COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

Freshmen English
Open to grade: 9
Length of course: Full year
Text: Glencoe, Writer's Choice
Graduation requirement: English
Prerequisite: None
This class is a study of writing, literature, grammar, usage, and mechanics. The basal text is Glencoe, Writer's Choice, but other supplemental materials are used. There is an emphasis on 6-Trait Writing as the students prepare for the district writing assessment. Also, a novel study of Great Expectations and Endurance are part of the curriculum.
Class Description: Students practice and apply the writing process to construct well designed paragraphs training in using stylistic techniques to enhance writing: however, emphasis will be placed on learning how to write a variety of analytical summaries, 5-paragraph essays, and narratives. The four basic types of writing (expository, narrative, persuasive, and descriptive) will be practiced with the goal of producing cohesive single and multiple paragraph works. Both the Six Trait Writing model and elements from Excellence in Writing will be covered. Students will be expected to maintain a portfolio of writing. Spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics within the assignments and occasionally take-home assignments. Reading selections and literary interpretation will be integrated with writing assignments. Projects, quizzes, presentations, participation in class, and writing assignments are essential components of this class.

Sophomore English
Open to grade: 10
Text: Ideas and Patterns in Literature (Harcourt, Brace, World Inc.)
Length of course: Full year
Graduation requirement: English
Prerequisite: Freshmen English
Students continue working on the writing process and cover the different types of writing including some poetry. A variety of reading genres are explored and include plays short stories, novels, nonfiction, and poetry.

Junior English
Open to grade: 11
Length of course: Full year
Text: The United States in Literature (Scott, Foresman)
Graduation requirement: English
Prerequisite: Freshmen and Sophomore English
American Literature: Students study biographies, poetry, short stories, essays, plays, and novels, among other genres, all with an emphasis on American authors form the earliest days of settlement to the present. At least two novels are explored in class: Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter and Killer Angels by Michael Sharra.

Senior English
Open to grade: 12
Text: Language of Literature (McDougall Littell)
Length of course: Full year
Graduation requirement: English
Prerequisite: Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior English
(First Semester) - Research Paper - The students do an in depth research report which includes a connection to a project involving community outreach of at least 25 hours.

(Second Semester) - English literature students study biographies, poetry, essays, plays, and novels, among other genres, all with an emphasis on English authors from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present.

HISTORY

World Geography & Computer Applications
Open to Grade: 9
Text: Glencoe World Geography ISBN#0-02-664173-9
Length of Course: Semester
Grad. Requirement: Social Studies
Prerequisite: None
A world Geography and computer application is a full year course in which the Microsoft Office applications are integrated into the instruction of world geography. World Geography is a study of people, places, and environment from a physical and cultural perspective. The course will emphasize the practical and responsible application of geography to life situations. Channel one will be used to give students a relevant connection to places around the world.

World History
Open to grade: 10
Text: World History: Patterns of Civilizations
ISBN#0-13-968652-5
Length of Course: Full year
Graduation requirement: Social Studies
Prerequisite: None
World history provides a context for life. We use a chronological and topical approach that emphasizes the use of original source documentation. The course is a comprehensive study of the forces and movements that have made the past continuous with and relevant to the present. Emphasis will be placed on the development of western civilization while students become informed about the origin of all The major world civilizations. We will help students develop the skills needed to make objective judgments about historical and contemporary issues.

U.S. History
Open to Grades: 11
Length of Course: Full year
Text: The American Pageant
ISBN #0-616-47940-6
Grad. Requirement: Social Studies
Prerequisite: None
Recognizing that "history is a great, suspenseful story" this course will emphasize the major political, economic, and social developments which have contributed to our American heritage. By focusing on significant people, events, and ideas students will gain a solid understanding of U.S. history within a strong chronological framework. Examining and interpreting primary source materials, and writing analytical essays. Games will also be used to increase students' "historical literacy."

Contemporary World Problems
Open to grade: 12
Length of Course: Full year
Graduation Requirement: Social Studies
Prerequisite: World and US History
This "Cadillac" of social studies courses is designed to increase student "literacy" in a variety of areas. Recognizing that an informed "graduate" is essential for a strong democracy, the first semester will focus primarily on Government/Civics. Other areas to be covered will be the Postwar Period (1945 - Present), Economics, Geography, Area Studies, and Comparative Religions. Research, note taking, speaking, and listening skills will be stressed and thought-provoking discussions will be encouraged. A materials fee may be required.

MATH

Algebra I
Open to grade: 9, 10
Text: Algebra I (Glencoe)
Length of Course: Full Year
Grad. Requirement: Math
Prerequisites: 8th grade math and placement test
This is the foundation course for high school (and college) math. The emphasis is on basic terminology and definitions, the properties, methods of solving linear and quadratic equations, the four basic operations with polynomials, factoring, applying skills through story problems, graphing linear equations, and solving systems of equations.

Geometry
Length of Course: Full Year
Text: Discovering Geometry an Investigative Approach (Key Curriculum Press)
Grad. Requirement: Math
Prerequisites: Algebra I and teacher recommendation)
This course covers the relationships of angles and line segments in geometric figures, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. Students will discover and explore geometric relationships using a variety of tools such as compasses and straightedges. Students will learn theorems and definitions by performing constructions, measuring figures, relation patterns and properties, and discussing their findings. Through carefully constructed investigations, students will learn to write and utilize their own definitions and formulate their own geometric conjectures.

Algebra II
Length of Course: Full Year
Text: Algebra II (Glencoe)
Grad. Requirement: Math
Prerequisites: Algebra I and teacher recommendation
This course reviews Algebra I fundamentals and then furthers investigations in key areas. Topics to be covered include inequalities, radicals, rational expressions and equations, quadratics, logarithms, and functions. In addition trigonometry introduced in geometry will be reviewed and expanded.

Pre-Calculus
Length of Course: Full Year
Text: Advanced Mathematical Concepts (Merrill)
Grad. Requirement: Math
Prerequisites: Algebra II and teacher recommendation
Students are expected to show mastery of key concepts from Algebra I and Algebra II. The study of exponents and radicals is reviewed and furthered. Other areas covered include progressions, permutations – combinations, probability, conic sections, binomial theorem, summation notation, limits, and an introduction to logic.

SCIENCE

Essentials of Science
Open to grades: 9, 10, and 11
Text: Science Explorer (Prentise Hall)
Length of course: Full year
Graduation requirement: Science
Prerequisite: None
Essentials of science is a survey course, designed to provide students with the necessary foundation to be successful in subsequent high school science courses. The course will focus on a variety of principles, with the goal of instilling an interest and appreciation for the scientific process. In addition, higher levels of thinking and problem solving strategies will be emphasized as students apply the tools of science to various problem situations. This course will strongly be integrated with the processes, techniques, and concepts in Freshman Algebra. Some of the topics will include: the scientific method, measurement, and conversion between units, scientific notation, and the classification of matter, atomic structure, elemental periodicity, energy, motion, forces, waves, light, sound, and electricity. Lab fee

Biology
Open to grades: 10, 11, and 12
Text: Biology - The Living Science by Miller/Levine (Prentice Hall)
Length of course: Full year
Graduation requirement: Science
Prerequisite: Essentials of Science
Biology is a survey/lab course. It is designed to provide students with a good foundation in the biological sciences. The course will also focus on a variety of general scientific principles, with the goal of instilling an interest and appreciation for the scientific process. In addition, higher levels of thinking and problem solving strategies will be emphasized as students apply the tools of science to various problem situations. Some of the topics will include:
biology as a science, the purpose of biology, what is life, the tools of the scientist/biologist, the scientific method, the Chemical Basis of Life, cell - structure and function, animal vs. plant, prokaryotic vs. eukaryotic, the organelles, energy for the cells, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, cellular reproduction, meiosis, mitosis, chromosomes, the gene, DNA, RNA, principles of genetics, and human systems.
Lab fee-

Chemistry
Open to grades: 10, 11, and 12
Text: Chemistry: Matter and Change (Glencoe)
Length of course: Full year
Graduation requirement: Science
Prerequisite: Essentials of Science
Co requisite: Algebra II or higher
This course is a laboratory oriented program that focuses on basic chemical concepts and incorporates investigations to build understanding of these concepts. This course is designed to provide students with a good foundation in chemical sciences. The course will also encourage students to continue their investigations of the structure of matter along with chemical reactions and the conservation of matter and energy to those reactions. Inquiry is applied to the study of composition, structure, properties and transformation of substances. In addition, students will develop and understand the proper format in presenting information obtained from a formal lab exercise, i.e. laboratory write-up to communicate results. Lab Fee.

Physics
Open to grades: 11, 12
Text: Physics: Principles & Problems (Glencoe)
Length of Course: Full Year
Grad. Requirement: Science
Prerequisites: Algebra II
This course is a laboratory oriented program that covers topics in Physics using an effective problem solving method which utilizes some mathematical concepts. Students will be learn to develop and apply the techniques of

observations, data collection, data analysis, prediction and scientific reasoning in conducting experiments that demonstrate the natural phenomena of principles of physics. Students will apply proper procedures in lab exercise to isolate specific variables. In addition, students will continue to develop and understand the proper format in presenting information obtained from a formal lab exercise, i.e. laboratory write-up to communicate results. Lab Fee.

`Elective and College Prerequisite credit classes

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish I
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11
Text: Spanish for Mastery I, Valette and Valette
Graduation requirement: Fine Art
Prerequisite: None
In Spanish I, great emphasis is given to vocabulary. Students will learn expressions, how to introduce themselves and others, greetings, numbers, days of the week, and months of the year, how to tell time, ask for things, directions, talk about the weather, vocabulary pertaining to objects, sports, foods, clothing, and other subjects. The student will lean how to conjugate regular Spanish verbs in the present and past tense. They will be introduced to a few reflexive verbs, and irregular verbs. They will learn how to ask questions, construct positive and negative sentences, learn about definite and indefinite articles, pronouns, possessive adjectives, adverb, subjective, objective and possessive case pronouns, and how to use the comparative and the superlative adjectives. Four major student projects will be assigned.

Spanish II
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Text: Spanish for Mastery II, Valette and Valette
Graduation requirement: fine Art
Prerequisite: Spanish I
This class will spend some time in review, and it will add new vocabulary. Students will learn to express ideas pertaining to their own life, family, school, community, and country. They will be introduced to excerpts from Spanish history and culture. The student will continue to expand his knowledge of sentence structure; both in affirmative and negative responses, how to ask questions, give answers, and other structures. In addition to the knowledge of the present, preterit and future tense they will study the imperfect tense and the imperative. They will also add reflexive, and stem changing verbs to their rhetoric. Four projects will explore cultural information and develop communication skills.

Spanish III
Open to grades: 10, 11, and 12
Text: Spanish for Mastery III, Valette and Valette
Graduation requirement: Fine Art
Prerequisite: Spanish I & Spanish II
This class will review previously learned constructions and expand grammar and vocabulary usage. Students will concentrate on reading, writing and speaking. Easy books will be read and short book reports written. Oral and written reports will develop communications skills, and small group study will intensify language use. (Enrollment and budget will dictate offering this class)

ELECTIVE CLASSES
(Budget considerations will dictate offering these classes)

American Government/Rotation Prerequisite credit
Open to grades: 9,10,11,12
Graduation requirement: Elective
Prerequisite: None

Cultural Geography/Rotation Prerequisite credit
Open to grades: 9,10,11,12
Graduation requirement: Elective
Prerequisite: None

Topical Literature/Rotation Prerequisite credit
Open to grades: 9,10,11,12
Graduation requirement: Elective
Prerequisite: None

Art History/Rotation Prerequisite credit
Open to grades: 9,10,11,12
Graduation requirement: Elective
Prerequisite: None

Geometric Art/Elective
Open to grades: 10, 11, and 12
Graduation requirement: Elective
Prerequisite: Geometry or teacher approval

Journalism / Yearbook
Open to grades: 12 or teacher placement
Graduation requirement: Elective
Prerequisite: Teacher approval
This is a class that combines graphic arts skills and communication skills. Students will become proficient in InDesign, PhotoShop, Illustrator, and Photography.

Character/Responsibility
Open to grades: 9,10,11,12
Graduation requirement: Elective
Prerequisite: None

Leadership
Open to grade: 12
Graduation requirement: Elective
Prerequisite: None

World of Work
Open to grade: 10, 11, and 12
Graduation requirement: Elective
Prerequisite: None

Graphic Communications
Open to grade: 12 or teacher placement
Graduation requirement: Occupational, Art or Elective
This is a class that combines graphic arts skills and communication skills. Students will become proficient in InDesign, PhotoShop, Illustrator, and Photography.

Art Exploration
Open to grades: 9,10,11,12
Graduation requirement: Art or Elective
Prerequisite: None
Text: With Art in Mind (Groebner) supplemental
This class will encourage students to observe and appreciate the beauty of art and learn introductory techniques in fine and commercial arts. Elements of design, principles of organization, and a variety of art media are included.

- *AP Biology
- *AP Calculus AB
- *AP Chemistry
- *AP English Language and Composition
- *AP English Literature and Composition
- *AP French Language and Composition
- *AP Macroeconomics
- *AP Microeconomics
- *AP Physics B
- *AP Psychology
- *AP Spanish Language and Composition
- *AP Statistics
- *AP U.S. Government and Politics
- *AP U.S. History

*CAM On-line classes