



**PASSAIC VALLEY  
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**PROGRAM OF STUDIES  
2025-2026**

Available online at [www.pvrhs.org](http://www.pvrhs.org)  
Revised December 2024

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# PASSAIC VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

100 EAST MAIN STREET, LITTLE FALLS, NEW JERSEY 07424

## Superintendent's Message

This Program of Studies has been carefully crafted to provide our students with the best educational experiences possible while attending Passaic Valley Regional High School. The contents of this book were generated by a committee of teachers, counselors and administrators with the sole purpose of building a curriculum that was relevant, engaging, student-centered and innovative.

Our updated Program of Studies delivers a wide range of course choices that allow for real and authentic learning opportunities for all students. With many exciting elective courses, numerous co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, Advanced Placement courses, and Dual Enrollment opportunities, we have established an exemplary template in our attention to the development of the whole child.

With an enrollment size of approximately 1,084 students, 100 teaching staff members, six counselors and a mental health clinician, we are able to offer a personalized learning approach that is unrivaled. Our low teacher-student ratio ensures that each child will be able to foster positive relationships with our staff while being empowered to become the best version of themselves.

We will continue to adapt, modify and create learning opportunities that enable our students to be more than just mere participants. It is our goal to build an educational program that helps produce the next future leaders of this world.

Sincerely,

Bracken Healy, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



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# ACADEMIC PLANNING

## NJ STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

CONTENT AREA	MINIMUM CREDITS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
ENGLISH	20 Credits	Must be aligned with New Jersey Student Learning Standards.
MATHEMATICS	15 Credits	Must include Algebra I or the content equivalent; Geometry or the content equivalent; and a third year of math that builds on the concepts and skills of algebra and geometry and prepares students for college and 21st century careers. Must also be aligned with New Jersey Student Learning Standards.
SCIENCE	15 Credits	Must include at least five credits in laboratory biology/life science or the content equivalent; an additional laboratory/inquiry-based science course including chemistry, environmental science, or physics; and a third laboratory/inquiry-based science course.
SOCIAL STUDIES	15 Credits	Must include five credits in world history; ten credits in United States History; and the integration of civics, economics, geography, and global content in all course offerings.
WORLD LANGUAGE	5 Credits	We strongly urge college bound students to take at least 1 additional year of a world language.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH	20 Credits	As per N.J.S.A. 18A:35- 4,5,7 and 8, students must earn at least 3.75 credits in health, safety, and physical education during each year of enrollment, distributed as 150 minutes per week, which must also include CPR and AED instruction. PV has a local requirement of 5 credits of Health/PE per year.
21 <sup>st</sup> CENTURY LIFE & CAREERS	5 Credits	See list of approved courses (page 7)
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS	5 Credits	See list of approved courses (page 7)
FINANCIAL LITERACY	2.5 Credits	Course delivered to all students via an online platform
ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK	17.5 Credits	Students must earn a total of 120 credits for graduation. Coursework may be in any area desired by the student to aid in preparation of post-secondary plans.

**STUDENTS MUST DEMONSTRATE GRADUATION ASSESSMENT PROFICIENCY AS OUTLINED BY THE NJDOE**

## APPROVED COURSES

VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS	GRADE LEVELS	21 <sup>st</sup> CENTURY LIFE & CAREERS	GRADE LEVELS
Concert Choir	9-12	Culinary Arts I	11-12
Concert Band	9-12	Culinary Arts II	12
Foundations of Music	9-12	Contemporary Issues Through Videoconferencing	11-12
Fundamentals of Piano	9-12	Audio Visual Production	9-12
Intro to Classical Guitar	9-12	TV Production I	10-12
Rock of Ages	11-12	TV Production II	11-12
Intro to Art	9-12	Advanced TV Production Honors	12
Ceramics & Sculpture	10-12	Digital Journalism	10-12
Drawing	10-12	Editing and Publishing	11-12
Painting	10-12	Foundations of Business	9-10
Painting Honors	11-12	Social Media Marketing	10-12
Portfolio Honors	11-12	Entertainment Marketing	10-12
Photography	9-12	Entrepreneurship	10-12
Advanced Photography Honors	10-12	Accounting	11-12
AP 2-D Arts & Design	11-12	Creative Coding	9-12
Intro to Theatre Arts	9-12	AP Computer Science A	10-12
Stage Acting	10-12	AP Computer Science Principles	10-12
Performance Art Honors	11-12	STEM Explorations	9-10
Intro to Dance	9-12	TBD- Engineering/ Biotechnology	10-12
Intermediate/Advanced Dance	9-12	Structured Learning Experiences & Class	12
		Shared Time Program- HoHokus	12
		Early Childhood/ Elementary Internship	12
		Research & Internship	12

Note: All semester electives will be offered in pairs. Students must enroll in both courses within the pairing.

## FOUR YEAR COURSE PLANNING WORKSHEET

Use this planning guide to review graduation requirements and develop a tentative four-year course of study. Make revisions as plans and interests change.

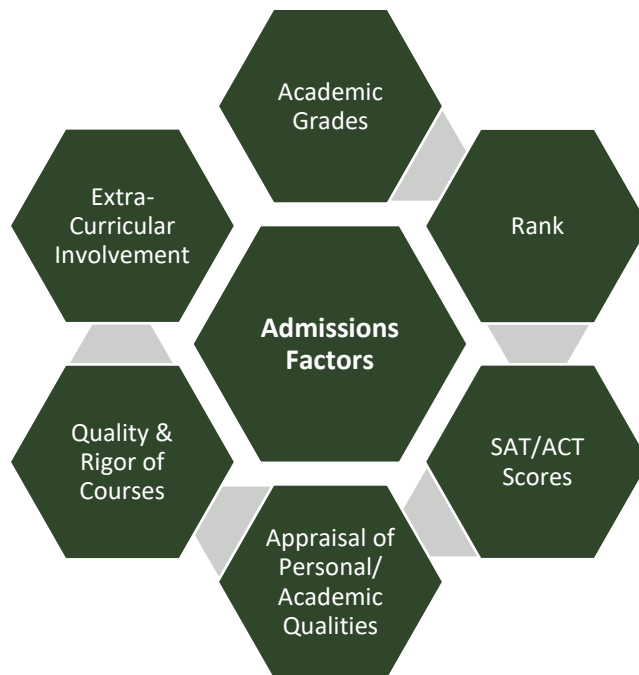
GRADE 9		GRADE 10	
Subject	Course Chosen	Subject	Course Chosen
English		English	
Math		Math	
Science		Science	
Social Studies		Social Studies	
Physical Education		Physical Education	
World Language		World Language	
Elective(s)		Elective(s)	
GRADE 11		GRADE 12	
Subject	Course Chosen	Subject	Course Chosen
English		English	
Math		Math	
Science		Science	
Social Studies		Social Studies	
Physical Education		Physical Education	
World Language		World Language	
Elective(s)		Elective(s)	
Required Electives			
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Financial Literacy 2.5 credits	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Life & Careers 5 credits	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual/ Performing Arts 5 credits	



## COLLEGE PLANNING

Since entrance requirements for colleges vary according to the specific school, students and parents should become familiar with the different college requirements. *Students, in collaboration with their families and counselors, should begin early to determine college requirements and plan to build these into their course of study.* Counselors have many resources to help parents and students with this task. College Board, Naviance and other internet sites can be valuable tools in helping to develop a plan.

Beyond specific course requirements, most colleges emphasize the following important factors in making decisions on applications for admission:



The minimum requirement for students pursuing post-secondary placement is 16 academic courses (often referred to as Carnegie Units). More selective/competitive colleges recommend that students have 20+ academic courses.

Recommended Core Courses for more selective/competitive colleges:

- 4 years of English
- 3-4 years of Social Studies
- 4 years of Science
- 4 years of Mathematics
- 3 years (or more) of the same World Language
- AP & Honors Level Courses

## DUAL ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BCC)

Passaic Valley has an agreement to award students in the Broadcasting sequence college credit for their work completed at PV. Students will be able to earn up to 6 college credits when enrolled in the following courses. As with other dual enrollment programs, there is a grade requirement of a “C” (70) or better and a fee of \$451.50 per course, payable to BCC.

Television Production    Advanced Television Production Honors

### FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY

Fairleigh Dickinson University’s Middle College Program allows students to earn college credits for classes taken in high school. The following Passaic Valley courses are included in the Middle College Program:

Spanish IV Honors            French IV Honors  
English IV Honors            Italian IV Honors  
US History II Honors        Anatomy & Physiology Honors

Participation in this program allows students to use the facilities at Fairleigh Dickinson University and credits are transferable to hundreds of colleges nationwide. Students must achieve a “C” or better to receive credit, and there is a fee for participation. This year’s cost is approximately \$300.00 per course.

### KEAN UNIVERSITY

Kean University allows Passaic Valley students to receive three (3) college credits for the Holocaust, Genocide, and Modern Humanity course offered at PV. These credits are contingent upon successful completion of the course with a “C” or better and are transferable to additional colleges and universities. There is also a fee of \$300.00 per course collected by Kean University in the fall.

### PASSAIC COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (PCCC)

We are offering two (2) one semester courses in Criminal Justice in association with PCCC. Students will be able to earn up to six (6) college credits when enrolled in Intro to Criminal Justice and Introduction to Law. As with other dual enrollment programs, there is a grade requirement of a “C” (70) or better and a fee of \$186.00 per course, payable to PCCC.

## COST COMPARISON FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT

PARTICIPANT	COST IN HIGH SCHOOL	COST AFTER HIGH SCHOOL
Bergen Community College	\$451.50 for 3 college credits	\$1,088.60
Fairleigh Dickinson University	\$300.00 for 3 college credits	\$3,015.00
Kean University	\$300.00 for 3 college credits	\$1,535.00
Passaic County Community College	\$186.00 for 3 college credits	\$549.00

## SENIOR OPTION

### BERKELEY COLLEGE

Interested grade 12 students will complete 20 high school credits at PV and 10 high school-credits in introductory courses at Berkeley College. This opportunity gives students who are on track for graduation and maintaining a minimum GPA of a 2.8, the chance to experience post-secondary life while earning high school and college credit simultaneously. A list of career pathways is available in the counseling office along with the application for enrollment. Students must actively participate in administrative led google classroom discussions and achieve a “C” or better to receive credit. There is a \$400 fee for participation in this program.

### PATHWAYS

- Interior Design
- Graphic Design
- Fashion
- Justice Studies- Criminal Justice
- Legal Studies
- National Security
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Concentration
- General Business
- Accounting
- Health Science

### PASSAIC COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Interested grade 12 students will complete their entire senior year at one of PCCC’s campuses giving them a jump start on their college career. Seniors will register for 15 credits in the fall semester and 15 credits in the spring semester with the potential to graduate high school with 30 college credits. Students attend PCCC for their academic classes, however they can participate in all after school activities, sports, clubs, etc. Eligible students must be approved by the school counselor and must be at the appropriate academic level for college (evidenced by course level or SAT/ACT/Accuplacer scores). Students must actively participate in administrative led google classroom discussions and achieve a “C” or better to receive credit. There is a \$4,020.00 fee for participation in this program.

PARTICIPANT	COST IN HIGH SCHOOL	COST AFTER HIGH SCHOOL
Berkeley College	\$400.00 for 6 college credits	\$5,520.00
Passaic County Community College	\$4,020.00 for 30 college credits	\$5,640.00

## SEAL OF BILITERACY

The New Jersey Seal of Biliteracy is an acknowledgment by the New Jersey Department of Education that a student has achieved mastery of two or more languages. It encourages students to pursue biliteracy, honors the skills they attain, and provides evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions offices.

Interested students must sit for a state-approved language proficiency exam on which they achieve the Intermediate Mid-level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' Proficiency Guidelines. They also must demonstrate English proficiency by meeting the New Jersey English Language Arts graduation requirement or the appropriate cut score on the ACCESS for English Language Learners.

A notation of this achievement will be included on the student's transcript. Students will also receive a certificate from the New Jersey Department of Education.

Information and an application to participate is distributed to juniors and seniors in the fall by their world language teachers. Further information may be found on the [NJDOE's official Seal of Biliteracy webpage](#).

## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY- STEM ENRICHMENT

**Program Details:** Students who have accelerated through the entire sequence of math courses at Passaic Valley (up to and including AP Calculus) will be granted the opportunity to apply for Montclair's Early College Program. Interested students can find specific application requirements on MSU's Admissions page. <https://www.montclair.edu/admissions/>.

**Scheduling:** Before enrolling in courses, accepted students must take a math placement test at MSU to ensure all prerequisite material has been mastered. Student schedules may be adjusted when necessary to allow for students to attend a scheduled class.

**Cost:** Accepted students will have the ability to take college level courses for a fraction of the cost of traditional college courses. These advanced courses have been approved by the Board of Education, and as a result, a small scholarship may be available to help defray the cost of tuition. For planning purposes- the estimated cost is \$278.30 per credit and most courses range from three (3) to four (4) credits.

**Alternate Placements:** Students who choose to take advanced courses outside of this program will take full responsibility for the associated cost.

## SCHEDULING GUIDELINES

- To remain on track for graduation and sports eligibility, students must maintain a yearly course load of a minimum of 30 credits for seniors and 35 credits for underclassmen.
- Credits will be awarded only for courses that have been successfully completed. Partial credit will not be granted.
- Students will not be given the opportunity to select teachers or time periods for courses. These are automatically determined.
- Making course requests requires careful consideration of the many options in the course guide. It is important to note that the number of course requests will determine whether a course is in fact offered as part of the high school master schedule. Every year, certain courses must be dropped from the master schedule due to lack of enrollment. COURSE REQUESTS DO NOT GUARANTEE PLACEMENT IN A PARTICULAR COURSE. Scheduling conflicts may occur when students request courses that have few sections.
- The administration reserves the right to schedule courses required for graduation based upon standardized testing results and the need for remediation.

## SCHEDULING TIMELINE & WINDOWS FOR CHANGE

January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Teacher portal opens for teachers to make placement recommendations.</li> <li>➤ Counselors send out scheduling forms and instructions.</li> </ul>
February-March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Individual Course Selection Meetings - Requests are viewable through the portal.</li> </ul>
April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Placement Test window for select students in current grades 9-11.</li> </ul>
May 30, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Deadline for students to request a change in academic placement.</li> </ul>
August 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Schedules released in the student/parent portal.</li> <li>➤ Window to request a change of elective.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forms available on website, in google classroom, and in the student/parent portal.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Elective changes will not be approved after August 29.</li> <li>➤ The deadline for a student to drop a course without penalty or record is Day Ten (10) of school.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students must have parent permission in writing to be approved.</li> <li>○ Day 10: any student dropping a course will receive a WP or WF (withdraw pass or fail) depending on course average at time of the drop. A withdrawal is calculated into the G.P.A. as attempted, but unearned credits.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## GRADING

### GRADING SCALE AND CONVERSION VALUES:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F*
97-99	93-96	92-90	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	72-70	68-69	65-67	50-64
4.25	4.00	3.75	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.25	2.00	1.75	1.25	1.00	-

### HONORS CREDIT COURSES ARE WEIGHTED AS FOLLOWS:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
4.75	4.5	4.25	3.75	3.5	3.25	2.75	2.5	2.25	1.75	1.5

### AP CREDIT COURSES ARE WEIGHTED AS FOLLOWS:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D
5.25	5.00	4.75	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.25	2.00

### PASS/FAIL

After consulting with their school counselor and teacher, students may select to schedule a class on a pass/fail basis. With the exception of Multilingual Learners (ML), the following limitations will be in effect:

- The student will not receive a grade, but upon successful completion of the entire course will be awarded credit (based on teacher recommendation).
- Any course taken on a pass/fail basis will not be in the calculation of the G.P.A.
- Students may select a maximum of two (2) classes or ten (10) credits to be taken pass/fail during their four years at Passaic Valley. Students who return for a fifth year may elect a class pass/fail provided they have not used their two (2) classes or ten (10) credit option during the last four years. Only one course may be taken pass/fail in any academic year.
- Specific courses required for graduation may not be taken pass/fail.
- The NCAA will assign PV's lowest passing grade.

**Note:** All requests must be in writing and need the approval of the counselor, parent, teacher and Director of School Counseling. Requests must be submitted by the end of the first marking period to be considered.

### COURSE AUDIT

Under certain circumstances students may schedule a class in which they will earn no credit. An audit carries with it the responsibility to attend, take tests, and complete all the required work. This option is contingent upon teacher approval, class size, the availability of equipment, etc. Students are limited to one five (5) credit course (not required for graduation) during their stay at Passaic Valley. The following limitations will be in effect:

- Students may only audit a class if they are failing the class and wish to audit in order to schedule the same class for the next school year.
- Students must declare their request to audit the class in writing and be approved by the Director of School Counseling before the end of the first quarter. Requests after the first marking period may not be honored.

# N.C.A.A. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

## Division I Academic Standards

Division I schools require you to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year of full-time enrollment, you must meet the following requirements:



1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>MATH</b> (Algebra I or higher)	<b>SCIENCE</b> (Including one year of lab, if offered)	<b>EXTRA</b> (English, math or science)	<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE</b>	<b>OTHER</b> Any area listed to the left or courses listed in additional discipline (world language, comparative religion or philosophy)
4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year	2 years	4 years

2. Complete your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade. If you graduate from high school early, you still must meet core-course requirements.
3. Complete 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math or science, before the start of your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, any course needed to meet the 10/7 requirement cannot be replaced or repeated.
4. Earn a minimum 2.3 [core-course GPA](#).
5. Ask your high school counselor to upload your [final official transcript](#) with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

### EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

If you meet [specific criteria](#) after six semesters of high school, you may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division I and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

### QUALIFIER

You may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

### ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

You may practice during your first regular academic term and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment but may NOT compete during your first year of full-time enrollment. You must pass either eight quarter or nine semester hours to practice in the next term.

### NONQUALIFIER

You will not be able to practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.





GRADE <h1 style="margin: 0;">9</h1> REGISTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» If you haven't yet, <a href="https://eligibilitycenter.org">register</a> for a free Profile Page account at <a href="https://eligibilitycenter.org">eligibilitycenter.org</a> for information on NCAA initial-eligibility requirements.</li> <li>» Use NCAA Research's <a href="#">interactive map</a> to help locate NCAA schools you're interested in attending.</li> <li>» Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at <a href="https://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist">eligibilitycenter.org/courselist</a> to ensure you're taking the right courses, and earn the best grades possible!</li> </ul>
GRADE <h1 style="margin: 0;">10</h1> PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» If you're being actively recruited by an NCAA school and have a Profile Page account, <a href="#">transition</a> it to the required <a href="#">certification account</a>.</li> <li>» Monitor the <a href="#">task list</a> in your NCAA Eligibility Center account for next steps.</li> <li>» At the end of the school year, ask your high school counselor from each school you attend to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.</li> <li>» If you fall behind academically, ask your high school counselor for help finding <a href="#">approved courses</a> you can take.</li> </ul>
GRADE <h1 style="margin: 0;">11</h1> STUDY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Ensure your <a href="#">sports participation</a> information is correct in your Eligibility Center account.</li> <li>» Check with your high school counselor to make sure you're on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved <a href="#">core courses</a> and graduate on time with your class.</li> <li>» Share your <a href="#">NCAA ID</a> with NCAA schools recruiting you so each school can place you on its <a href="#">institutional request list</a>.</li> <li>» At the end of the school year, ask your high school counselor from each school you attend to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.</li> </ul>
GRADE <h1 style="margin: 0;">12</h1> GRADUATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <a href="#">Request your final amateurism certification</a> beginning April 1 (fall enrollees) or Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees) in your Eligibility Center account at <a href="https://eligibilitycenter.org">eligibilitycenter.org</a>.</li> <li>» Apply and be accepted to the NCAA school you plan to attend.</li> <li>» Complete your final NCAA-approved <a href="#">core courses</a> as you prepare for graduation.</li> <li>» After you graduate, ask your high school counselor to upload your final <a href="#">official transcript</a> with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.</li> </ul>

*How to plan your high school courses to meet the 16 core-course requirement:*

## 4 x 4 = 16

9 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	10 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	11 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	12 <sup>th</sup> GRADE
(1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or other	(1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or other	(1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or other	(1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or other
4 CORE COURSES	4 CORE COURSES	4 CORE COURSES	4 CORE COURSES



**CONTACT THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER**  
 U.S. and Canada (except Quebec):  
 877-282-1492 (toll free), Monday-Friday  
 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time  
 International (Including Quebec):  
[on.ncaa.com/IntContact](https://on.ncaa.com/IntContact)



 @ncaaec  
  @ncaaec  
  @ncaaec  
  @playcollegesports



# Division II Academic Standards

Division II schools require you to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year of full-time enrollment, you must meet the following requirements:

NCAA DIVISION II

MAKE IT YOURS

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	EXTRA (English, math or science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	OTHER Any area listed to the left or courses listed in additional disciplines (world language, comparative religion or philosophy)
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	2 years	4 years

2. Earn a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA.
3. Ask your high school counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

## EARLY ACADEMIC QUALIFIER

If you meet specific criteria after six semesters of high school, you may be deemed an early academic qualifier for Division II and may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

## QUALIFIER

You may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment.

## PARTIAL QUALIFIER

You may practice and receive an athletics scholarship but may NOT compete during your first year of full-time enrollment.



GRADE

# 9

REGISTER

- » If you haven't yet, [register](http://eligibilitycenter.org) for a free Profile Page account at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org) for information on NCAA initial-eligibility requirements.
- » Use NCAA Research's [interactive map](#) to help locate NCAA schools you're interested in attending.
- » Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at [eligibilitycenter.org/courselist](http://eligibilitycenter.org/courselist) to ensure you're taking the right courses, and earn the best grades possible!

GRADE

# 10

PLAN

- » If you're being actively recruited by an NCAA school and have a Profile Page account, [transition](#) it to the required [certification account](#).
- » Monitor the [task list](#) in your NCAA Eligibility Center account for next steps.
- » At the end of the school year, ask your high school counselor from each school you attend to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.
- » If you fall behind academically, ask your high school counselor for help finding [approved courses](#) you can take.

GRADE

# 11

STUDY

- » Ensure your [sports participation](#) information is correct in your Eligibility Center account.
- » Check with your high school counselor to make sure you're on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved [core courses](#).
- » Share your [NCAA ID](#) with NCAA schools recruiting you so each school can place you on its [institutional request list](#).
- » At the end of the school year, ask your high school counselor from each school you attend to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.

GRADE

# 12

GRADUATE

- » [Request your final amateurism certification](#) beginning April 1 (fall enrollees) or Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees) in your Eligibility Center account at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org).
- » Apply and be accepted to the NCAA school you plan to attend.
- » Complete your final NCAA-approved [core courses](#) as you prepare for graduation.
- » After you graduate, ask your high school counselor to upload your final [official transcript](#) with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

How to plan your high school courses to meet the 16 core-course requirement: 4 x 4 = 16

9 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	10 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	11 <sup>th</sup> GRADE	12 <sup>th</sup> GRADE
(1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or other <span style="background-color: #f9c94d; color: white; padding: 2px;">4 CORE COURSES</span>	(1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or other <span style="background-color: #e69d00; color: white; padding: 2px;">4 CORE COURSES</span>	(1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or other <span style="background-color: #a52a2a; color: white; padding: 2px;">4 CORE COURSES</span>	(1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or other <span style="background-color: #002d62; color: white; padding: 2px;">4 CORE COURSES</span>

**CONTACT THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER**  
 U.S. and Canada (except Québec):  
 877-282-1492 (toll free), Monday-Friday  
 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time  
 International (Including Québec):  
[on.ncaa.com/IntContact](http://on.ncaa.com/IntContact)

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2  
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# ACADEMIC PROGRAM

## COURSE LEVELS

**ACADEMIC (CP)** courses follow the content-specific New Jersey Student Learning Standards, employing strategies that address the specific needs of diverse learners. These courses provide preparation for students who wish to enter a post-secondary program such as college/university, technical school, or career training.

**ACCELERATED** courses follow the content-specific New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Courses are designed to challenge motivated students in a specific content area. These courses provide preparation for students who wish to enter a college and/or university program.

**HONORS (H)** courses follow the content-specific New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Courses are designed to challenge highly motivated, academically strong students with interest in a specific content area. Honors courses are offered in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and World Language as well as various electives. These rigorous courses offer enriched exploration of scope and material. Many of our upper-level Honors courses have Dual Enrollment agreements with local universities (refer to page 10) where students can earn college credits for successful completion.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)** courses expand on the Honors level and enable students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Based on their performance on rigorous AP Exams, students can earn college credit(s) and/or advanced placement opportunities in college. AP courses follow a designated curriculum approved by the College Entrance Examination Board and are appealing to many post-secondary institutions. Students enrolled in AP courses are expected to take the AP exam in May. This test comes at a cost to families and will be reimbursed on a sliding scale if the student receives a score of 3 or higher.

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

### BROADCASTING

#### **AUDIO VISUAL PRODUCTION**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 9-12**

Audio Visual Production is an introductory course exposing students to various elements of historical and contemporary audio communication. These elements include, but are not limited to, the history of spoken words, storytelling, public speaking, radio, Foley/sound effects, music, and podcasting. Students will apply knowledge in these areas through the development of individual and group projects using audio editing software.

In the second half of this course students will be exposed to the basics of videography such as scripting, camera operation, and editing skills. Students explore various video genres and are encouraged to attain video footage of special events and PV activities to elevate the quality of projects.

***Prerequisite: None***

#### **TELEVISION PRODUCTION I**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 10-12**

Television Production I is an introduction to TV production course exposing students to basic light/perspective studies and application, various message-based writing samples and scripting, camera operation, and editing skills. Students explore various video genres including narrative shorts, PSAs, news features, stop motion, documentary, sports, and experimental films. Students are encouraged to attain video footage of special events and PV activities to elevate the quality of projects.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of AV Production, Graphic Design, or Intro to Theater; Instructor recommendation***

#### **TELEVISION PRODUCTION II**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 11-12**

Through projects and cooperative learning, students will learn the techniques to communicate accurately and efficiently to a mass audience using industry standard technologies in a high-paced, career-simulated environment. Students are responsible for the creation and production of original PVTV video shorts which will combine in-studio and on location tapings to develop content that informs the Passaic Valley High School community of important events, activities, and accomplishments, as well as creative short narratives. PVTV programs are distributed through Cablevision Channel 77, Fios Channel 22, and online through PVTV's YouTube and Vimeo channels.

Video journalism, newsgathering and remote production skills will be fine-tuned while producing stories. Students are responsible for writing, directing, producing, and publishing content, as well as demonstrating technical skill in the areas of lighting, camera technique, and editing. Students are encouraged to attain video footage of special events and PV activities to elevate the quality of projects.

***\*Students enrolled in this course are eligible for dual enrollment credit through Bergen Community College.***

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Television Production I or Digital Journalism; Instructor recommendation***



## **ADVANCED TELEVISION PRODUCTION HONORS**

**5 Credits  
Grade 12**

Through group and individual projects, students will learn various advanced techniques in the development of broadcast media. In addition to skills-based projects, this class will also operate as an independent production company, servicing the greater school community to develop various video presentations, based on curriculum delivered in authentic, project-based models. Students will have the opportunity to develop original content working one-on-one with the instructor, to ensure the individual needs of each learner is met. Students are responsible for the creation and production of original PTV shorts and longer format programming which combines in-studio and on location tapings to document important events, activities, and accomplishments of the Passaic Valley High School community as well as creative short narratives. Students demonstrate advanced technical merit in the areas of lighting, camera technique and operation, and editing. Writing, directing, and producing is refined. Students are encouraged to attain video footage of special events and PV activities to elevate the quality of projects.

**\*Students enrolled in this course are eligible for dual enrollment credit through Bergen Community College.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Television Production II or Digital Journalism; Instructor recommendation***

## BUSINESS

### **FINANCIAL LITERACY**

**2.5 Credits  
Grades 9-12**

The online course is designed in partnership with the NJ Department of Banking and Insurance, NJ Coalition for Financial Education and Junior Achievement (JA) of NJ. The primary objective of this course is to raise student awareness of basic financial literacy, to make informed financial decisions based on financial goals, and to understand current local and global economic conditions. JA's Finance Park Simulation and selective teacher expertise, in areas of business and mathematics, prepares students to be financially literate in the 21st century, while becoming more secure in their financial future. Student assessments will demonstrate competencies and measurable skills in the following units outlined in the course curriculum: Basic Life Planning, Money Basics, Career Paths, Taxes and Payroll Deductions, The World of Banking, Living on a Budget, Spending, Debt and Credit, Investing and Retirement Planning. This is a practical course which incorporates innovative business and educational partnerships; it's "Math that Matters." **\*This course meets the financial literacy requirement required by the NJDOE. There is a 5-credit adaptive version of this course for applicable students within our special education program.**

***Prerequisite: None***

### **FOUNDATIONS OF BUSINESS**

**5 Credits  
Grades 9-10**

Ready to discover how successful businesses are built? Take the first steps into the business world, learning how to transform ideas into action. In this course, students will explore key business concepts, including economics, marketing, accounting, and management. Through real-world case studies, interactive projects, and hands-on activities, students will gain practical skills and knowledge about what it takes to operate a successful business in today's competitive environment.

We'll explore how businesses are structured, how products are marketed, and what it takes to stay competitive in today's marketplace. Whether you're an aspiring entrepreneur or curious about how industries work, this course will provide you with the tools to start your business journey with confidence.

By the end of this course, you'll have a solid foundation in business design and the confidence to take your first steps toward becoming a business leader.

***Prerequisite: None***

## **ENTERTAINMENT MARKETING**

**2.5 Credits**

**Grades 10-12**

This course is a step-by-step exploration of the world of sports, entertainment, and fashion marketing. Students will learn about the key functions of marketing and how those functions are applied to the sports, entertainment, and fashion industries. The course will give special consideration to the elements of the marketing mix and 7 key marketing functions. Students will explore the importance of target markets, while considering the strategies of sports, entertainment, and fashion marketing. Emphasis will be placed on the understanding of market segmentation in all three industries as well as the growing trend of corporate sponsorships, investments, and product endorsements. Students will understand the economic impact of sports, entertainment, and fashion in society. Students will evaluate the ethics involved with product endorsements and corporate responsibility. Students will prepare presentations and print media as a sports agent and fashion designer.

***Prerequisite: None***

## **SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING**

**2.5 Credits**

**Grades 10-12**

Social Media Marketing provides an overview of social media and its application to the business setting. The course will include a hands-on view of current and social media marketing tools and incorporate current topics from this dynamic field. The main focus will be on leveraging social media from a marketing perspective, including listening to customers and building brands on the social web. It will incorporate digital marketing using digital tech to reach potential customers and build brand awareness.

***Prerequisite: None***

## **ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 10-12**

This course is designed for the business student who would like to own and run a business of their own. Students will learn the steps in planning and starting a business and will write a business plan. Research will be conducted on why entrepreneurs must research and analyze their target market. Students will evaluate their own business skills and discover ways to refine and develop them. Students will analyze trends and see how trends can create opportunities. Students will learn about the financial aspects of running a business, how to obtain start up, plan and track finances. An overview of financial record keeping and financial statements along with global opportunities will be researched. Students will study basic human resources and risk management to protect a business and its employees.

***Prerequisite: None***

## **ACCOUNTING I**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 11-12**

Dive into the world of accounting and discover how financial information drives business decisions! In Accounting I, you'll learn the essential principles of accounting, from managing personal finances to tracking a company's financial performance. This year-long course provides a solid foundation in the "language of business," teaching you how to organize, analyze, and report financial data.

Through hands-on practice, you'll develop key skills like balancing accounts, creating financial statements, and understanding the importance of accuracy in business. By working with real-world scenarios, you'll see how accounting impacts all areas of business—from startups to multinational corporations.

By the end of this course, you'll be able to manage financial records, interpret business performance, and understand the role of accounting in business success. Whether you're interested in finance, entrepreneurship, or just gaining valuable life skills, Accounting I will set you up for future success in any field.

***Prerequisite: None***

## CULINARY

### **CULINARY ARTS I**

**5 Credits**  
**Grades 11-12**

Culinary Arts presents knowledge of nutrition and food preparation. It includes planning and preparing complete meals for groups varying in size from four to twenty people. Foods that reflect regional, national, cultural, and ethnic influences will be sampled in laboratory settings. Observing demonstrations that showcase various types of dishes will increase food preparation skills. Nutrition as it relates to health, snacks, diets, use of convenience foods, and food customs will also be studied. Opportunities for studying careers and occupations in the hospitality industry will be explored through various means, including computer applications. Students enrolled in Culinary Arts I will master the following objectives: understand the basic, applied scientific principles related to healthy living as well as the part that nutrition, food preparation, and food choice play; Develop cooperative work habits in the preparation and sampling of a variety of local, regional, and national food dishes; Examine sources of careers in the foodservice and hospitality industries; Demonstrate the critical reading/writing skills necessary to effectively research and reference the latest in electronic source materials; and Plan and develop various projects that culminate in the preparation of food.

***Prerequisite: None***

### **CULINARY ARTS II**

**5 Credits**  
**Grade 12**

The course explores the wide variety of career options in the food industry through individual and team-based activities. Students discover their strengths through career building activities, explore how to use nutrition research and improve diets, while learning advanced culinary skills. This course includes food trends and lifestyle options such as organic foods, vegetarian diets, convenience foods, eating out, lactose and gluten intolerance and nutrition supplements. Lab experiences will align with those practiced in the hospitality field. The course leads students to become independent critical thinkers and problem solvers.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Culinary Arts I***

## STRUCTURED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

### **ELEMENTARY/ EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERNSHIP**

**15 Credits**  
**Grade 12**

Hornet Helping Hands is an internship program between Passaic Valley Regional High School and our sending districts. Seniors interested in pursuing a career in elementary education, gain real-world

experience at the elementary level and earn 15 high school credits. Hornet Helping Hands interns aid in the classroom, support students with daily routines, and participate in school events.

***Prerequisite: Interest in the field of education; Successful completion of application process***

### **INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE**

**0 Credits**

**Grade 12**

Students work one on one under the direction of a content area teacher and can be assigned to an introductory level course to assist first year students in a particular discipline. In addition to assisting the instructor, students will be involved in peer interaction and promote leadership within the classroom. Departments that have offered internships in previous years include STEM Explorations, Art, PVTV, Science, and Athletic Training.

***Prerequisite: Instructor approval***

### **RESEARCH & INTERNSHIP**

**5 Credits**

**Grade 12**

Research and Internship is designed for students who are interested in global and national issues and/or a career in national world affairs. It provides students an opportunity to do intensive research that goes well beyond the usual classroom experience.

In Research and Internship, student interns gain professional experience working with national and international organizations in planning and developing content for use with educational technology, such as videoconferencing. The major objectives include deepening an understanding of global and national issues, developing professional skills which cannot be taught in a classroom, and providing student interns with real world experiences before entering college or the job market.

Student interns focus on developing research skills, verbal communication, critical thinking skills, work habits, study skills, reading and writing ability, and the capacity to interpret and analyze primary source materials. Project-based learning empowers student interns to work independently and collaboratively. Projects focus on 21st-century learning skills, including technology skills, creativity, critical thinking, effective communication, and cross-cultural skills.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of application process; Instructor approval***

### **SENIOR INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE**

**5 Credits**

**Grade 12**

Senior Internship Experience provides seniors an opportunity to explore a specific field of interest. This opportunity allows the student to work with adults in a professional environment where academic learning is applied to practical situations. As a result, the interns become aware of opportunities that exist in a specific career field as well as the educational requirements to pursue that career.

Senior interns will:

1. Maintain intern status at a selected career placement.
2. Receive favorable on-site evaluations from mentor.
3. Be observed regularly by teacher and coordinator.
4. Submit journal entries logging intern experience.

***Prerequisite: Supervisor approval; Completion of an application and interview with prospective mentor***



## **STRUCTURED LEARNING EXPERIENCE (CLASS)**

**5 Credits  
Grade 12**

Structured Learning Experience is a full year, senior only course that provides students with career readiness skills. Students who participate in the Field Experience part of the program are required to enroll in this class. The curriculum is guided by the 21st Century Life and Career Standards for the workplace. Students will gain career planning, computer technology, critical thinking, problem solving, self-management and safety skills. Students enrolled in the program will achieve the following objectives:

1. Use various sources for career information.
2. Develop strong listening, reading, speaking and math skills necessary for the business world.
3. Apply technology skills to produce resumes, spreadsheets and presentations.
4. Develop and practice critical thinking skills and use those skills in a cooperative team environment.
5. Understand health and safety laws which apply to their respective work environments.
6. Develop writing skills for the business arena.

***Prerequisite: None***

## **STRUCTURED LEARNING EXPERIENCE (FIELD EXPERIENCE)**

**10 Credits  
Grade 12**

Structured Learning Experience is a program that allows seniors to explore a wide variety of career interests outside the building while they are still enrolled in high school. The program consists of field experience and a related class. In the field experience section, students can earn up to 10 credits towards their diploma by achieving the following objectives:

1. Maintain employment at an approved job site by completing a minimum of 540 worksite hours.
2. Receive favorable on-site evaluations from the employer and teacher-coordinator.
3. Complete job-related projects
4. Maintain a folder containing state and school required forms.

***Prerequisite: Supervisor approval; Completion of an application and attendance at the mandatory candidates' meeting***

## TECHNOLOGY

### **NEWLY DESIGNED STEM ELECTIVES IN THE AREA OF ENGINEERING/BIOTECHNOLOGY TO BE ANNOUNCED- JANUARY 2025**

#### **STEM EXPLORATIONS**

**5 Credits  
Grades 9-10**

The STEM Explorations course is an introductory class to a series of STEM based classes offered at Passaic Valley Regional High School. The course will cover four major topics: Computer Programming (Arduino), Computer Aided Design (CAD), Biomedical Engineering and Environments and Resources. Students will explore how technology is used in our daily lives to accomplish basic tasks. They will learn to work in small groups to replicate the different technologies that are being explored in class. This course focuses on working in a collaborative manner on a series of projects in each of the related topics.

***Prerequisite: None***

#### **CREATIVE CODING**

**5 Credits  
Grades 9-12**

In this course, students will have the opportunity to learn about the basics of computer programming by creating programs, worlds, games, and algorithms with three main applications and languages. Mblock

gives students the opportunity to learn how to create and animate characters or create games through a basic set of programming commands. Alice programming language takes Mblock a few steps further and gives students the opportunity to create and animate characters and games in 3D worlds. A problem-based approach will be used as students learn and utilize the Python programming language to create pictures, graphics, and more interactive programs. Students will also be asked to analyze and debug pre-existing programs to aid in the critical thinking practices and problem-solving skills that are necessary in computer science.

***Prerequisite: None***

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES**

**5 Credits  
Grades 10-12**

AP Computer Science Principles introduces you to the foundations of computer science with a focus on how computing powers the world. Along with the fundamentals of computing, you will learn to analyze data, create technology that has a practical impact, and gain a broader understanding of how computer science impacts people and society. The AP CSP course is organized around seven **big ideas** that are essential to studying computer science: Creativity; Abstraction; Data and Information; Algorithms; Programming; The Internet; and Global Impact. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Creative Coding or its equivalent; Recommended final average of a B + (87-89) in Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II; Instructor recommendation***

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPUTER SCIENCE A**

**5 Credits  
Grades 10-12**

AP Computer Science A is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level course in computer science. The course introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design using Java language. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Creating Coding or its equivalent; Recommended final average of a B + (87-89) in Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II; Instructor recommendation***

## ENGLISH

### ENGLISH I

5 Credits

This comprehensive course incorporates reading, writing, listening, study skills, vocabulary and grammar study, and the uses of technology. Literature study is genre based and includes: the novel, short stories, plays, poetry, and nonfiction. Mastery of both reading and writing will be emphasized. Students will develop portfolios of their writing that will include short baseline pieces, polished longer writing and creative assignments, in addition to book reports, a formal research paper, and independent readings.

**\*Academic course level will be based on the results of the Passaic Valley placement test, available middle school data, as well as sending district recommendation.**

***Prerequisite: None***

### ENGLISH I HONORS

5 Credits

This course is designed to prepare students who seek to further develop their writing, reading, and critical thinking skills to compete successfully in the rigorous Honors and Advanced Placement program. This course will include readings from a wide spectrum of sources with an eye toward expanding a student's interests and abilities. Numerous projects and writing assignments complete the requirements. Students who enjoy reading and reacting to literature in both spoken and written modes and who are motivated and disciplined to meet the rigors of the course curriculum should consider this course.

***Prerequisite: Eligibility for Honors will be based on the results of the Passaic Valley placement test as well as sending district recommendation***

### ENGLISH II

5 Credits

This course includes continued development and integration of literature with a focus on British writers and traditions. The emphasis is on the integration of higher order thinking and learning skills such as analysis and synthesis. Writing as a process is emphasized, and students are encouraged to read and respond through numerous modes of expression. Aside from the text, all students read outside novels/plays and complete an in-depth research project. Creative writing and vocabulary development is encouraged through the use of reading and writing models. NJSLA practice is threaded throughout the year. **\*Academic course level will be based on teacher recommendation.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of English I at the appropriate academic level***

### ENGLISH II HONORS

5 Credits

The English II Honors program is designed for the above average student who has a desire to study literature and can initiate independent projects. The course stresses skill development as well as high level writing assignments based upon British traditions and other literature studied in and out of class. Students will experience an in-depth study of all literary genres, which will prepare them to continue in the Honors English program. Students will meet all requirements for English II and will learn strategies for success to pass the NJSLA. Additionally, students will read and write about novels/plays outside of the text, write a research paper that defends a specific thesis, and write baseline and longer polished pieces in response to literature.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of English I with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89) or English I Honors with no less than a B (83-86); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

### **ENGLISH III**

**5 Credits**

This course combines the elements of writing, grammar and vocabulary within the structure of an American Literature program. Students will be asked to write analytically, critically and creatively. Writing as a process will be emphasized. Vocabulary study will center on lists culled from literature, PSAT and SAT models. The study of literature will include selections from novels, plays, short stories, poetry and nonfiction. Students will complete an in-depth research paper on an independent topic, engage in creative writing projects and compose baseline and polished writing pieces in response to literature. NJSLA skills and strategies will be emphasized during the first semester in preparation for the test. **\*Academic course level will be based on teacher recommendation.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of English II at the appropriate academic level***

### **ENGLISH III HONORS**

**5 Credits**

The English III Honors program is designed for the above average student who has a desire to study literature and can initiate independent projects. The course stresses skill development as well as high level writing assignments based upon American authors and other literature studied in and out of class. Students will experience an in-depth study of all literary genres, which will prepare them to continue in the Honors English program. Students will meet all requirements for English III and will learn strategies for success to pass the NJSLA. Additionally, students will read and write about novels/plays outside of the text, write a research paper that defends a specific thesis, and write baseline and longer polished pieces in response to literature.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of English II with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89) or English II Honors with no less than a B (83-86); Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

### **ENGLISH IV**

**5 Credits**

This course combines the elements of writing, grammar and vocabulary within the structure of a survey of literature program. Students will be asked to write analytically, critically and creatively. Writing as a process will be emphasized. Vocabulary study will center on lists culled from literature, PSAT and SAT models. The study of literature will include selections from novels, plays, short stories, poetry and nonfiction. Students will complete an in-depth research paper on an independent topic, engage in creative writing projects and compose baseline and polished writing pieces in response to literature. Students will read literature from a wide array of genres including horror, true crime, and identity themes. **\*Academic course level will be based on teacher recommendation.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of English III at the appropriate academic level***

### **ENGLISH IV HONORS**

**5 Credits**

The English IV Honors program is designed for the above average student who has a desire to study literature and can initiate independent projects. The course stresses skill development as well as high level writing assignments based upon various genres such as psychology in literature and themes of identity in addition to other literature studied in and out of class. Students will experience an in-depth study of all

literary genres, as they continue in the Honors English program. Students will meet all requirements for English IV and will learn strategies for success on the collegiate level. Additionally, students will read and write about novels/plays outside of the text, write a research paper that defends a specific thesis, and write baseline and longer polished pieces in response to literature. **\*Students enrolled in this course are eligible for dual enrollment credit through Fairleigh Dickinson University.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of English III with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89) or English III Honors with no less than a B (83-86); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

#### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION**

**5 Credits  
Grades 11-12**

The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of English II with a final average of no less than an A (93-96) or English II Honors with no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

#### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**

**5 Credits  
Grade 12**

The AP English Literature and Composition course is designed for the student who has a serious interest in, appreciation of and willingness to explore literature in all of its forms. Through exposure to the novel, play, short story and poetry both in and out of the classroom, the student will be able to read, write, analyze and report on a text's themes, characters, and style by using personal modes of expression as well as recognized criticism and models. Students' past reading experiences will figure prominently in the course work. Student practice with models of previous AP exams will be a focus. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of English III with a final average of no less than an A (93-96) or English III Honors with no less than a B+ (87-89) or AP Language and Composition with no less than a B (83-86). Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

#### **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)**

**5 Credits  
Grades 9-12**

English as a Second Language is a daily developmental language course for students of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) to whom English is not a native language and for whom success in regular English curriculum is questionable. Students who are identified as LEP are provided opportunities to develop linguistic, cognitive, and socio-cultural proficiencies in the English language.

The ESL curriculum provides a sequential program of communication based English instruction in grades 9-12. Language is acquired through meaningful interactive experiences enriched by culturally authentic content. Through English language instruction, students are provided opportunities to reach out to others across the cultural and linguistic boundaries. Instruction is characterized by progressive learning in developing relevant themes and meaningful tasks involving listening, speaking, writing, and reading.

Instruction is based on inquiry, solving real life problems and application of concepts. An appreciation of a student's learning style is necessary for success in language learning.

The ESL curriculum, which infuses the WIDA standards for Multilingual Learners (ML) to the New Jersey State Learning Standards, explores themes across content areas and makes connections to differences, and develops an understanding of world culture. All students will be tested to determine placement for remaining or exiting the ESL class using the ACCESS for ML's computer-based assessment.

#### **ESL-Beginning Reading and Writing**

This course will require students to focus on the development of reading and writing skills at the most basic level with emphasis on vocabulary building, grammar, syntax, mechanics, and pronunciation.

***Prerequisite: NJ State approved language proficiency test score of "Entering" or "Emerging"***

#### **ESL - Advanced**

This course is designed for the ML who can process, understand, produce, or use general, specific, or some technical language of the content areas.

***Prerequisite: NJ State approved language proficiency test scores of "Developing" or "Expanding"***

### **LITERATURE CONNECTIONS**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 9-12**

Taught by a certified reading specialist, Literature Connections focuses on multisensory language-based instruction that targets specific reading deficiencies. This class is specifically designed for students needing intensive reading and writing remediation. Students are assessed formally and summatively at the beginning and end of the course to determine growth.

***Prerequisite: Instructor Recommendation***

### **DIGITAL JOURNALISM**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 10-12**

Digital Journalism is a full year elective that is taken in addition to English II, III, or IV. The primary objective of the class is to write and produce the current year's VALLEY ECHO, the school's digital newspaper. Major areas of instruction include story development, writing, editing, cartooning, photography, layout and design. Technology skills will include learning and using a digital camera, Blackboard, the school website and Photoshop. Students will also learn about career opportunities related to the newspaper as well as the importance of journalistic integrity. **\*This course meets the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills/Career requirement for graduation.**

***Prerequisite: Show strong prior academic performance***

### **EDITING AND PUBLISHING**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 11-12**

The focus of this class is to develop, write and produce the current year's VALLEY GREEN. Students must be prepared to work in all aspects of yearbook production. In the fall semester, the class will develop the overall design for the book and layout the majority of the sections. During the spring semester, the class will produce the senior supplement, layout the spring sports sections and plan next year's yearbook. This course is an elective and is taken in addition to English III or English IV. **\*This course meets the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills/Career requirement for graduation.**

***Prerequisite: Show strong prior academic performance***

**CREATIVE WRITING****2.5 Credits  
Grades 11-12**

This course will cover various forms of literature including poetry, short stories, drama, memoir, etc. The exploration of these genres, their structure and application will give students a basis to develop their own writing skills and style. Collaboration and peer revision will be implemented in the course, and each creative piece will go through a drafting and revision process.

***Prerequisite: None***

**MEDIA AND POP CULTURE****2.5 Credits  
Grades 11-12**

This course will offer an analysis of popular culture and media and allow students to reflect on aspects of race, class, and gender in media including advertising, television, music, and the explosion of online media and social networks. Students will critically examine the intersection of popular culture and the media and its effects on our lives, analyzing how popular culture and media make meaning, shape and reflect who we are, and also raise our social conscience. Course materials will include academic and activist texts, film, literary essays, and print media.

***Prerequisite: None***

**TRUE CRIME****2.5 Credits  
Grades 11-12**

This course will examine the evolution of the true crime genre throughout American history to explore how these narratives reveal changing attitudes about gender, mental illness, morality, socioeconomics, and race. Using literary nonfiction and documentaries, students will attempt to examine how a culture's changing relationship to "real life" crime narratives can help us understand the fundamental and complex role criminality plays in defining a people at any given point in time. Students will explore varied accounts of crimes to analyze fact vs. fiction and sensationalism in society.

***Prerequisite: None***

# MATHEMATICS

## ALGEBRA I

5 Credits

This course is a fundamental study of algebraic principles. Letters representing numbers are combined according to the rules of arithmetic. It is expected that a student who successfully completes this course will have developed mastery and proficiency in solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, functions, exponents, polynomials, and quadratic equations. This course is designed using the NJSL-S-M. The next course of study will be Geometry. **\*Academic course level will be based on the results of the Passaic Valley placement test, available middle school data, as well as sending district recommendation.**

***Prerequisite: None***

## PRINCIPLES OF MATHEMATICS

5 Credits

This course accompanies Algebra I and is designed to bridge the gap between basic arithmetic and the more complex concepts of algebra, providing students with a strong foundation for future success in high school mathematics. Students will build fluency with arithmetic operations, including working with fractions, decimals, and percentages, while also developing key pre-algebra skills such as understanding variables, expressions, and equations.

## ALGEBRA I HONORS

5 Credits

This course is a study of algebraic principles and applications. Letters representing numbers are combined according to the rules of arithmetic. It is expected that a student who successfully completes this course will have developed mastery and proficiency in variables and expressions, solving and graphing linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, ratios and proportions, functions, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents, polynomials and factoring, radical and rational expressions, simplifying algebraic expressions, use properties of numbers in expressions, solve and graph linear equations and perform operations with polynomials. This course is designed using the NJSL-S-M. The next course of study will be Geometry Honors.

***Prerequisite: Eligibility for honors will be based on the results of the Passaic Valley placement test as well as sending district recommendation***

## GEOMETRY

5 Credits

Geometry is a study of geometric figures in the plane with an emphasis on the related three-dimensional spatial concept integrated into the structure of the subject. Coordinate Geometry is included to strengthen the mathematical relationships between Algebra and Geometry. It is expected that a student who successfully completes this course will have developed mastery and proficiency in points, lines, and planes, proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruency, triangle relationships, polygons, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, area, surface area and volume, circles, and measurement of arcs and angles. This course is designed using the NJSL-S-M. The next course of study will be Algebra II. **\*Academic course level will be based on teacher recommendation.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I at the appropriate academic level***



## GEOMETRY HONORS

5 Credits

Geometry is a study of geometric figures in the plane with an emphasis on the related three-dimensional spatial concept integrated into the structure of the subject. Coordinate Geometry is included to strengthen the mathematical relationships between Algebra and Geometry. Furthermore, topics of Non-Euclidean Geometry are discussed to demonstrate the practical applications and natural everyday occurrences. Students who successfully complete this course will have developed mastery and proficiency in points, lines, and planes, proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruency, triangle relationships, polygons, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, area, surface area and volume, circles, and measurement of arcs and angles. This course is designed using the NJSL-S-M. The next course of study will be Algebra II.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I Accelerated with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89) or Algebra I Honors with no less than a B (83-86); Instructor Recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam; Eligibility for incoming freshman will be based on the results of the Passaic Valley placement test as well as sending district recommendation***

## ALGEBRA II

5 Credits

This course further develops the study of Algebra I in which letters denote numbers or any one of a certain set of numbers. Arithmetic principles illustrate that numbers are related by laws that hold for any number. It is expected that a student who successfully completes this course will have developed mastery and proficiency in linear algebra, quadratic, rational, polynomial, radical and exponential functions, probability and statistics. The next course of study will be precalculus, probability and statistics, or college math.

***\*Academic course level will be based on teacher recommendation.***

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry at the appropriate academic level***

## ALGEBRA II HONORS

5 Credits

The course is a continuation of the concepts taught in Algebra I incorporated with geometry skills and objectives. Real-life applications are given throughout the course as well as reviews to boost retention. The use of calculators and computers helps the student explore new ideas. The emphasis is placed on the structure of the real and complex number system. It is expected that a student who successfully completes this course will have developed mastery and proficiency in linear algebra, quadratic, rational, polynomial, radical, exponential, and trigonometric functions. The next course of study will be Precalculus Honors.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I Accelerated and Geometry Accelerated with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89) or Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors with no less than a B (83-86); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

## PRE-CALCULUS

5 Credits

Pre-calculus is a comprehensive study of mathematical theory and applications designed not only to prepare students for Calculus and higher mathematics, but also for the mathematical proficiencies needed to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students who successfully complete this course will have developed a mastery and a proficiency in linear functions, graphs of polynomial, rational and trigonometric functions, inverses and graphs of functions, vectors and parametric equations, conics, and exponential and logarithmic functions. The next course of study will be calculus or probability and statistics.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Geometry Accelerated and Algebra II Accelerated with a final average of no less than a B- (80-82)***

### **PRE-CALCULUS HONORS**

**5 Credits**

Pre-calculus is a comprehensive study of mathematical theory and applications designed not only to prepare students for Calculus and higher mathematics, but also for the mathematical proficiencies needed to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Student who successfully complete this course will have developed a mastery and a proficiency in linear functions, graphs of polynomial, rational and trigonometric functions, inverses and graphs of functions, vectors and parametric equations, conics, and exponential and logarithmic functions. The next course of study will be calculus or AP calculus.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Geometry Accelerated and Algebra II Accelerated with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89) or Geometry Honors and Algebra II Honors with no less than a B (83-86); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

### **CALCULUS HONORS**

**5 Credits**

The three main topics of the course are limits, differentiation, and integration. Calculus is the study of the variation of a function with respect to changes in the independent variable, or variables, as well as the methods of the anti-derivative. Students who successfully complete this course will have developed a mastery and a proficiency in maxima and minima, slopes of curves, equations of tangents and normal, approximations, velocity and acceleration, chain rule, areas and volumes, equations of curves, centroids, and the fundamental theorem of calculus.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-calculus with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89) or Pre-calculus Honors with a B (83-86); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 11-12**

The AP Calculus coursework is comparable to calculus courses in colleges and universities. The level of rigor is high, and students complete a curriculum that follows a syllabus from the Educational Testing Service in Princeton. Both differential and integral calculus are studied in the analysis of all movement and change. It is expected that a student who successfully completes this course will have developed a mastery and proficiency in properties of limits, explicit and implicit differentiation, slope of a curve and sketching, velocity and acceleration, maxima and minima, Rolle's theorem, mean value theorem, Newton's method for solving equations, area under a curve, volume, and transcendental functions. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion Pre-calculus Honors with no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation***

### **PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 11-12**

The objective of the course is to provide students with the necessary tools to apply and understand the fundamental concepts that underlie decisions reached by descriptive and/or inferential methods. One will become acquainted with the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. It is expected that a student who successfully completes this course will have developed a mastery and proficiency in the nature of statistics, sample data, methods of analyzing data, rules of

probability, distributions, sampling and estimation, hypothesis testing, and linear correlation and regression.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II Accelerated with a final average of no less than a C (73-76)***

#### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 11-12**

AP Statistics is an introductory college-level statistics course that introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students cultivate their understanding of statistics using technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they explore concepts like variation and distribution; patterns and uncertainty; and data-based predictions, decisions, and conclusions. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II Accelerated with a final average of no less than an A (93-96) or Algebra II Honors with no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation***

#### **ADVANCED MATHEMATICS**

**5 Credits**

**Grade 12**

This fourth year of math instruction better prepares students for college entrance exams and college courses. Particular emphasis is placed on diagnostic testing in order to prepare students to successfully take the Accuplacer standardized test required for college/technical school placement in math. It is expected that a student who successfully completes this course will have developed a mastery and proficiency in rational numbers, ratio and proportional relationships, exponents, algebraic expressions, linear equations, linear applications and graphs, probability sets, descriptive statistics, and geometry concepts.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II at the appropriate academic level***

## PHYSICAL / HEALTH EDUCATION

### HEALTH EDUCATION 9, 10, 11, 12

1.25 Credits

9<sup>th</sup> Grade - The unit of study will include such topic as:

1. Apply health knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain long-term health and wellness.
2. Learning the hazards of smoking, vaping, drugs, and alcohol as they relate to an individual's level of health and wellness; in addition, develop a set of personal standards to resist the use of drugs.
3. Identify school and community mental health resources to help and assist with mental illness and challenges.
4. Describe the positive and negative effects of social media.
5. Dealing with issues pertaining to teen sex, male and female reproduction, and STD prevention.
6. Goal setting and decision-making strategies.

10<sup>th</sup> Grade - This unit of study will include such topics as:

1. Learning the rules and regulations of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.
2. Teaching students a positive and responsible attitude toward driving.
3. Administering the NJ State Knowledge Exam.
4. Explaining the Graduated Driver's License Program pertaining to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.
5. Informing students about the benefits of organ and tissue donation to the health of society. along with information on the Organ Donor Law and NJ Hero Act passed in July 2008.
6. Explaining the hazards of substance abuse and driving as well as distracted driving.

11<sup>th</sup> Grade - The unit of study will include such topics as:

1. Understanding safety awareness and injury prevention.
2. Students will have a practical understanding of the procedures and techniques including basic first aid, choking, lifesaving CPR and the use of the automated external defibrillator (AED).
3. Discussing and teaching the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.
4. Explaining the signs and symptoms of cardiovascular disease, Lyme disease, etc.
5. Offering the opportunity to be certified in American Red Cross First Aid, CPR and AED.

12<sup>th</sup> Grade - The unit of study will include such topics as:

1. Human sexuality, which includes such ideas as healthy relationships, family structures, and a physical understanding of the human reproductive system.
2. Pregnancy, childbirth, contraception, and abstinence.
3. Prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.
4. Discussing sexual consent and laws.
5. Discussing gender identity and sexual orientation.
6. Dating violence.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION 9, 10, 11, 12****3.75 Credits**

Students are required to successfully complete a program of Physical/Health Education for each year of high school attendance. The Physical Education program is co-educational. Students will participate in activities based on the time of year, availability of facilities, and class sizes. Activities will include team sports, individual sports, ultimate sports, net games, yoga, weight training etc. Students will participate in cooperative games, problem solving initiatives, and trust building activities. Fundamental skills and team concepts are emphasized pertaining to each individual activity. Through competitive activity these students will develop an appreciation for fitness and exercise as well as learn how to interact cooperatively and successfully with each other.

Students are evaluated on preparedness, application and scores from skills and written tests. Medically excused students will be excused from the physical portion of each activity, but they will need to complete alternative assignments to satisfy the requirements of the course.

Each student's fitness level will be evaluated each marking period using current standardized physical fitness tests. Students will be able to compare their fitness level to national standards and do a critique of their own fitness levels to be able to develop their own fitness plan.

**ADAPTIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION****3.75 Credits**

Students with disabilities or those who may not participate successfully in a regular physical education program can successfully thrive in a movement program designed to meet the individual needs of the students. Students are required to successfully complete a program of Physical Education for each year of attendance. Individualized instruction on the development of fitness, fundamental motor skills and motor skills for individual and group games/activities is the focus of instruction. Class procedures and activities are modified to facilitate student participation. Students will develop an appreciation for fitness and exercise as well as learn how to interact cooperatively and successfully with each other. \*Note: If a student remains in this class for Health, they will receive an additional 1.25 credits.

## SCIENCE

### BIOLOGY I

5-6 Credits

Biology is a science that studies living things, from the simplest form to the most complex. Biology I will provide students with a deeper understanding of the basic biological principles and scientific processes. Topics covered will include Matter and Energy, Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, Cell Specialization and Homeostasis, DNA and Inheritance, and Evolution. The next course of study will be Chemistry I or Principles of Chemistry and Physics. **\*Academic course level will be based on the results of the Passaic Valley placement test, available middle school data, as well as sending district recommendation.**

***Prerequisite: None***

### BIOLOGY I HONORS

6 Credits

Biology I Honors combines students' science understanding of disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts. The disciplinary core ideas for life science are: 1) From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes, 2) Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics, 3) Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits, 4) Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity. The performance expectations for Biology I Honors blend these core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing applicable knowledge that can be used across the science disciplines. Upon successful completion, Chemistry I Honors will be the next course of study.

***Prerequisite: Eligibility for honors will be based on the results of the Passaic Valley placement test as well as sending district recommendation***

### PRINCIPLES OF CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

5 Credits

This course is designed to allow students to "see" their physical world in an integrated way before specialization in a yearlong course. Topics include: an introduction to matter and energy, forces and motion, electricity, and magnetism. Math and analytical skills will be applied to lab and other classroom activities. This provides students with a path toward further studies in a yearlong Chemistry and/or Physics course in their junior and senior years.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology I and Algebra I***

### CHEMISTRY I ACCELERATED

6 Credits

This course is designed to give the student an understanding of matter, its composition, structure, and properties. The content consists of general chemical concepts, presented with emphasis on explaining the behavior of matter in the real world, laboratory procedures and quantitative problem solving which requires the use of basic algebraic skills. Topics covered will be measurement, matter and energy, atomic structure, chemical formulas and bonding, moles and stoichiometric calculations, gas laws, and solutions, acids, and bases.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology I with a minimum grade of a C+ (77-79) and successful completion of Algebra I with no less than a C+ (77-79) and teacher recommendation; Corequisite Geometry I or Algebra II***

## CHEMISTRY I HONORS

6 Credits

Chemistry is the science that deals with the materials of the universe and the changes that these materials undergo. This course is designed to provide the foundation of basic principles of matter and energy. This course is directed to students who plan to take advanced courses in science and feel comfortable working with information at a faster pace and a more detailed level than the Chemistry I curriculum. Problem-solving is strongly emphasized in both classroom and laboratory activities. Topics covered will be chemical bonding, chemical reactions, thermochemistry, gases, liquids, solids, solutions, acids and bases, equilibrium, oxidation-reduction reactions, electrochemistry, and nuclear chemistry.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology I with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89) or Biology I Honors with no less than a B (83-86); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

5 Credits

Grades 11-12

Environmental Science emphasizes two broad areas: ecology and environmental science. Ecological topics include the study of ecosystems, evolution, and populations. Students will take advantage of the school's proximity to the Peckman and Passaic Rivers for field studies. Environmental Science topics will be developed with student input and may include air and water pollution, climate change, threats to species, and human population growth. Assessments will be varied, including traditional tests, quizzes, and papers along with performance and data activities. Students who successfully complete this course will have demonstrated mastery and proficiency in understanding the scientific approach to problem solving, applying graphing and analysis techniques to data, identifying and investigating indigenous fauna, flora and other indicators of quality, and assessing the impact of human demands on the local and global environment. **\*Academic course level will be based on teacher recommendation.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of a Biology and Chemistry or Principles of Chemistry and Physics course***

## PHYSICS I ACCELERATED

6 Credits

This course will give the student an understanding of the physical world. It develops fundamental understanding about matter and energy and the quantitative relationships that enable us to describe, with precision, the behavior of matter and energy. The presentation emphasizes a laboratory approach when possible and utilizes video and computer simulations as reinforcement for topics, which are not so easily demonstrable. Assessments in Physics I include tests, quizzes, laboratory activities, and homework assignments. It is expected that students who successfully complete this course will have developed mastery and proficiency in use of physics lab equipment, use of algebraic and geometric techniques to solve quantitative problems, understand the basics of mechanics, sound and light, electricity, and magnetism, use of word processing to prepare lab reports, and use of physics software.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Chemistry I with a minimum grade of B- (80-82) and Algebra I and Geometry with no less than a B- (80-82); Corequisite Algebra II***

## PHYSICS I HONORS

6 Credits

This course will give the students an understanding of the physical world. The content consists of a conceptual understanding about matter, graphing and using mathematical equations to describe the physical world. Students must have strong math skills (Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry) to properly apply physical concepts. The course emphasizes a laboratory approach when possible and utilizes video

and computer simulations as reinforcement for topics. Assessment in Honors Physics includes tests, quizzes, laboratory activities, and homework assignments. Students who successfully complete this course will have demonstrated mastery and proficiency in use of physics lab equipment, use of algebraic and geometric techniques to solve quantitative problems, understand the basics of mechanics, dynamics, sound and light, electricity, and magnetism, use of word processing to prepare lab reports, and use of physics software.

***Successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89) or Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors with no less than a B (83-86); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

## **ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCE**

**5 Credits  
Grades 11-12**

This course is designed to benefit students interested in biomedical and health related careers. Students are introduced to biosciences and skills utilized in biomedical research. Anatomy and physiology and medical terminology are emphasized as well as topics that include cells, biochemistry, disease, microbiology and pathogenic organisms, infections, metabolism and nutrition, and body defenses and immunity. Students will also consider topics in bioethics and medical genetics. This course will involve presentations, discussions, projects, and the use of technology.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of a Biology and Chemistry or Principles of Chemistry and Physics course***

## **FORENSIC SCIENCE**

**2.5 Credits  
Grades 11-12**

Forensic Science applies biology, chemistry, physical science, and technology to the analysis of criminal acts and law enforcement. This course focuses on the development of critical thinking skills and the examination of evidence as they relate to crimes and case studies. Students will apply scientific methods to consider aspects of evidence relevant to crime scenes. Students will also consider the functions of a typical crime laboratory. This course will involve presentations, discussions, projects, laboratory investigations, use of technology and readings. Students will also be exposed to career opportunities in forensic science.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of a Biology and Chemistry or Principles of Chemistry and Physics course***

## **ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY HONORS**

**6 Credits  
Grade 12**

This course is designed to introduce students to the structural, functional, and organizational relationships of the human body as a whole. It will include a detailed study of the human, not simply as material to be memorized, but to clarify the interwoven relationships of structure and function. The anatomy and physiology of the individual organs will be studied first, then the systems they form, and finally, the unified organism, man. Appropriate laboratory experiments in biochemistry and dissections are used to supplement the class work. A detailed dissection of all the systems of the cat will be performed. Topics which will be covered include orientation of the human body, chemistry, biochemistry, cytology, histology, the ten human systems, and the nervous system. **\*Students enrolled in this course are eligible for dual enrollment credit through Fairleigh Dickinson University.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology I and Chemistry I with a minimum grade of a B+ (87-89) or Biology I Honors, and Chemistry I Honors with no less than a B (83-86); Completion of a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of***



***College Prep/Honors science with no less than a B- (83-86) or an AP Science with no less than a B- (80-82); Instructor recommendation***

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY**

**6 Credits  
Grades 11-12**

This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement test. This is a college level course that requires students to have excellent skills in reading, observing, and formal reasoning. Students must show proficiency in using lab equipment, designing an experiment, and analyzing data. Topics which will be covered include chemistry of life, cell structure and function, cellular energetics, cell communication and cell cycle, heredity, gene expression and regulation, natural selection, and ecology. Since this course is designed to prepare students to take the AP Exam in May, tests will be the major instrument of evaluation. Other methods of evaluation will be quizzes, lab reports, and homework. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology I and Chemistry I with a minimum grade of an A (93-96) or Biology Honors and Chemistry Honors with no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation; Students who don't meet the minimum grade must pass the designated placement exam***

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY**

**6 Credits  
Grades 11-12**

This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Test. This is a college level course that requires students to have excellent skills in mathematics, reading, and formal reasoning. Exams are the primary means of assessment in AP Chemistry. Laboratory activities, and other types of assessment are utilized to reinforce the concepts discussed during class. Topics which will be covered include stoichiometry, atomic theory, thermodynamics, equilibrium and kinetics, acids, bases, salts, and electrochemistry. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Chemistry I and Algebra II with a minimum grade of an A (93-96) or Chemistry I Honors and Algebra II Honors with no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation; Students who don't meet the minimum grade must pass the designated placement exam***

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

**5 Credits  
Grades 11-12**

This course is the equivalent of a one semester introductory college course in Environmental Science. The goal of the course is to help students acquire the scientific principles, concepts, and methods needed to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Topics which will be explored include Earth systems and resources, the living world, populations, land and water use, energy resources and consumption, pollution, and global change. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology I and Chemistry I with a minimum grade of an A (93-96) or Biology Honors and Chemistry Honors with no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation; Students who don't meet the minimum grade must pass the designated placement exam***

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS**

**6 Credits  
Grade 12**

This course is designed to provide the student with a college level presentation of the laws of physics in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in Physics. The ability to recall and apply physics concepts to solve complex problems is emphasized. Successful students exhibit excellent reading and mathematical

skills and the formal reasoning needed for solving equations. The course content includes Mechanics, Conservation Laws, Thermodynamics, Waves and Optics, Electricity and Magnetism, General and Special Relativity, and Modern Physics. The presentation emphasizes a laboratory approach when possible and utilizes videos and computer simulations as reinforcement for topics, which are not so easily demonstrable. Assessments in Advanced Placement Physics include tests, quizzes, laboratory activities, and homework assignments. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Physics I Honors and Pre-calculus Honors with a minimum grade of a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation; Corequisite Calculus; Students who don't meet the minimum grade must pass the designated placement exam***

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### WORLD HISTORY

5 Credits

This is a survey course of world history ranging from the 1700s to the 1990s. This course utilizes both a topical and a chronological approach to the study of world history. Students will examine the geography, governments, history, economics, and cultures of the major regions of the world. The course is also designed to aid students in developing a multicultural view of the world, with an increased awareness of the growing interdependence among people today. The course will concentrate on developing the skills, concepts, and discipline needed for future Social Studies courses, as well as for making informed decisions regarding complex issues that face the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Students will analyze a variety of primary and secondary source readings, complete a writing assignment every marking period, and write a research paper. **\*Academic course level will be based on the results of the Passaic Valley placement test, available middle school data, as well as sending district recommendation.**

***Prerequisite: None***

### WORLD HISTORY HONORS

5 Credits

The Honors World History program is designed to challenge motivated students and provide them with an in-depth understanding of world history and its connection to present-day events. The class will require more in-depth research and academic work than a regular World History section and will focus on improving the student's verbal communication, critical-thinking techniques, note taking and outlining skills, research skills, reading and writing ability, and capacity to interpret and analyze primary source materials. This will be accomplished through a variety of methods including research projects, document-based essays, oral presentations, book reviews, written projects, visual projects, reaction papers, and the study of current events.

***Prerequisite: Eligibility for honors will be based on the results of the Passaic Valley placement tests as well as sending district recommendation***

### U.S. HISTORY I

5 Credits

This is a survey course of American History ranging from pre-colonial times up to final decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century incorporating major concepts that will define the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This course utilizes both a topical and a chronological approach to the study of America. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, deduction, and understanding on the students' part of their rights and responsibilities within the American system. The course will concentrate on developing the skills, concepts, and discipline needed for future social studies courses, as well as for making informed decisions regarding complex issues that face the U.S. in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Students will analyze a variety of primary and secondary source readings, complete a writing assignment every marking period, and write a research paper. **\*Academic course level will be based on teacher recommendation.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of World History at the appropriate academic level***

### U.S. HISTORY I HONORS

5 Credits

U.S. History I Honors is designed to challenge motivated students and provide them with an in-depth understanding of American history and its connection to present-day events. The class will require more in-depth research and academic work than a regular U.S. History section and will focus on improving the

student's verbal communication, critical-thinking techniques, note taking and outlining skills, research skills, reading and writing ability, and capacity to interpret and analyze primary source materials. This will be accomplished through a variety of methods including research projects, document-based essays, oral presentations, book reviews, written projects, visual projects, reaction papers, and the study of current events.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of World History with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89) or World History Honors with no less than a B (83-86); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

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

**5 Credits**

This is a survey course of American History ranging from the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, incorporating major political and economic themes from the 19<sup>th</sup> century culminating with the effects of the 9/11 attacks and the war on terror. This course utilizes both a topical and a chronological approach to the study of America. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, deduction, and the understanding on the students' part of their rights and responsibilities within the American system. The course will concentrate on developing the skills, concepts, and discipline needed for future social studies courses, as well as for making informed decisions regarding complex issues that face the U.S. in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Students will analyze a variety of primary and secondary source readings, complete a writing assignment every marking period, and write a research paper. **\*Academic course level will be based on teacher recommendation.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of U.S. History I at the appropriate academic level***

## **U.S. HISTORY II HONORS**

**5 Credits**

The U.S. History II Honors program is designed to challenge motivated students and provide them with an in-depth understanding of American History and its connection to present-day events. The class will require more in-depth research and academic work than a regular U.S. History section, and will focus on improving the student's verbal communication, critical-thinking techniques, note taking and outlining skills, research skills, reading and writing ability, and capacity to interpret and analyze primary source materials. This will be accomplished through a variety of methods including research projects, document-based essays, oral presentations, book reviews, written projects, visual projects, reaction papers, and the study of current events. **\*Students enrolled in this course are eligible for dual enrollment credit through Fairleigh Dickinson University.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of U.S. History I with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89) or U.S. History I Honors with no less than a B (83-86); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT WORLD HISTORY: MODERN**

**5 Credits  
Grades 9-12**

In AP World History: Modern, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 CE to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation. The AP course in World History: Modern is intended for motivated students who wish to complete classes while in secondary school equivalent to college

introductory courses in World History and Western Civilization. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of World History with a final average of no less than an A (93-96) or World History Honors with no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor Recommendation; Eligibility for incoming freshman will be based on the results of the Passaic Valley placement test as well as sending district recommendation***

#### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

**5 Credits  
Grades 10-12**

Geography answers the questions, Why are things where they are? And so what? Human Geography is the branch of the subject that deals with the study of people and their communities, cultures, economies, and interactions with the environment. Always, the focus is on answering questions and solving problems based on spatial relationships. AP Human Geography, a college level course, introduces students to the systematic study of human patterns of social interaction. Why are borders where they are? What influences the spatial distribution of culture, language, and religion? How do people live their lives in different places and--importantly--how does *place* influence our lives? Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012). Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of World History, U.S. I, or U.S. II with a final average of no less than an A (93-96) or World History Honors, U.S. I Honors, or U.S. II Honors with a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation***

#### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY**

**5 Credits  
Grades 11-12**

The AP United States History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. 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 will learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance – and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. AP United States History will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgement and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format. The AP course in U.S. History is intended for motivated students who wish to complete classes while in secondary school equivalent to college introductory courses in U.S. History. There will be heavy emphasis in this course on reading, writing, and the interpretation of both primary and secondary source documents. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of U.S. History I and II with a final average of no less than an A (93-96) or U.S. History I and II Honors with no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

#### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**5 Credits  
Grades 11-12**

The AP United States Government and Politics course will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of the general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics, and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires

familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. government and politics. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of U.S. History I and II with a final average of no less than an A (93-96) or U.S. History I and II Honors with no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation***

### **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 11-12**

Contemporary technology applications such as videoconferencing, interactive field trips, and social networking promote dialogue with students, educators, and experts from around the world. In order to expose students to contemporary issues on the local, national and global levels, the *Contemporary Issues through Videoconferencing* program is designed to challenge students and to provide them with an in-depth understanding of the world's history and present-day events. It is also designed to aid students in an understanding of globalization and its problems and of the growing interdependence among people and nations today. Students examine the geography, governments, history, economics, and cultures of the major regions of the world. Students should be active in their own learning and this course allows students to design their own learning experiences, all of which concentrates on developing verbal communication, critical thinking, writing skills, historical concepts, and discipline needed for future academic courses, as well as for making informed decisions regarding complex issues that face the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. **\*This course meets the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills/Career requirement for graduation.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of U.S. History I; Instructor recommendation/application required***

### **THE HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE & MODERN HUMANITY**

**5 Credits**

**Grade 12**

The first half of this full-year, college-level, elective course will critically examine both historical and contemporary acts of genocide and "ethnic cleansing" around the world, as well as the psychological and social roots of racism and prejudice. The second half of the course will analyze and evaluate the causes, events, and consequences of the Holocaust – Nazi Germany's attempt to implement the "Final Solution" against the Jewish population of Europe between 1933 and 1945. **\*Students enrolled in this course are eligible for dual enrollment credit through Kean University.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of U.S. History II***

### **HUMAN BEHAVIOR**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 11-12**

One of the basic elements of life as a human being is interacting with other people; the key to thriving in social settings then is to understand others as well as you understand yourself. The social science course of human behavior serves as an introduction to the discipline of psychology and allows the student to gain a better sense of human thinking, emotions, and actions. There will be an opportunity for students to gain personal awareness in the areas of assertiveness, creativity, human motives, and reasoning.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of U.S. History I***

### **SOCIOLOGY**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 11-12**

The social science course of sociology focuses on patterns of human behavior. Specifically, sociology examines human groups and institutions, and the cause and effect these groups and institutions have on social issues and problems in American society. The core of the class deals critically with culture and human actions. There is a strong emphasis on reading, writing, and reaction and opinion-based topics, as well as the study of current events.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of U.S. History I***

## **AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM**

**2.5 Credits**  
**Grades 11-12**

American History Through Film will examine the chronological evolution of American films from their beginnings in the early 1900s until the 1980s. The course will focus primarily on the relations between American movies and the evolution of American history, culture, and society. This course will focus on refining students' visions of the American past, specifically how the Civil War, the Roaring 20s, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War have been interpreted through film and in historiography. By watching, discussing, and writing about these films while also incorporating information from assigned readings, students will examine how motion pictures contribute to the understanding of modern American society and help appreciate the distinction between the film's presentation of these topics as well as the underlying factual reality.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of U.S. History I***

## **SPORTS AND AMERICAN SOCIETY**

**2.5 Credits**  
**Grades 11-12**

Sports have become a microcosm for American society and culture, and have come to reflect the major trends, frustrations, fantasies, and values in the society at large. Studying sports in any time period gives extraordinary insight into the mind and mood of the people. The fact that three-quarters of the American people daily participate in, watch in person or on TV, talk to their friends, or read about sporting events indicates that sports pervade every facet of American life. Sports infiltrate the educational system, the economy, and the political life of our country, and have become the most popular form of mass entertainment. Students will come to recognize the parallels that exist between sports and society.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of U.S. History I***

## **INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**2.5 Credits**  
**Grades 11-12**

This course focuses on the study of law enforcement agencies, their role, function, history, and development within the field of criminal justice. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to; explain the structure of the American criminal justice system; explain the purpose of law; explain the police mission in a democratic society; and explain how the Bill of Rights and subsequent laws help protect personal freedom in society. **\*Students enrolled in this course are eligible for dual enrollment credit through Passaic County Community College.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of United States History I with a final average of no less than a B-(80-82); Instructor recommendation***

## **INTRODUCTION TO LAW**

**2.5 Credits**  
**Grades 11-12**

This course is a study of common-law heritage, constitutional, civil, and criminal law, as well as law of evidence, courts, and civil and criminal law procedures. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to differentiate between criminal and civil law, explain the difference between case law and statutory law, describe how the phrase 'separate but equal' was applied in the case of Plessy v. Ferguson and describe the tiered structure of the Federal Court System. **\*Students enrolled in this course are eligible for dual enrollment credit through Passaic County Community College.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of United States History I with a final average of no less than a B-(80-82); Instructor recommendation***

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

### **IN-CLASS RESOURCE**

This program serves classified students who receive academic instruction in a content area, by a special education teacher within a general education classroom setting. In an in-class resource program, students are provided with modifications to the instructional strategies, testing procedures, or other specialized instruction, to access the general education curriculum in accordance with their IEP. The general education teacher offers content specialization, while the special education teacher offers assessment and adaptation specializations. Both teachers bring training and experience in teaching techniques and learning processes. Their collaborative goal is that all students in their classroom are provided with appropriate assignments to ensure that each individual student is learning, challenged, and participating in the classroom process to the best of their ability.

### **RESOURCE ROOM**

A resource room program is a specialized instructional setting where classified students can receive additional support and services from a certified special education teacher, while still participating in the general education curriculum to the maximum extent possible. The purpose of the resource room is to provide targeted interventions, accommodations and individualized instruction and modifications to help students with various disabilities make progress in their academic, social, and behavioral skills. The specific services and supports offered in a resource room may vary based on the needs of the individual student, but they focus on addressing the student's individualized education program (IEP) goals and objectives.

### **LEARNING AND/OR LANGUAGE DISABLED (LLD)**

A learning and/or language disabled classroom, is a classroom that is specifically designed for students with learning disabilities. These classrooms typically have smaller class sizes, and the curriculum is modified to meet the needs of each individual student. Learning and/or language disabled classrooms have special education teachers who are trained to work with students that have various learning disabilities. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards are presented to all students through individualized and specialized instructional strategies with an emphasis on language-based instruction. Students requiring this degree of support benefit from individualized and small-group instruction, and specialized instructional materials, which are selected to correlate to the continuum of New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

### **PV/BERGEN ABA PROGRAM**

Our PV/Bergen ABA Program, serving students aged 14-21, is designed to meet the academic, social, behavioral, and vocational needs of students who require additional support and time to increase their functional academic skills. This program offers individualized formats based on Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). In addition to students taking part in a robust life skills curriculum, community-based instruction, and internships daily, they also have access to mainstream electives, including STEM, Art, Photo, Media, and Music. Related services offered in this program include occupational, physical and speech therapies, family training, home program coordination, augmentative communication assessments and behaviorist access and oversight daily.



## VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

### ART

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 9-12**

Photography is an introductory lecture and laboratory course in the production of black and white analog images made with traditional film cameras and digital images made with a DSLR or smartphone camera. There is also foundational information on the history of the medium since the advent of photography in the 1830s. They will learn to shoot film, develop negatives, produce contact prints, and print enlargements in the darkroom and photo lab, learn to shoot digital images, RAW files, and work with post-production software (Adobe Photoshop). The majority of the work in this course is from life and real subjects, relying on the skills of observation and using the 35mm and digital camera to capture that observation. Students will be dealing with art history, art criticism, as well as aesthetics. The essential skills of composition, shooting, and print presentation are also fundamental elements of the course. Skills in design, problem solving, and critical thinking will be used to approach a range of challenging subjects and visual concepts.

***Prerequisite: None***

#### **ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY HONORS**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 10-12**

This course is designed for the advanced photography student. This is a lecture and laboratory course in the production of photographs utilizing analog and digital means. The student will gain knowledge in alternative processes including the cyanotype, digital negative creation, flash photography, medium format cameras, fiber-based printing, pinhole photography, and lithographic film. The photograph as a fine art will be emphasized and students will have greater control of creating the image, improving film exposure and darkroom techniques, and refining digital editing methods. Post-production software use includes Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Skills and concepts gained in the introductory level courses are built upon and refined including studio shooting and lighting methods. Students gain knowledge in preparing their work for the public by creating a resume, seeking calls for art, and creating a portfolio website.

***Prerequisite: Completion of a photography course with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation***

#### **AP 2D ART & DESIGN PHOTO CONCENTRATION**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 11-12**

This course is designed for the advanced photography student with an interest in art as a career or one who exhibits a high level of ability. Ideally suited for students who work well independently, the course focuses on the preparation of a portfolio of photos or photo-based work. The students are expected to work at a college level, leading to the creation of a portfolio of work. Successful students are encouraged to submit the portfolio for evaluation at the end of the year by the AP College Board. Students apply their previous years of photography experience in creating a body of work that shows breath, a concentration, and technical ability in the medium following the portfolio guideline set forth by the College Board. Work will address the Elements and Principles of Art and Design, Rules of Composition, Lighting, and Post-Production software (Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom). In addition, students will deal with concepts of art criticism, art history, and aesthetics relating to the areas of photography they choose to pursue. Students enrolled in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Completion of Advanced Photography Honors with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89); Consultation with and permission of instructor, based on the coursework the student has completed and future college and/or employment plans***

**INTRO TO ART (Formerly Foundations of Art)**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 9-12**

This foundational course invites students to explore the world of visual arts through hands-on practice and creative expression. Students will develop essential skills in drawing, painting and design while learning the principles of composition, color theory and visual story-telling. The course will also introduce students to 3-D art, guiding students in creating sculptures and mixed media projects. Emphasis is placed on experimenting with various techniques and materials to foster artistic growth, critical thinking and an appreciation for the arts.

***Prerequisite: None***

**PAINTING (Formerly Introduction to Painting)**

**2.5 Credits**

**Grades 10-12**

Upon completion of this course, students will learn to use painting materials, tools, and processes as they hone skills for visual perception, dexterity, creative problem-solving, and conceptual development. Students will create original works in media such as watercolor, acrylics, and mixed media. Emphasis is placed on experiences with design principles, painting techniques, and painting skills leading to the freedom to develop content on a personal level.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intro to Art (Formerly Foundations of Art) with a C+ (77-79) or better.***

**PAINTING HONORS**

**5 Credits**

**Grades 11-12**

In this course students will develop a painting practice that employs imagination and creativity. Through the act of painting, students will develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills necessary in today's ever-changing workplace: Critical thinking, Creativity, Collaboration and Communication. Students will be encouraged to develop their personal interests and subjects without abandoning formal aspects of painting. Students will use acrylics, watercolors and oils as well as explore mixed media and modern methods.

***Prerequisite: Completion of Intro to Painting with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation***

**DRAWING (Formerly Introduction to Drawing)**

**2.5 Credits**

**Grades 10-12**

This course introduces students to methods of drawing that investigate and encourage exploration in a wide range of approaches to the medium. Students will strengthen basic drawing abilities and knowledge through practice and exposure to wet and dry drawing media. Students will study perspective, portraiture, mark, and value making. In addition, students will explore the elements and principles of art and design. Research tools from sketching practice to digital resources are used to develop ideas. Experimentation will be utilized to refine the handling of black-and-white media, expand skills to include the use of color media, and develop drawings that integrate content, concept, and composition.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intro to Art (Formerly Foundations of Art) with a C+ (77-79) or better.***

## HONORS PORTFOLIO

**5 Credits**  
**Grades 11-12**

In this course, advanced students will focus on portfolio development as they continue to develop skills in producing high-quality works of art. Emphasis is placed on creating more complex visual statements. Students will explore a wide range of materials and processes while having the opportunity to focus on a chosen subject or medium. The course is intended for advanced students creating a portfolio of artwork.

***Prerequisite: Completion of Drawing/Painting coursework or coursework in the student's area of interest with a minimum of a B+; Consultation with and permission of the instructor, based on the coursework and artwork the student has completed and future college and/or employment plans.***

## CERAMICS & SCULPTURE

**5 Credits**  
**Grades 10-12**

In this course, students will create three-dimensional art and work through various problem-based learning opportunities. Students will learn modeling and building skills that are reality-based and personally relevant to the student. This course will provide students' hands-on experience designed to engage them in real world collaborative learning and problem solving. Students will be building upon their knowledge and skills developed in Introduction to Art and will continue to create and express ideas and feelings through various sculptural media for carving, modeling, and constructing. This course's primary purpose is for students to build upon the previous knowledge and skills with various materials, execute more advanced 3D ideas, and develop a personal style. Each student will be encouraged to grow their ability and to achieve a feeling for form and expression as well as increase confidence. The main emphasis of this course is the development of critical thinking skills as they apply to three-dimensional art forms and to help the student gain a deeper understanding of visual art.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intro to Art (Formerly Foundations of Art) with a C+ (77-79) or better.***

## DANCE

### INTRODUCTION TO DANCE

**2.5 Credits**  
**Grades 9-12**

This semester course focuses on the elements of dance and kinesthetic movements, the influences of dance, and choreography and performance in a variety of dance styles. Students work with partners to develop their own basic levels of dance as well as learn how dance was created and its impact on our world. Students will learn beginner/intermediate choreography in a variety of styles and learn the basic choreographic tools to create short phrases of dance that will be utilized in each short dance piece. Students will have the opportunity to perform their pieces during an in-class sharing as part of their final grade and may showcase one of their pieces in the Advanced Dance Showcase in the Spring Semester.

***Prerequisite: None***

### INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED DANCE

**5 Credits**  
**Grades 9-12**

This intermediate/advanced course is designed for students who have demonstrated a high technical ability and interest in dance and choreography. Students will experience multiple dance techniques including Ballet, Modern Dance, Jazz, World Dance forms, Improvisation, and Dance composition. The course emphasizes learning how to perform and create dances in a variety of styles and explores an appreciation of the cultural and historical roles that dance has played among various cultures. The culminating project will be a Dance Concert Performance that includes dance pieces choreographed by the teacher, students, and guest choreographers. This course can be repeated as we will create new dance

pieces each year to be presented in the Dance Showcase. Students will receive honors weighting in their second year of Intermediate/Advanced Dance.

***Prerequisites: Successful completion of Intro to Dance; Dance audition; or Instructor recommendation***

## MUSIC

### **CONCERT BAND**

**5 Credits  
Grades 9-12**

This course is open to any musician playing a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Through once-a-week individual lessons and group instruction, the Concert Band focuses on technique building, including scales and basic music theory. This ensemble will expose students to high school level band literature. The Concert Band will perform in three concerts throughout the school year, as well as during the graduation ceremony. Students will receive honors weighting in their third and fourth consecutive years.

***Prerequisite: Instrumental music classes in elementary/ middle school or private instruction***

### **CONCERT CHOIR**

**5 Credits  
Grades 9-12**

This course gives students the opportunity to perform and study compositions from a diverse repertoire including contemporary pop, musical theater, classical, jazz, multicultural and multiethnic music. Students will develop an understanding of basic music reading as well as learn and apply proper singing technique to rehearsals and performances. Field trips and/or workshops are planned throughout the year to reinforce and add to the students' performance experience. Students will receive honors weighting in their third and fourth consecutive years.

***Prerequisite: None***

### **FOUNDATIONS OF MUSIC**

**2.5 Credits  
Grades 9-12**

Music Explorations gives students the opportunity to explore, enjoy, and appreciate many different aspects of music. The course will cover topics such as music history, different styles of music, basic music theory, the music industry/career pathways, and basic music production. The class will use the Music Technology Lab and will introduce the programs Mixcraft, Sibelius, and Aurelia.

***Prerequisite: None***

### **FUNDAMENTALS OF PIANO**

**2.5 Credits  
Grades 9-12**

This course gives students a hands-on practical study of the keyboard in our piano lab. No previous background or experience in music is required. Students will be taught basic music theory in order to read pitches and rhythms. Instruction is delivered on various levels in order to meet the current expectations and previous experience of each individual through private listen-in instruction. Individual and collaborative work will also be included within this course of study with a repertoire that is within the individual capabilities of all students enrolled.

***Prerequisite: None***

## **INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL GUITAR**

**2.5 Credits**  
**Grades 9-12**

This course gives students a hands-on practical study of beginner classical guitar techniques, no previous background or experience in music is required. Pitch and rhythm reading as well as familiarity with the types, tuning and performance techniques of the instrument will be explored at various levels. Instruction is delivered on various levels in order to meet the current expectations and previous experience of each individual through guided group instruction. Group as well as solo performances will be included within this course of study with a repertoire that is within the individual capabilities of all students enrolled.

***Prerequisite: None***

## **ROCK OF AGES**

**2.5 Credits**  
**Grades 11-12**

This half-year music course will give the student exposure to many different styles of music starting in the 1950s up until the music of today. The student will learn to appreciate and critique various works using digital recording and video streaming via the music computer lab. The student will also explore the creation of music using the music technology program Mixcraft.

***Prerequisite: None***

## THEATRE ARTS

### **INTRO TO THEATRE ARTS**

**2.5 Credits**  
**Grades 9-12**

This introductory theatre course will cover basic knowledge of both artistic and technical theatre with an emphasis on performance. Students will study theatre history, terminology, stage management, and directing. Students also will learn basic acting techniques, improvisation, and pantomime. Once proficient in the basics of acting, the students will move on to monologue work and scene study.

***Prerequisite: None***

### **STAGE ACTING**

**5 Credits**  
**Grades 10-12**

Stage Acting expands the breadth and intensity of the student's knowledge of artistic and technical theatre. Building on Intro to Theatre Arts material, students will further learn the art of theatre. Acting proficiency will continue with dramatic and comedic improvisation, advanced monologue work, character development, and in-depth scene study. Students will also perform and direct a one act play that they will research, direct, perform, and produce as a culminating project.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intro to Theatre Arts***

### **PERFORMANCE ART HONORS**

**5 Credits**  
**Grades 11-12**

Performance Art Honors is for the serious theatre student. This course explores both artistic and technical theatre on a deeper level than Stage Acting. This intensive work in the performing arts will give students valuable experience for future theatre endeavors, whether in college or in the profession. This course will allow students the opportunity to study advanced acting, including dramatic and comedic improv, in-depth monologue work, audition skills, scene analysis and advanced scene study. In addition, students will write and direct their own original scenes and full length-play.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intro to Theatre Arts & Stage Acting with a final average no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation***

## WORLD LANGUAGE

### AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I

5 Credits

This introductory course in American Sign Language (ASL) is designed for beginners who wish to learn the fundamentals of this rich and expressive visual language. Students will develop basic skills in ASL grammar, vocabulary, and cultural awareness, enabling them to communicate effectively with the Deaf community.

Throughout the course, participants will engage in interactive activities, including signing practice, role-playing, and group discussions. Emphasis will be placed on fingerspelling, basic conversational phrases, and everyday vocabulary related to personal introductions, family, and common social interactions.

Additionally, students will explore the cultural nuances and historical context of Deaf culture, fostering an appreciation for the community and its values. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation in ASL and the confidence to engage in simple conversations.

### AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II

5 Credits

Building on the foundational skills acquired in American Sign Language 1, this course is designed for students who wish to deepen their understanding of ASL and enhance their communicative abilities. Participants will expand their vocabulary, refine their signing techniques, and explore more complex grammatical structures.

In this course, students will engage in interactive activities that promote expressive and receptive skills, including storytelling, role-playing, and group discussions. Topics will include discussing daily activities, expressing opinions, and describing experiences. Students will also learn about more advanced aspects of ASL, such as classifiers, non-manual markers, and the use of space in signing.

Cultural components will continue to play a vital role, with discussions on the nuances of Deaf culture, community norms, and the importance of visual communication. By the end of the course, students will be able to hold more in-depth conversations and confidently navigate a range of social situations in ASL.

### FRENCH I / ITALIAN I / SPANISH I

5 Credits

This introductory course is an integrated approach to language learning. The motivated student will become involved in all four-language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will learn to interact and survive linguistically in the target language in the classroom, primarily using memorized materials and functions that recur daily (e.g., greetings, describing weather, telling how they are). Students at this level usually respond to visual and aural cues in partial and single sentences. They can repeat questions that the teacher models, but rarely ask questions on their own.

***Prerequisite: None***

### FRENCH II / ITALIAN II / SPANISH II

5 Credits

This course is a continuation of the integrated approach to language learning. The introduction of new material, reinforcement of previously learned material, evaluation, review exercises, and activities span

all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. There is an increased usage of the target language by both the teacher and the students.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of French I, Italian I, or Spanish I***

### **ITALIAN II HONORS / SPANISH II HONORS**

**5 Credits**

This course is a continuation of the integrated approach to language learning. The introduction of new material, reinforcement of previously learned material, evaluation, review exercises, and activities span all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. There is an increased usage of the target language by both the teacher and the students. The goal of this course is to acclimate students to using the target language for the majority of class at an accelerated pace.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Italian I or Spanish I with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

### **ITALIAN III / SPANISH III**

**5 Credits**

In this course, intermediate language skills will be taught almost entirely in the target language. English will be used only when crucial to the comprehension of usage or of grammatical concepts. There will be an exploration of both the history and quotidian life of the target language's culture through music, art, and the language itself. Readings and introduction of current political and social problems will be adjusted to meet the needs and interests of different classes.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Italian II or Spanish II***

### **FRENCH III HONORS / ITALIAN III HONORS / SPANISH III HONORS**

**5 Credits**

In this course, intermediate language skills will be taught almost entirely in the target language. English will be used only when crucial to the comprehension of usage or of grammatical concepts. There will be an exploration of both the history and quotidian life of the target language's culture through music, art, and the language itself. Readings and introduction of current political and social problems will be adjusted to meet the needs and interests of different classes.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of French II, Italian II, or Spanish II with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89) or successful completion of Italian II Honors or Spanish II Honors with a B (83-86); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

### **FRENCH IV HONORS / ITALIAN IV HONORS / SPANISH IV HONORS**

**5 Credits**

In this course, emphasis is placed on fluent and accurate expression in the written and spoken target language with special attention to conversational ability. The aim is to achieve a more rounded mastery of the language in its cultural and linguistic phases. The work is expanded to include a study of history, geography, literature, art, and music of the target's speaking world. Students will be able to speak and write about current topics of interest, literary selections, songs, and magazine articles. **\*Students enrolled in this course are eligible for dual enrollment credit through Fairleigh Dickinson University.**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of French III, Italian III, Spanish III with a final average of no less than a "B+" (87-89) or French III Honors, Italian III Honors, Spanish III Honors with a B (83-86); Instructor recommendation; Students without an instructor recommendation must achieve a passing score on the designated placement exam***

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

**5 Credits**

AP Italian Language and Culture is equivalent to an intermediate level college course in Italian. Students will cultivate their understanding of the Italian language and culture by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication in real-life situations. Students explore concepts related to family and community, personal and public identity, beauty and aesthetics, science, technology, contemporary life, and global challenges. Students will learn how to understand and express themselves in Italian both orally and in written form, hold conversations in real-life situations and write stories, letters, and essays. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Italian IV Honors with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation***

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

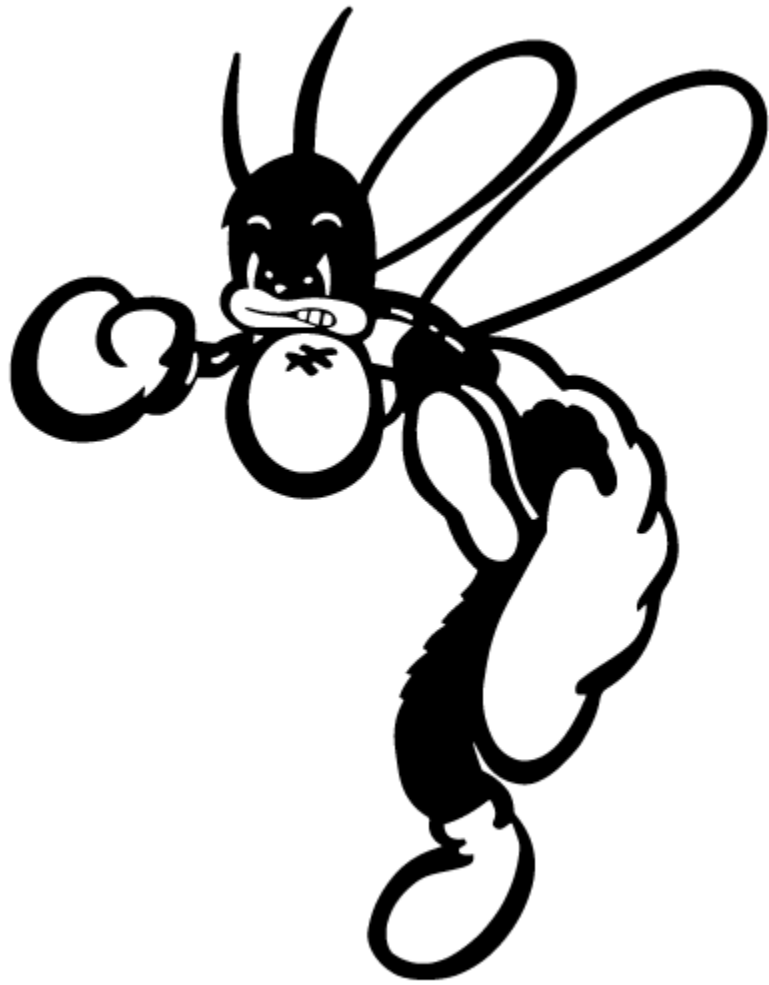
**5 Credits**

In this course, emphasis is placed on fluent and accurate expression in the written and spoken target language with special attention to conversational ability. The aim is to achieve a more rounded mastery of the language in its cultural and linguistic phases. The work is expanded to include a study of history, geography, literature, art, and music of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will be able to speak and write about current topics of interest, literary selections, songs, and magazine articles. Students will practice with models from previous AP exams. Students in this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish IV Honors with a final average of no less than a B+ (87-89); Instructor recommendation***







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