. The class is heterogeneously grouped and is taught at a level that makes it possible for all students to succeed. A variety of activities will be used for assessment in the course. The purpose of the

course is to instill in students a sense of their historical, political, social, economic, and cultural heritage, which will aid in the development of positive citizenship values and behaviors.

World History - Eastern & Western (10) (2 Trimesters)

This course is required of all sophomore level students at Northwest High School. All students must successfully complete two trimesters of World History with a passing grade in order to fulfill graduation requirements. The course will be a general survey on the growth and development of civilization, western and eastern, from the Renaissance to the fall of communism. Emphasis will be on the major historical eras.

History of World Religions – (9, 10, 11, 12) (1 Trimester)

This course is an introduction to the academic study of religion and of world religions, and to the religious traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, as well as other minor religions. The course examines the historical evolution, the fundamental doctrines and beliefs, the practices, institutions and cultural expressions of these religious traditions. The course also deals with some of the essential differences and similarities which exist among each religious tradition, and points to the uniqueness of each of them. Goals for students enrolled in this course are (1) to develop the ability to think both empathetically and critically about conflicting religious claims, and (2) to gain knowledge of the history and culture of several major religious traditions.

Miscellaneous Information

Academic Awards – (9, 10, 11, 12)

Academic awards are given to a student who has successfully completed the criteria here at *Northwest High School*.

Academic Award Criteria:

1. All Classes must be completed through Northwest High School.
2. The student must have earned a “B-“or higher in every class during the school year.
3. The Cumulative GPA must be 3.0 or higher.
4. All Classes must meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Awards

1st Year Academic Award = Graduation Numerals

2nd Year Academic Award = Scholastic Varsity Letter (NW w/Lamp of Learning on it)

3rd Year Academic Award = Pin (says Achievement NWHS)

4th Year Academic Award = Gold Tassel (to be worn at Graduation)

Honor Cords (for graduation)

3.0 – 3.49 Cumulative GPA = White

3.50 – 3.74 Cumulative GPA = Silver

3.75 – 4.0 Cumulative GPA = Gold
