

**OAK GROVE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL**  
**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR 2020-2021**  
Classes not in bold type will not be offered this year

**ART**

**Art**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

An introduction and exploratory course in various mediums and art movements. Units include drawing, painting, mixed media and 3D work. Mediums will include pencil, colored pencil, chalk, watercolor, oils, acrylics, clay and other forms of 3D building materials. Students will refine their skills through working in sketchbooks.

**Introduction to Ceramics**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

An introductory ceramic course that will provide students with insight into the history and application of ceramics as a functional and expressive medium. The course will be divided into hand building and wheel throwing. Each student will have 3 weeks on the wheel. 12 students will be accepted into each semester so each person gets a turn on the wheel.

**Painting**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students will put into practice the many techniques of painting. Students will learn about various art history movements and create their own interpretation of the art periods. Students will utilize the mediums of oil, acrylic, watercolor and mixed mediums. Students will refine their skills through working in sketchbooks.

**Photography**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students will become skilled at the technical aspect to taking photos with a digital camera. They will demonstrate an understanding of editing photos. They will become educated in the basics of photographic history and contemporary practice. Students will begin to see the world around them and represent it. Required materials include a digital camera that has manual mode and a monthly subscription to Photoshop.

**BUSINESS/CAREER & TECHNICAL**

**Accounting 1**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn the fundamentals of accounting principles that include: terminology, accounting cycle, basic concepts, financial statements, roles of accountants and ethics in accounting. A primary focus on sole proprietorships and partnerships. Simulation packets are integrated into the course.

**Accounting II**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Accounting I

Students will continue learning the fundamental concepts of accounting. The focus in Accounting II shifts to merchandising businesses, payroll and merchandising taxes.

**Business Communications**

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Business Technology

Students will learn to integrate oral and written communication in a clear, courteous, concise, complete and correct manner on both personal and professional levels. Listening skills, learning styles and teamwork will be incorporated to provide students with a solid base so they are able to communicate effectively.

**Business Fundamentals**

Grade Level: 9-10

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students will be introduced to the world of business and prepare for the economic roles of consumer, worker and citizen. The content may include a study of business environment and strategies for creating, financing, marketing and managing a business. This course will also serve as a background for other business courses you may take in high school and college.

**Business Technology Procedures**

Grade Level: 9

Required, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn advanced skills in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint 2013 and Office 365. Lessons will also be completed on Microsoft Outlook and Publisher for communication and business practicality

**Entrepreneurship**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students will develop skills needed to effectively organize, develop, create and manage their own business. Topics covered include entrepreneurial concepts, characteristics of business organizations, business opportunities, entrepreneurial career examples, and individual career assessment and planning. Students will utilize the Small Business Administration website to create a business plan for their own business. Students will also be given hands on experience in the business world with hours completed in The Grove and Grover Grounds with topics that include customer relations, advertising and marketing, inventory management and day to day operations of a business.

**Financial Literacy**

Grade Level: 10-12

Required, semester, ½ credit (choose this or Independent Living)

Prerequisite: None

Students will study the impact of financial choices on personal and occupational goals and future earnings potential. Real world topics include checking accounts, budgeting, saving for large purchases, using credit cards, figuring interest and fees, being a responsible consumer, earning power, learning about taxes and paycheck withholding, college costs, mortgages, retirement savings and investments. This course will provide a foundational understanding for making informed personal financial decisions. Students will also create a resume and research job exploration.

**Management**

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Students are introduced to the field of management and organizational theory. Topics include: leadership, motivation, planning, teamwork and goal setting. The course will develop a mastery of theory and research findings about organizations and people within the organizations.

**Management II**

Grade Level 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Management I

Students will continue the study of management functions and theories. Topics include: business organization, personal and management skills, ethics, social responsibility, human resource management, technology and information management, financial decision making, industry analysis, markets and prices and organized labor.

**Cooperative Work Experience**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Cooperative Work Experience provides students with the opportunity to use their regularly scheduled, supervised employment as a source of academic educational credit. The employment must be preceded by, or concurrent with, classroom instruction related to the work experience and consistent with the student's occupational goals. There shall be a training agreement among all partners to the work experience (school, employer, student, and parents/guardians) outlining the expectations of each party. The instructor shall also develop a specific training plan with the employer for each student placed. The training plan shall include provisions for assessment of student progress and for on-site visits by the instructor during the student's placement. A reflective essay will summarize the experience.

\*Oak Grove offers limited unpaid employment on campus in both the Oak Grove School Store and the high school main office. Students interested in either of these positions should note store or office on their sign-up sheet.

## **Cooperative Work Experience – Junior Educators of Tomorrow (JETS)**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit per semester

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for students interested in teaching as a career. Five periods per week are spent in a classroom observing, working with children, and assisting the classroom teacher by correcting papers, making bulletin boards, locating materials, and performing other classroom duties. In addition to that, the student meets with an advisor to set up completion of other assignments for the course.

## **CHRISTIAN STUDIES**

### **Christian Lifestyle**

Grade Level: 9-12

Required, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

What place do Jesus Christ's "First Century Values" have in a 21st Century World? Christian Lifestyle is designed to explore Christ's timeless gospel values, and learn ways to apply those values to how we live our lives and how we relate to our community.

### **Christian Studies**

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

Required, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: CS 6-8 and/or Christian Lifestyle

These courses are designed as continuing development in Christian faith. When you register for this course, you will select a track of your choice within the class to grow and develop your Christian thinking.

#### **Wisdom Literature**

This course will focus on the books of the Bible that we call the "Wisdom Literature." In these books, we are given insight into our lives in light of God's revelation to God's people. We will explore how we are to understand life and how we ought to live in God's world. Our learning will focus on an investigation of our own existence in this great big world and the struggle with our own responsibility with free will and choices of right/wrong and good/bad.

#### **Mission 101**

In this course, we'll be discovering God's mission for creation through an exploration of Biblical texts. We'll discover God's missional purpose through topics including friendship, witness, reconciliation, and creation card. This course will broaden your understanding of God's mission in the world, and see the role you plan in that mission.

#### **Oak Grove Worship**

##### **Must apply for enrollment**

This course is for students who have a passion for music and a desire to share their faith through the act of worship leading. This class will both rehearse music as a team and explore the elements of leading worship from an academic setting. You must apply to take this course. Your application will include recommendations and a musical audition.

#### **Service Learning**

##### **Must apply for enrollment**

In this application course we will discover aspects of service and then serve in the Oak Grove and greater FM community. We will study a number of organizations in our community that provide services as well as learn and assist with service opportunities on the OG campus. Students will need the ability to drive during the school day to take this class as there will be various sight visits required. You must apply to take this course. Your application will include recommendations and a short essay.

Christian Art and Literature: *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."*  
Colossians 3:23

Offered Alternating Years

Countless works of art, music and literature have been created in the name of Jesus. In this class, we will study all forms of art from across time to discover the inspiration for their work as well as the stories behind the works of art.

Christian Leadership: *The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*” Matthew 20:28

Offered Alternating Years

What did Jesus really mean when he said that the greatest of you will be the servant of all? In this course, students will both explore what the Bible has to say on service, and will be challenged to practice humble leadership by putting their service into action.

## **ENGLISH**

### **Creative Writing 1**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

In this course, students will read a variety of genres of creative writing. Students will analyze writers’ techniques in non-fiction, narrative, poetry and short story writing. Students will also write a variety of creative pieces and use the writing process to create, edit, and finalize their writing. The course requires collaboration and an interest in writing creatively with purpose.

### **Creative Writing 2**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Creative Writing 1

In this course, students will expand on their learning from Creative Writing 1. Students will read a variety of creative fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama and expand their portfolio to include more poetry, expanded short stories, non-fiction essays and editorials, and drama. The course requires collaboration and an interest in writing creatively with purpose.

### **English 9**

Grade Level: 9

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Middle School English

This course includes basic types of literature, grammar, oral and written composition, listening and speech skills and application.

### **English 10**

Grade Level: 10

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: 9th grade English

This course includes composition and vocabulary skills, as well as wide review of the following literary genres: short story, essay, biography, autobiography, poetry, novel, and drama.

### **English 11**

Grade Level: 11

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: 10th grade English

This course continues instruction in oral and written composition; reference/research papers and techniques; and ideals and ideas expressed in American literature from the Puritan Period to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### **English 12**

Grade Level: 12

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: English 11

Students read and analyze British and world literature from the following genres: short story, essay, novel and drama. Students are required to write several analytical papers and projects.

### **ENGL 110**

Grade Level: 12

Required, semester, ½ credit this course will fulfill the senior English requirement

Dual Credit: 3 VCSU Credits

Prerequisite: English 11

A course which introduces students to college-level reading, writing, rhetoric, and critical thinking skills.

**ENGL 220**

Grade Level: 12

Required, semester, ½ credit this course will fulfill the senior English requirement

Dual Credit: 3 VCSU Credits

Prerequisite: English 11

A course which introduces students to college-level reading and discussion of representative examples from poetry, drama, and fiction using common literary terminology.

**Film Analysis**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on film analysis and the process of interpreting and critiquing film techniques. We will learn about editing, lighting, sound, score, directing, cinematography, costuming and set design. Students will look for quality use of film techniques used to create the film's meaning or theme. Students will analyze both classic and current film selections.

**Novels**

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Offered alternating years: 2021-2022

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of classic novels written by great authors and more recent novels by popular modern day authors. The novels will be discussed and analyzed on their own merits, but the students will also explore the novels in relation to their own life experiences. The course is appropriate for students who enjoy reading and discussing literature.

**Speech**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

**Offered alternating years: 2020-2021**

This course is designed to help students learn the art of writing and delivering effective speeches for a variety of purposes. Students will gain confidence in their public speaking ability by analyzing great speakers and great speeches in history and by refining their own speaking skills.

**FAMILY and CONSUMER SCIENCE****Child Development & Parenting**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

The study of human development and family science is a life skill that is usually learned by experience. In this class, we are able to gain that hands-on experience as well as research the psychological impact of parenting styles, why children behave the way they do, and the importance of families.

**Cultures & Cuisine**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Offered alternating years: 2021-2022

This course will explore cultures in various parts of the world in relation to ethnic foods, food supply, preparation methods and traditions. We discover why we eat what we eat and who we are through a cross-cultural study via food production, preparation, and consumption. This class lets you try a variety of food from all over the world!

**Housing & Interior Design**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

This project-based course enables students to explore their creativity in the field of architecture and interior design. The student will learn how to identify architectural styles, choose floor plans and furnishings and coordinate interiors using color and design principles. Other topics include furniture arrangement basics, floor plan evaluations, area planning, and careers.

**Independent Living**

Grade Level: 10-12

Required, semester, ½ credit (Choose this or Financial Lit)

Prerequisite: None

“Everything you need to know once you leave your mama’s house.” This course includes problem solving and decision making practice in areas such as careers, finance, food and nutrition, clothing, marriage and family, and housing. The student will do several individualized projects for real world applications and to practice living on your own.

**Nutrition & Foods Prep**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

**Offered alternating years: available 2020-2021**

The student will analyze individual food and nutrition related health needs and practice basic food preparation techniques to maintain nutritional value and quality of the food. They will practice purchasing procedures to insure quality, budget maintenance, and appropriateness for health needs and menu.

**Textiles I**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

An introductory course studying the basics of natural and chemical makeup of textile structures, including examinations of fibers, fabrics, dyes, and finishes. Project design and construction, care and maintenance techniques, basic sewing and terminology, equipment for hand and/or machine sewing, as well as reading and using patterns are some other topics that will be studied in depth. The majority of classroom time, students will be hands-on with project based learning. Some fabric and sewing equipment is provided by the teacher, but the student can purchase their own if they so choose.

**MATHEMATICS****Algebra I**

Grade Level: 8-9

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or placement test

This course includes number theory, graphs, positive and negative numbers, mathematical sentences, polynomials, linear equations and inequalities with one and two variables, systems of equations, functions.

**Algebra II**

Grade Level: 10-12

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Topics in this course may include the number system, polynomials, algebraic functions, exponents and radicals, sets and equations, simultaneous equations and matrices, inequalities, functions and relationships, plus an extension of topics.

**Geometry**

Grade Level: 9-10

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course includes an investigation of the properties of points, lines, planes, angles, triangles, circles, spheres and polygons. Other topics include coordinate geometry, inductive and deductive reasoning, and areas and volumes of solids.

**AP Calculus**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: One year of pre-calculus OR College Algebra and Trigonometry

This course includes an intensive review of the topics from algebra, trigonometry, and analytic geometry that are necessary for success in calculus. Topics include limits, derivatives, and definite and indefinite integrals. Applications of these topics are included.

**AP Statistics**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

The AP Statistics course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus-based college course in statistics. The course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collection, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. There are four themes in the AP Statistics course: exploring data, sampling and experimentations, anticipation patterns and

statistical inference. Students use technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they build conceptual understanding.

### **MATH 103 College Algebra**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit  
Dual Credit: 3 VCSU Credits  
Prerequisite: Algebra II

The study of quadratic equations, relations and functions, equations and inequalities, complex numbers, polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions, systems of equations, matrices and determinants, and sequences and summation.

### **MATH 105 Trigonometry**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit  
Dual Credit: 2 VCSU Credits  
Prerequisite: Algebra II

The study of trigonometric functions and their properties. Topics include angle measure; trigonometric and inverse trigonometric functions; trigonometric identities and equations; parametric and polar coordinates; and general applications.

### **MATH 210 Elementary Statistics**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit  
Dual Credit: 3 VCSU Credits  
Prerequisite: Algebra II

An introduction to statistical methods of gathering, presenting and analyzing data. Topics include probability and probability distributions, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, and linear regression and correlation

### **Principles of Engineering**

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit  
Prerequisite: Algebra II

PLTW (Project Lead the Way) problem-based STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) course using math, science, and engineering for hands-on projects. Students work independently and in teams to solve problems using the engineering design process. Engineering notebooks and 3-D modeling software will be utilized. Class is designed to be very hands-on, and will involve introductory computer programming and robotics.

## **MUSIC**

### **AP Music Theory**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit  
Prerequisite: Ability to read and write musical notation; basic performance skills in singing or with an instrument.

**Offered alternating years: 2020-2021**

The goal of the AP Music Theory course is to help the student pass the AP test by developing the student's ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard and presented in a score. The achievement of this goal may best be approached by initially addressing fundamental aural, analytical, and compositional skills using both listening and written exercises. Building on this foundation, the course will progress to include more creative tasks, such as the harmonization of a melody by selecting appropriate chords, composing a musical bass line to provide two-voice counterpoint, or the realization of a figured-bass reduction.

### **Chapel Choir**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit  
Prerequisite: Some vocal ability and a willingness to work and be challenged

This course provides for the study of vocal music through group performance. Opportunities for solos are offered but not required. There is an emphasis on breathing, good vocal technique, sight reading, and learning solfege syllables. We sing a broad range of literature with some foreign language and a cappella.

### **Chapel Music**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit  
Offered alternating years: 2021-2022

This class is designed to help students discover their musical gifts in the following manners: developing listening skills with ear training; learning what music is made of through the study of music theory; learning how to play instruments like guitar, drums, and piano; working on praise songs and leading chapel services once a week during the school year; and

learning how to compose music and write it down for others to enjoy. Previous music experience is not required to succeed in this class.

### **Concert Choir**

Grade Level: 11-12\*

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Placement is by audition only, Chapel Choir or other choral experience preferred. Must display good vocal ability, understanding of musicianship, positive attitude, and willingness to work and be challenged.

This course provides for the advanced study of vocal music through group performance. Opportunities for solos are offered but not required. There is an emphasis on tuning, blending, dynamics, phrasing, and critical listening skills including awareness of the overtone series. We sing primarily a cappella literature, some foreign languages, and strive to perform difficult literature. \*Exceptional singers may be chosen as a Freshman or Sophomore.

### **Symphonic Band**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: At least two years prior experience playing an instrument. (Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis with evaluation from the band director)

This course includes the fundamentals of musicianship, small group and full band performance. Class activities include playing music written for band from a wide range of musical eras, sight reading, terminology study, scales and exercises, and listening to recorded performances. Various public performances will occur during the school year. Composition projects will occur as time allows. Enrollment in band is possible for those with experience with electric bass, string orchestra instruments, piano, or drum set.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION and HEALTH**

### **Physical Education**

Grade Level: 9

Required, ½ credit

May be taken in grade 9 or 10

This course includes a combination of activities selected from individual sports, team sports, and fitness activities. Skills will be learned and practiced, as well as strategy and tactical components of each sport and activity. Other skills such as teamwork, positive attitude, and fair play will also be practiced and expected. FitnessGram testing is part of the Oak Grove physical education program.

### **PE 2**

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Physical Education (This course may fulfill one semester PE requirement)

This course will focus on sports and activities that can be enjoyed throughout life. The goal of this course is for students to find a variety of activities they enjoy, and will continue to play recreationally after high school, for life-long fitness. May include traveling off campus.

### **Health**

Grade Level: 9-10

Required, 1 semester, ½ credit

Required for graduation

The goal of this course is for students to understand how to achieve and maintain a high level of health and wellness throughout their lives. Topics include decision-making, goal-setting, stress management, mental and emotional health, nutrition, sexual education, family and relationships, and community and environmental health.

### **Weight Training**

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None (This course may fulfill one semester PE requirement)

The goal of this course is to introduce and motivate students to set goals in the weight room, and show how to achieve them. Each student will be evaluated during the first week of class. After testing, students will be shown the areas they can improve, and the instructor will assist them on how to set goals to achieve them. Throughout the semester, students will be evaluated on how they are improving. Each student will leave the course with a basic understanding of the safety, value, and benefits of a proper weight training program.

## **SCIENCE**

### **Physical Science**

Grade Level: 9

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: None

This course is a combination of introductory physics and chemistry. The course includes the study of motion, energy, states of matter, and chemical composition. The course includes laboratory procedures.

### **Biology**

Grade Level: 10

Required, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Physical Science

Biology is the study of life and the interactions between living organisms. During this course you will learn the different methods scientists use to find answers for questions they have about the concepts of life and life processes. Throughout the year, we will explore many different topics including cell biology, genetics, ecology, and evolution.

### **BIOL 150**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Dual Credit: 4 VCSU Credits

Prerequisite: Biology

The first semester will earn credit for BIOL 150, focusing on cell biology, genetics, and form and function of body systems.

### **BIOL 151**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Dual Credit: 4 VCSU Credits

Prerequisite: Biology

The second semester will earn credit for BIOL 151, focusing on evolution, ecology, and the diversity of life. This is a lab-based course and will also involve hands-on research through the River Watch program.

### **Chemistry**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Physical Science or Biology

This course is a study of the composition of substances, their properties, and their interactions.

### **CHEM 121**

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Grade Level: 12

Dual Credit: 5 VCSU Credits

Prerequisite: Chemistry

The first semester of a two semester sequence covering the study of matter, measurements, atoms, ions, molecules, reactions, chemical calculations, thermochemistry, bonding, molecular geometry, periodicity, gases, intermolecular forces, liquids, solids, kinetics, equilibria, acids and bases, solution chemistry, precipitation, thermodynamics, and electrochemistry. Topics covered are illustrated with descriptive and historical perspectives, as well as applications of chemistry in society. The course includes laboratory.

### **Anatomy and Physiology**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Biology

Anatomy and Physiology is an in-depth look at the human body systems and the relationship between form (anatomy) and function (physiology). Each chapter will include Latin and Greek roots, clinical connections (such as common disorders of each system), and multiple laboratory activities. The course will include required dissections of sheep eyes, deer hearts, and a visit to see a human cadaver.

### **Physics**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This lab-based course will study numerous physics topics using basic algebra and trigonometry. Topics may include mechanics, fluids, waves, optics, thermodynamics, and electricity and magnetism.

## **Medical Interventions**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Biology

This Project Lead the Way course allows students to investigate the variety of interventions involved in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease as they follow the lives of a fictitious family. Through each scenario the students will be exposed to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in a project-based, problem-based curriculum that includes interventions related to immunology, surgery, genetics, pharmacology, medical devices, among others. Students will also investigate multiple careers within the medical field. Students will be completing many advanced lab techniques including PCR, gel electrophoresis, protein purification, microarray, and others.

## **SOCIAL SCIENCES**

### **Civics**

Grade Level: 9

Required (9th grade). Semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

This course is a study of U.S. government and how it plays out as a democracy. It includes the study of the history of the Constitution, all branches and levels of government, rights and responsibilities of citizens, political parties, legislative process, and the election process.

### **International Relations**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: Civics

Offered alternating years: 2021-2022

This course provides students with an introduction to the relationships that exist among different nations and how our world interacts. We will look at many topics including an examination of the modern nation; the foreign policies of nations; the dynamics of nationalism, ideology, and culture; and the role that international organizations play in our world today. The course may also emphasize contemporary events that we see happening within, and shaping, our daily lives. These contemporary issues could include but are not limited to: oil, terrorism, environmental issues and resources, and religious tensions. More recent historical events, involving international organizations and the impacts of foreign policy, are also studied: Bosnian genocide, Iran Nuclear Agreement, renewed Russian aggression and expansion, etc. Once again, foreign policy between nations is the main focus.

### **Humanities - Greece**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Offered alternating years: 2021-2022

Students will study the history, literature, art, and culture of an area of Greece. Students are required to take the course if they plan to travel the following summer. However, students are not required to travel if they take the course.

### **North Dakota Studies**

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

**Offered alternating years: 2020-2021**

North Dakota Studies will allow students to become more familiar with their home state. Lifestyle, employment opportunities, ethnic heritages, historical events, geographic descriptions, geologic elements, sociological phenomena, current events, and political insights common to North Dakota will be studied.

### **POD 1 Economics**

Grade Level: 12

Required, semester ½ credit

Prerequisite: None

Economics is a social science that studies how individuals and societies satisfy their unlimited wants with limited needs. In this course, students will be introduced to the economic way of thinking, including the economic thinking concepts of scarcity, opportunity cost, and the reality that there is “no free lunch”. In the early parts of the semester, students will also survey various economic systems, and various microeconomic concepts, such as, supply, demand, and market structures. In the second half of the semester, students will engage in a study of macroeconomics, including fiscal and monetary policy. The semester will conclude with discussions about the students own personal finance.

**POD 2 Government**

Grade Level: 12

Required, semester, ½ credit  
Prerequisite: Civics, US History

This course is designed for students to engage in an in-depth exploration of domestic and foreign policy issues, and current events. Students will discover the core political issues our country faces and work to understand the history and various viewpoints on these controversial topics. While engaging in this process, students will begin to develop their own views on these topics. In every unit, students will be asked to research and take on the role of a current member of the U.S. congress for a “mock congress” activity to create a hands-on approach to how the government functions to address these domestic and foreign policy issues.

**Political Science**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit  
Prerequisite: None  
Offered alternating years: 2021-2022

The course approaches the study of politics from a theoretical perspective, including an examination of what the role of government is, the nature of political behavior, political power, and political action. In this semester long course we will analyze, describe, and predict the many political systems, behaviors, and cultures to help you gain a more informed and knowledgeable understanding of how politics work within American society. This class will give you an awareness of the rules and strategies that are used within our political landscape. We will look at the multiple perspectives political scientists use including realism (Machiavelli) and contractualism (Hobbes and Locke), as well as more modern perspectives. Some topics we look at would include how governments gain legitimacy, fascism, different political ideologies, how can you measure freedom, and of course our own political machines in the U.S. that have been developed.

**PSYCH 111**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit  
Dual Credit: 3 VCSU Credits  
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to provide an introduction to a variety of psychological topics including: the brain, sensation and perception, memory, learning, cognition, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders and therapies.

**Sociology**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, semester, ½ credit  
Prerequisite: Civics  
**Offered alternating years: 2020-2021**

This course introduces students to the study of human behavior within society by providing an overview of sociology topics such as social institutions and norms, socialization and social changes, and the relationships among individuals and groups in society. Put simply, we will study how people behave and interact in group settings, and reasoning’s behind the actions that people may take within different groups. In sociology, we will also look at modern issues such as poverty, welfare, crime, the justice system, social classes, and many other contemporary issues that people deal with on a day-to-day basis in both the United States, and the world.

**United States History**

Grade Level: 11

Required, full year, 1 credit  
Prerequisite: Civics

This United States History course will take students through a thematic study of this nation’s history from the American Revolution to present times. Throughout the year, student will also be introduced to the concept of historical thinking. They will use primary and secondary sources to draw their own conclusions of central historical questions in American history.

**Western Civilization**

Grade Level: 10

Required, full year 1 credit  
Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on the rise and development of Western civilization from ancient times up to the mid 1800’s. The topics covered would include, but is not limited to, ancient Greece, the Roman Republic and Empire, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and the French Revolution. The goal of this course is to learn about the roots of Western culture, ideals, and history. Recognizing the stages, events, and connections of how Western civilization has developed will also help to better understand our current world, and how it came to be.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE**

Language courses introduce students to the target language and to the process of another language system. Equally important is the introduction to and the appreciation for another culture. The language is approached through the cultural, historical, geographical, literary, and daily life aspect of the people.

### **Spanish I**

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: None

This course lays a foundation for proficiency in the four language skills: understanding, speaking, reading, and writing. Communication and language proficiency are stressed throughout all three levels.

### **Spanish II**

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I

This course builds on the foundation of the introductory course, with more complex tasks in the four language skills. There is increased emphasis on cultural awareness.

### **Spanish III**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish II

The emphasis continues on progressive levels of competency in the four language skills. Literature and consideration of cultural patterns provide the basis for advanced study. Special attention is given to preparation for the transition to college level courses.

### **Spanish IV**

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective, full year, 1 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish III

Spanish IV is a full year course with a high emphasis on production skills. Grammatical concepts from Spanish I-III will be applied with a focus on using them while speaking. A wide variety of activities are introduced in order to help students use language in numerous situations while furthering their cultural knowledge. New vocabulary will be taught and old vocabulary will be reviewed.