

2026-2027 NBHS Course Catalog / Descriptions

Course Requirements

English

ESL A.B. & C

English as a second language is an English course offered to students whose primary language is something other than English and to those who scored lower than a three on the WIDA Screener test or WIDA's Access for ELLs exam. The focus of this three trimester course is on the basic English structures and vocabulary that will allow students to be successful in their other courses, to access the content and also to be functional in our community.

English Essentials A, B, & C

Prerequisite: English 8, Test Scores and Teacher Recommendation

English Essentials is the same course as English 9. It is designed to assist students entering high school by improving foundational English skills. This class will reinforce the skills the students will need in order to move on to English 10. Critical reading skills and effective writing skills will be emphasized at a slower, year-long pace. If students start with English Essentials, they are required to stay in English Essentials since the pacing of English Essentials and English 9 are different.

English 9 A & B

English 9 is designed to improve a student's ability to read critically and communicate effectively. This course will ask students to read and analyze a variety of literary genres, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, short story, drama, and multimedia sources. Selections will vary from classic to contemporary and from authors across the globe. Reading comprehension will be emphasized through grade-level passages, novels, and/or excerpts. The elements of various writing styles will also be taught to strengthen the student's ability to express their ideas in a professional and academic format. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences in traditional forms (e.g. personal response, literary analysis, personal narrative, informational essay, research, argumentation, poetry, and writing on demand) as well as in 21st century forms (e.g. digital story, blogs, podcasts, social media posts, Google slides, etc.) Grammar and mechanics skills will also be reviewed.

English 10 A & B

English 10 is designed to continue improving the student's ability to read critically and communicate effectively and will continue to introduce a variety of literary genres including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, short story, drama, and multimedia sources. Selections will vary from classic to contemporary and from authors across the globe and will show connections to the greater world through the use of media. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences in traditional forms (e.g. literary analysis, personal narrative, informational essay, research, argumentation, poetry, and writing on demand) as well as in 21st century forms.

Students will continue to strengthen their ability to express their ideas in a professional and academic format. Grammar and mechanics skills will continue to be mastered.

English 11A & B

Ready to dive deep? English 11 propels you into a world of diverse texts, from gripping fiction to powerful arguments. We'll dissect compelling characters, unravel complex themes, and master sophisticated analysis across genres and cultures. This course isn't just about reading; it's about exploration. We'll tackle essential questions that challenge your perspective: "How do journeys reshape us? How does place define who we are?" Expect to engage with increasingly challenging texts, supported by strategic scaffolding, and to revisit familiar works with fresh, critical eyes. We'll move beyond surface-level understanding, mastering the art of deep reading and thoughtful discussion. To ensure you are college-ready, we will also integrate targeted SAT preparation by analyzing sample questions and reviewing proven tips and tricks. You'll learn how to bridge the gap between classroom analysis and standardized testing, applying your foundational English skills to excel on the exam. Prepare to sharpen your skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, setting you up for success beyond the classroom.

English 12 A & B

English 12 is designed to continue improving students' ability to read critically and communicate effectively while increasing student knowledge of literature and nonfiction. Selections will vary from classic to contemporary and reading comprehension will be emphasized. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences. Critical and analytical thinking skills will be emphasized in both discussion and written analyses. Supplemental books may include *Night*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*; *The Things They Carried*; *Beowulf*; and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. Students will complete the course with a research paper and presentation.

AP English Language and Composition A, B, & C

Prerequisite: English 11A & B and AP Selection Committee Recommendation

The Advanced Placement English Language and Composition course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement. This 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. 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 nonfiction texts, including graphic images, from many disciplines and historical periods. This course is preparation for the AP English Language exam, where students may garner college credit if they earn a 3, 4, or 5 on the exam.

College Composition A & B

College Composition is intended to introduce senior students to the rigors and demands of college-level expository writing: clear language that explains, describes, or informs. The goal is to engage students as critical thinkers by reading passages and focusing our discussion and writing in an expository way. The class focuses on how to develop essential writing skills

including organization, correctness, and support of ideas. Students will practice adherence to the conventions of standard written English in sentence construction, grammar, and usage. The course includes analysis of several authors' works, but is centered around the students' own writings. Students will write for a variety of purposes, including argumentative, narrative and descriptive. With additional preparation, students may elect to take the College Composition CLEP Exam where earning college credit is possible; however, this course is not specifically a CLEP prep course. Supplemental books include *Night* and three more of the students' choosing.

AP English Literature and Composition A, B, & C

Prerequisite: English 11 A & B and AP Selection Committee Recommendation

This Advanced Placement literature and writing course is designed to demonstrate growth in thinking, reading, and writing. The course demands close reading of selected American and British texts to deepen student understanding of the ways writers use language (structure and content) to provide meaning and pleasure. The class focuses on critical analysis of both prose and poetry, as well as thoughtful discussion and writing about these literary works. Writings will correspond to elements of reading. Writing experiences include a college application essay, several AP-type papers, and a literary analysis research paper. Emphasis on vocabulary, advanced literary terminology, and stylistic tools help to prepare students for the AP exam. Upon completion of the course, students will take the AP Literature and Composition exam and may earn college credit with a score of 3, 4, or 5.

Math

Math Essentials

1.0 credits

Prerequisite: PSAT 8, NWEA and Math 8 Test Scores

Math Essentials is designed to assist students entering high school by improving foundational Math skills. This class will reinforce the skills the students will need in order to move on to Algebra 1 or 2.

Algebra 1 A, B, and C

1.5 credits

Algebra 1 is designed to introduce the basic concepts and skills of algebra in order to successfully prepare the student for problem solving. Topics covered will include solving linear equations and linear inequalities, absolute value equations and inequalities, graphing linear and absolute value functions, lines of best fit, writing equations of lines, solving systems of equations, properties of exponents, radicals, exponential equations, polynomial operations (including factoring, Quadratic Formula, and Completing the Square), solving quadratic and square root equations, and graphing square and cube root functions. Algebra 1 builds upon the concepts of Pre-Algebra and follows the Common Core Standards for mathematics. A variety of approaches to learning will be used to ensure that students with a variety of learning styles will have the opportunity to be successful.

Algebra II A & B

1.0 credit

Algebra II builds on the concepts of Algebra I. Algebra IIA will cover polynomials, laws of exponents, rational exponents, factoring polynomials, radicals, complex and imaginary numbers, and solving polynomial equations using a variety of methods.

Algebra II B covers properties of radicals, rational exponents, exponential and logarithmic functions as well as basic trigonometric ratios. These classes follow the Common Core Standards for mathematics.

Geometry A & B

1.0 credit

Geometry is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of plane and coordinate geometry, in order to successfully prepare students for the SAT and trigonometry and beyond. Topics covered include basic definitions of geometry such as points, lines, and planes, parallel and perpendicular lines, proofs, congruent triangles, properties of triangles, transformations, properties of quadrilaterals, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, properties of circles, area and perimeter, and surface area and volume of solids. A variety of approaches to learning will be used to ensure that students with a variety of learning styles will have the opportunity to be successful.

Discrete Math

0.5 credit

Discrete Math is an SAT math preparation course that focuses on reinforcing basic math skills through skills used in Algebra 2 and Geometry. Khan Academy is used heavily in this course due to its direct link to College Board and students' test scores.

Trigonometry

0.5 credit

An advanced course in mathematics for college bound professional career pathway students. This course will emphasize an understanding of the definitions and principles of trigonometry and their application to problem solving. Topics include right triangles, oblique triangles, graphs of trigonometric functions, identities, trigonometric equations, and corresponding applications to each topic.

Pre-Calc Functions

0.5 Credit

This course is a one trimester course that delineates content and skills common to college precalculus courses that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, social science, and data science. Course units include Polynomial functions, Rational functions, Exponential functions and Logarithmic functions. Students will utilize a combination of algebraic and graphical skills. A variety of approaches to learning will be used to ensure that students with a variety of learning styles will have the opportunity to be successful.

Calculus A & B

1.0 credit

This is an advanced course in mathematics for college bound students on the professional career pathway. The course is paced for the high school student, yet designed to cover all topics generally taught in the first semester of college calculus. Topics include limits, derivatives and integrals of algebraic functions, and elementary applications of each. Students will have the opportunity to earn college credit by successfully passing the CLEP test at the end of Calculus B.

Personal Finance A & B

1.0 credit

This course is a two-trimester class where students begin to focus on their role as a citizen, student, family member, consumer, and active participant in the financial world. During both trimesters, we will be working together to help students become aware of their various financial responsibilities, provide opportunities for self-awareness, expression, and satisfaction in a highly technical and competitive society. Students discover new ways to maximize their earning potential, develop strategies for managing their resources, explore skills for the wise use of credit, and gain insight into the different ways of investing money. We will be using the Dave Ramsey Foundations in Personal Finance program. The curriculum is written specifically for high school students. Special sections in each chapter focus on current trends and issues consumers face in the marketplace. This course qualifies as a fourth year math credit if taken in the senior year.

College Algebra A & B

1.0 credit

This course is designed for dual accreditation. Upon successful completion of both trimesters the student will receive an elective high school credit in mathematics and will be given the opportunity to earn college credit by successful completion of the CLEP Test for College Algebra. Topics include an overview of numbers, variables and expressions, solving equations and inequalities in one variable, solving equations and inequalities in two variables, and systems of equations.

AP Calculus AB & BC

1.0 credit

This is an introductory college-level calculus course. Students cultivate their understanding of differential and integral calculus through engaging with real-world problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and using definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions as they explore concepts like change, limits, and the analysis of functions.

Science

Physical Science A & B

1.0 credit

This course was designed to address as many of the Disciplinary Core Ideas for High School Physical Science in the NGSS as could be accomplished coherently in one year. It connects key concepts in physics, chemistry and math that will help students understand their world and provide a solid foundation for subsequent science courses. Rather than simply confirming what students have learned from their teacher, the experiments provide the opportunities for students to develop models to help them make sense of their observations. The course could be called “Describing and Understanding Change” because it addresses change in the position, speed, structure and temperature of matter and the role energy plays in this change. The treatment of the physics concepts relating to how things move and why they move were carefully selected to reinforce the algebraic and graphical skills students have just learned or are learning at the same time they take this course. The concepts of kinetic molecular theory and energy storage and transfer during phase and chemical changes (usually addressed in chemistry) build on the particle models introduced in the earlier units.

Biology A & B

1.0 credit

Biology is a sophomore-level course which focuses on numerous aspects of life. Each unit follows a common structure: students engage with an anchor phenomenon and develop questions; go through sequences of learning and sense-making to develop and iterate on answers to those questions; then complete a three-dimensional performance task.

Chemistry A & B

1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Must have taken Physical Science A & B and Biology A & B

Applying a new fully online textbook, Chemistry A & B are further develop the understanding of matter and its changes. Students will start to work through the textbook in an online interactive environment while still doing hands-on labs and discussions.

Physics A & B

1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Students must have completed Physical Science A & B before taking this course and be comfortable with Algebra and basic Trigonometry.

This course was designed to address as many of the Disciplinary Core Ideas for High School Physics in the NGSS as could be accomplished coherently in one year. It connects key concepts in physics and math that will help students understand their world and provide a solid foundation for subsequent studies in medicine or engineering. Rather than simply confirming what students have learned from their teacher, the experiments provide the opportunities for students to develop models to help them make sense of their observations. The course could be called “Describing and Understanding our Universe” because it addresses the mathematics behind daily phenomena such as the motion in two dimensions, momentum, central net force oscillation model, waves, rotational motion, electricity and magnetism.

Earth Science A & B

1.0 credit

This phenomena-based course walks students through real-world relevant questions as they investigate major concepts such as geologic cycles, plate tectonics, space, natural disasters, and many more. Students discover answers while the teacher helps guide them through the observed phenomena and then continue to create mental models around the observed systems. This course utilizes a variety of resources including online interactives, lab experiences, whiteboarding, and many more. Whether reviewing concepts from middle school or learning newer concepts, students will be invested along the way.

Envirothon

0.5 credit

This class is an environmental science project based learning class for elective credit. This course follows the guidelines of the Michigan Envirothon from the Michigan Conservation District. The content areas covered are Aquatic Ecology, energy, forestry, sustainable agriculture, wildlife, soils and geology, and one environmental issue that varies from year to year. A community outreach project portion includes students identifying an environmental issue in their community and then addressing the issue through hands-on problem solving and community education. Attendance of the one day Regional competition or outdoor event day may be required and counts as one week of assignments in a single day as students are trained and tested by professionals in the field. Much of this course is outdoors so appropriate clothing is required. This is only offered in the spring.

AP Biology A, B, & C

1.5 credits

Prerequisite: Must have taken Physical Science A & B, Biology A & B, and Chemistry A before taking this course.

AP Biology is a college level course for able and motivated students. The course content follows the suggested outline for a typical college biology course. AP Biology covers the main biological principles and processes which include the following Big Ideas: 1) The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life. 2) Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis. 3) Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes. 4) Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties. AP Biology aims to provide students with the conceptual framework and analytical skills necessary to understand and assess the rapidly growing science in Biology. This is a laboratory class in which students will collect and analyze data and write scientific lab reports. At the end of the school year, students have the opportunity to take the AP Biology Exam. Motivated students who complete necessary work and participate in activities should be prepared for the exam.

Engineering

0.5 credit

Prerequisite: This course is a junior/senior level course due to the mathematics needed.

Students will begin by experiencing the engineering cycle through individual or pair work designing, planning, and engineering constructs for each of the units based on the material types we examine. These include paper and wood, polymers, concrete, and metals. They will present their work on different platforms such as wix, power point, and prezi. These units will be conducted as whole class group work, pod group work, and pairs. This course will focus on building student engineering skills and student guided project management. Individual work will be considered. Basic concepts in understanding Physics and NGSS engineering are taught in this course. The Michigan Merit Curriculum Essentials covered in the course include scientific inquiry, scientific reflection, properties of materials such as melting point, current, electricity, circuits, energy transfer, use of computer applications, and the engineering cycle. The essentials may include density, volumetric calculations, electric charges, energy transformation, kinetic and potential energy, thermodynamics, wave characteristics, electromagnetic waves, wave behavior, nature of light, chip programming, Boolean logic, and flow charts. Hands-on laboratory and inquiry experience is integrated into the course. This course is taught in both the classroom and the STEAM center. Geometry and Algebra and prerequisite courses. Some years this course may team up with the Arts to engineer props for the school play. This may be offered in the winter or spring.

Engineering w/the Arts

0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Must have taken Algebra and Geometry

Students will begin by experiencing the engineering cycle through individual or pair work designing, planning, and engineering constructs for the play. These constructs will include paper and wood, polymers, concrete, and metals. They will present their work on different platforms such as wix, power point, and prezi. These units will be conducted as whole class group work, pod group work, and pairs. This course will focus on building student engineering skills and student guided project management. Individual work will be considered. Basic concepts in understanding Physics and NGSS engineering are taught in this course. The Michigan Merit Curriculum Essentials covered in the course include scientific inquiry, scientific reflection, measurement, properties of materials such as load, current, electricity, circuits, energy transfer, use of computer applications, and the engineering cycle. The essentials may include forces, volumetric calculations, electric charges, energy transformation, kinetic and potential energy, thermodynamics, wave characteristics, electromagnetic waves, wave behavior, nature of light, and flow charts. Hands-on laboratory and inquiry experience is integrated into the course. This course is a junior level course due to the mathematics needed. This course is taught in both the classroom and the STEAM center so safety and personal protective equipment usage is required. This course will only be offered in the fall.

Robotics

0.5 credit

Students will begin by comparing and contrasting remotely autonomous vehicles and robots. They will explore units in design with computer assisted design programs, create components with additive and reductive manufacturing including 3-D printing and possibly CNC (Computerized Numerical Cutting) to build robots or ROV's for competitions and tasks, arduino

chip programming, and experience the engineering cycle. These units will be conducted as whole class group work, pod group work, and pairs. The AMTA Modeling with Mobility curriculum will be utilized in the major unit on waves. This course will focus on building student skills complimentary to our First Robotics. Robotics team involvement is recommended. Individual work will be considered. Basics concepts in understanding Physics and NGSS engineering are taught in this course. The Michigan Merit Curriculum Essentials covered in the course include scientific inquiry, scientific reflection, electric charges, energy transfer, energy transformation, kinetic and potential energy, wave characteristics, electromagnetic waves, wave behavior, nature of light, current electricity, circuits, chip, Boolean logic, flow charts, and Arduino chip programming. Hands-on laboratory and inquiry experience is integrated into the course. This course is run in the winter. Some seasons, students could also join our Robotics Team to earn credit for this course with adequate participation and demonstration of the NGSS Engineering standards. Some years this course may team up with the Arts for animatronics in the school play and this course may require participation in the Square One Educational ROV competition.

Forensics

0.5 credit

This course provides students with a basic introduction to the field of forensic science. Students will discover the various roles and responsibilities associated with a career in forensics. Students will learn basic crime scene analysis skills used by investigators in both the field and lab. In addition, students will be given an overview of the various forms of evidence left by criminals at the scene of the crime as well as the opportunity to apply this knowledge to hypothetical situations. Special focus will be placed on real world application of the knowledge presented to allow students a chance to experience some of what forensic scientists experience on a daily basis. Graphic content notification: Due to the nature of this course, some content may be disturbing to some students. Images of dead and decaying bodies, as well as content that involves murder cases, drug overdoses, and sexual assault, will be addressed.

Anatomy/Physiology*

0.5 credit

11th-12th grade

This course will cover the body systems, muscles, and bones, as well as how they function.

Social Studies

U.S. History A & B

1.0 credit

U.S. History A will trace the history of the United States of America from the Rise of Big Business during the Gilded Age in the late 1800s through the end of the Great Depression. U.S. History B will trace the history of the United States of America from World War II up to present day. US History A and B are a continuation of 8th grade social studies and an emphasis will be placed on domestic issues of the past and their relation to the present.

World History A

0.5 credit

Students will learn world history through regional study and briefly cover the geography and current issues facing each region. World History A reviews the rise of ancient civilizations and world religions from middle school and continues the journey through world history from the Medieval Ages through the age of European Exploration and Absolutism

World History B

0.5 credit

Students will learn world history through regional study and briefly cover the geography and current issues facing each region. World History B covers regional modern history as well as current issues facing each region.

Economics

0.5 Social Studies/0.5 Personal Finance

The goal of this course is for students to understand the basic economic principles concerning production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services both in the United States and around the world. Course topics include: scarcity and the factors of production, supply & demand, market structures, economic systems, the U.S. economy, government regulation, international trade & the global economy, money, banking & the Federal Reserve, and personal finance (investing, saving, credit, budgeting etc.).

Integrated Social Studies

0.5 credit

Integrated Social Studies is a course which pertains to the review of the main topics that will be covered on the Michigan Merit Exam (Geography, U.S. History, World History, Economics, Government, and Inquiry). In order to be successful in this course, students should have at least had the social studies courses in the proper sequence through the Junior year. Due to the nature of the subject matter, a workbook will be used as well as additional resources such as: textbook chapters, overheads, power points, primary source documents and other related materials not in a numerical order.

Government

0.5 credit

This course provides a study of the US Government with an emphasis on Congress, The Presidency, Judicial Branch as well as comparative government analysis.

College Psychology

0.5 credit

Prerequisite(s): Social studies core (see above) Rec. 11-12 grades

This course provides a broad, general introduction to the field of psychology, the scientific study of behavior. Topics surveyed include scientific methodology, biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, thinking, memory, motivation and emotion, development, personality, stress and health, psychological disorders and

psychotherapy, social interaction, and diversity. This course will include a combination of lecture and discussion, debate, text readings, small group activities, Internet and audio-visual materials, writing assignments and other assessments.

College Sociology

0.5 credit

Prerequisite(s): Social studies core (see above) Rec. 11-12 grades

This course provides an introduction to the study of man's social nature and his relationship to the changing world in which he lives. The course covers basic principles of social structure and process with an analysis of culture, socialization, status, role, stratification and social change. This course will include a combination of lecture and discussion, debate, text readings, small group activities, Internet and audio-visual materials, writing assignments and other assessments.

AP U.S. Government and Politics A & B

1.0 credit

This college-level course is designed to promote higher-level thinking skills so students can analyze essential concepts pertinent to U.S. Government and Politics. The subject matter that will be covered in this course will help prepare students for the AP Exam. All information contained in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Street Law

0.5 credit

Street Law is law that is of practical use in everyday life. It includes every purchase, lease, contract, marriage, divorce, crime or traffic violation. Street Law is designed to provide students with an understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities, a knowledge of everyday legal problems, and the ability to analyze, evaluate, and in some situations, resolve legal disputes. Street Law addresses general problems in the areas of criminal and juvenile justice; consumer, family, and individual rights law. This course will also help students learn what to do if they are the victim of crime, when and how to select an attorney. We will also look at the legal rights and responsibilities of parents and children, how to advocate for change in communities, how to solve problems without going to court, and what to do about discrimination or other violations of our constitutional rights. Topics in Street Law will provide information to help students survive everyday life, and become a better and more active citizen. Street Law will help students learn how to use the law to improve his/her life. Practical legal information and the opportunity to apply that information to real life situations will be incorporated into this course.

Sports & Society*

9th-12th grade

0.5 credit

The Sports & Society course will cover movements where sports and US history are at a crossroads. Students will discover the interaction of sports entertainment and culture, exploring how the two mirror one another. During the trimester-long course, students will evaluate topics

such as baseball integration, league expansions, athletes and protest movements, the public financing of stadiums, the logical and illogical psychology of fandom, and more. Students will analyze primary, secondary, and media sources to build understanding and in turn develop claims and arguments around these topics. Students will be expected to read critically and author argumentative pieces throughout the course. Students may only repeat the course with instructor approval.

AP Macroeconomics A&B

1.0 credit

Prerequisite(s): Grades 10-12, 9th with teacher approval.

AP Macroeconomics is an introductory college-level macroeconomics course. Students cultivate their understanding of the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole by using principles and models to describe economic situations and predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data as they explore concepts like economic measurements, markets, macroeconomic models, and macroeconomic policies. The course also develops students' familiarity with basic economic concepts, economic indicators and the business cycle, national income and price determination, financial markets, long-run consequences of stabilization policies, and international trade and finance.

AP Microeconomics A & B

1.0 credit

Prerequisite(s): Grades 10-12, 9th with teacher approval

AP Microeconomics is a college-level course that introduces students to the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual economic decision-makers. The course also develops students' familiarity with the operation of product and factor markets, distributions of income, market failure, and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts.

AP U.S. History A & B

1.0 credit

In AP U.S. History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills 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. The course also provides eight themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures.

Foreign Language

ESL A,B, & C

English as a second language is an English course offered to students whose primary language is something other than English and to those who scored lower than a three on the WIDA Screener test or WIDA's Access for ELLs exam. The focus of this three trimester course is on the basic English structures and vocabulary that will allow students to be successful in their other courses, to access the content and also to be functional in our community.

Spanish I A & B

1.0 credit

This course is an introduction to the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Basic vocabulary and grammatical structures will be taught as well as fundamental speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Cultural activities will also be included in this course. Paired and group simulations are used to develop speaking skills.

Spanish II A & B

1.0 credit

The Spanish II student will strengthen skills learned in Spanish I by additional practice in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. More advanced vocabulary and grammatical structures including the preterit (past) tense will be introduced and cultural activities such as learning contemporary songs from Spanish-speaking countries and studying South America and Hispanics in the United States will be included in this course. More challenging speaking and writing activities will be used to further develop communication skills.

Spanish III A & B

1.0 credit

The course will begin as a review of Spanish I and II, and further explore vocabulary and complex grammatical structures not yet covered in previous levels, including introduction of the imperfect tense, future and conditional tenses and the subjunctive mood. This course will also include an introduction to literature of the Spanish-speaking world. More advanced speaking, listening and pronunciation skills will be introduced, with class at times conducted entirely in Spanish. The student will also develop skills in various types of writing, presenting, and speaking, including the incorporation of an authentic film in the target language. Cultural activities such as learning contemporary songs from the Spanish-speaking world and studying Spain and travel in Spanish-speaking countries will be included in this course.

Spanish IV A & B

1.0 credit

This course is a direct credit course through Southwestern Michigan College for Spanish 201 – Intermediate Spanish 1 (3rd semester). Therefore, it will be run as a college-style course with higher expectations and an intense level of study. Reviewing past material along with diving into complex grammatical structures and tenses, Spanish IV students will learn to use their language

skills to speak, read, write, and listen at an intermediate level. Class is conducted entirely in the target language for both teacher and students. Students will read short books designed to expand their understanding and learning and will be pushed to increase their conversational skills, oral output, and written proficiency/fluency, including incorporation of an authentic film in the target language. Cultural activities such as learning contemporary songs from the Spanish-speaking world and reading and listening to authentic texts written by native speakers for native speakers will be included in this course to ultimately expand students' cultural knowledge and understanding.

AP Spanish Language and Culture A, B, and C

1.5 credits

This course is a combination of the Southwestern Michigan College Spanish 202 course – Intermediate Spanish II (4th semester) and the AP Spanish Language and Culture course. Through the SMC course, students will complete their study of upper level grammatical structures and verb tenses, acquire new vocabulary, and learn to use their language skills holistically, utilizing all tenses of the language, to speak, read, write, and listen at an advanced level. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course provides students with opportunities to develop language proficiency across the three modes of communication: Interpretive, Interpersonal, and presentational. Students learn about culture through the use of authentic materials that are representative of the Spanish-speaking world. Materials include a variety of different media, e.g., journalistic and literary works, podcasts, interviews, movies, songs, charts, and graphs. AP Spanish Language and Culture is a language acquisition course designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where Spanish is spoken and as such, is an immersion experience requiring exclusive use of Spanish.

Fine Arts

Dance

0.5 P.E./ 0.5 Fine Art Credit

Tap into your creative side with this dual-credit course for beginners, those with years of dance experience, and everyone in-between! Dance will expose students to the joy of movement while focusing on traditional dance techniques and building strength through cross-training exercises to improve as a performing artist and athlete. Understanding dance history and aesthetics will go hand-in-hand with learning choreography through beginning level movement skills in Ballet, Modern, and Jazz dance. This course incorporates health-related fitness with a better appreciation and cumulative knowledge for the art of Dance. As a pilot course, there is no required public dance performance.

Art 1

0.5 credit

In this beginning art course, you will be working with your hands and thinking creatively while experiencing an introduction to multiple art genres including drawing, painting, ceramics, and

mixed media. You will learn the foundations of Visual Art while gaining a greater appreciation for Art History and Aesthetics.

Art Exploration

0.5 credit

This intermediate art course is a unique opportunity for you to participate in collaborative interdisciplinary art experiences through hands-on art making. We will make connections to art disciplines in 2D and 3D media through a wide variety of project-based art experiences and work together to improve our artwork as a studio community.

3D Design: "Tinkering as Sculptors and Designers"

0.5 credit

Do you like to get your hands in clay? Are you someone who likes to build things? In this course, you will be looking at the world in 3-D by combining different sculptural techniques to solve creative problems by art-making with a jack-of-all-trades mindset.

2D Design: "Mixed Media Madness"

0.5 credit

Express your creativity and have fun with drawing, painting, photography, and collage in this mixed media class for people who like to put pencil on paper and brush strokes on canvas in a wide range of materials.

Visual Communications

0.5 credit

Art and Design is all around us at every level of communication in society and culture! So if you want to make your mark on the world, explore how to use print and digital methods in a variety of media ranging from hands-on techniques with drawing, painting, and printmaking, to digital processes in photography, marketing, and graphic design using Adobe Creative Cloud applications.

Art Portfolio

0.5 credit

Would you like to take your artwork to the next level? This advanced course is for anyone who is self-motivated and wants to develop as an artist in their originality, skill, and personal voice, by creating their own independent artwork. You will have the opportunity to focus on specific art media and styles of your choice while building a portfolio of artwork for contest submissions and university applications. We will work together as a community of artists to take creative risks by trying new things while building each other up through class feedback and teacher mentorship.

Band A, B, and C

1.5 credits

Students enrolling in Band will participate in Marching, Concert, and Pep Bands. A variety of music from classical to popular tunes will be explored. The Marching and Concert Bands participate in festivals, competitions, and parades. The Pep Band plays at several home basketball games throughout the season. Students will also have the opportunity to individually participate in All-Star Band and Solo & Ensemble Festival. Participants are expected to attend all extra rehearsals and performances for which academic credit is given, including weekend and summer rehearsals. Students must take Band A, B, and C to complete the full year course.

Film Appreciation: Unlocking the Secrets of Cinema

0.5 Credit

This course invites you to become an active participant in the world of film. We'll begin by building a shared understanding of film language, then launch into a dynamic exploration of diverse genres. Through collaborative "expert groups," you'll become a specialist in a specific genre, sharing your insights and discoveries with your peers. We'll examine the visual storytelling of cinematography, the pacing of editing, the emotional power of music, and the intricacies of narrative. Furthermore, we'll engage with the challenging and impactful themes that films present. You'll hone your analytical skills through engaging discussions, insightful reflections on film careers, and a final, personal analysis of a favorite film. Join us to transform your viewing experience and become a savvy film critic! (This course counts as elective credit ONLY. It does NOT fulfill the requirements of the core English classes.)

Guitar 1

0.5 credit

This is an introductory course in classical acoustic guitar playing. Reading sheet music, tabs, and playing in ensembles will be covered. A portion of each class will be devoted to individual practice time so the student may further develop their skills. School owned guitars can be used if the student does not have their own.

Guitar 2

0.5 credit

This is a course designed for students who have taken Guitar 1 or have prior experience playing the guitar (must be approved by Mrs. Hoyt). More advanced sheet music and tabs will be covered, as well as a focus on ensemble playing. Students should be fluent in reading sheet music in order to take this class. A portion of each class will be devoted to individual practice time so the student may further develop their skills. School owned guitars can be used if the student does not have their own.

Musical Theater - Performing Arts

0.5 credit

This elective that focuses on the study of performance in musicals. Students will learn the different aspects of a musical performance including acting, singing, props, set design, costumes, makeup/hair, and character development. There will be opportunities to refine acting

and singing skills. Students will study other musicals and learn how to incorporate the techniques learned into their own performance. A public performance is required at the end of the trimester. This course may be repeated each trimester. No prior approval is required.

Vocal Ensemble

0.5 credit

This fine arts elective will focus on applying and analyzing vocal technique in a group setting. Students will learn how to breathe for singing and how to navigate any changes in their voice. All students can sing and this course will build confidence to be able to sing with others or alone, if that is desired. A culminating performance will be required towards the end of the trimester which will feature all students in a group and a solo setting. Students will have the opportunity to direct their learning in this ensemble. This course may be repeated each trimester. No prior approval is required.

Music and Culture in the U.S.

0.5 credit per trimester

Music and Culture in the U.S. the 1900s - 2020s

This course examines popular music from the 1900s through the 1960s and how that music connected with the time period. Through discussions, projects, and activities we will learn: what styles of music were popular during the decade, popular artists and songs, what was going on in the world and our country during each decade, how people listened to music, the fashion of each decade, inventions and other firsts of each decade, and how music connects to your life.

Physical Education

Fitness for Life

0.5 credit

Physical fitness. What is it? Do you need it? And how can you achieve it? As you go through this class you will find the answers to these questions and many more. This class will help you understand the importance of physical activity and provide you with the tools one needs to be physically active for a lifetime. Basic concepts include: types of physical activity, planning and preparation, injury prevention, self-assessment, stages of physical activity, fitness principles, etc. In providing a hands-on experience, students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of sport activities and will be introduced to the weight room/cardio room. Active participation is required in all activities. May be offered first, second, and third trimester.

Team Sports

0.5 credit

This dynamic course offers a comprehensive introduction to the world of team sports, emphasizing skill development, strategic thinking, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Students will explore a variety of popular team sports like flag football, soccer, lacrosse, basketball, volleyball, etc., learning the fundamental skills, rules, and strategies associated with each activity. The course promotes physical fitness, communication, and leadership skills while fostering a positive and competitive environment. Get ready to work together, challenge yourself, and experience

the thrill of team play! Course may be offered in the first and third trimester and would need a minimum of 16 students enrolled.

Individual & Dual Sports

0.5 credits

This course offers an in-depth exploration of individual and dual sports, providing students with the opportunity to develop skills, strategies, and a lifelong appreciation for activities that can be enjoyed throughout their lives. Students will learn the fundamentals of various sports like tennis, pickleball, badminton, bowling, etc., focusing on technique, rules, etiquette, and the physical and mental demands of each activity. The course emphasizes skill development, sportsmanship, and the benefits of regular physical activity for overall well-being. Whether you're looking to improve your competitive edge or simply enjoy recreational play, this course will equip you with the knowledge and skills to excel in individual and dual sports. This course may be offered in the first and third trimester.

Resistance Training

0.5 credit

This course is designed for students and athletes who want to improve their fitness level with an emphasis in resistance training. It includes strength development, agility drills, flexibility exercises, and running skills with an emphasis on striving for a high level of performance. Active participation is required in all activities. Course may be offered first, second, and third trimester.

Flow & Fitness

0.5 credit

This class is geared towards students who want physical activity without the highly competitiveness of some of the other PE classes. There will be a combination of non-sport physical activities like resistance training, yoga, walking, jogging, cycling, use of the Peloton app, and other popular online fitness programs, etc. Some sport activities will be offered as well like tennis, pickleball, volleyball, basketball, badminton, etc. depending on the trimester. There are currently 2 field trips. The first is to a yoga studio in New Buffalo, MI where students will take part in a yoga class and the other is to Go Aerial Fitness Studio in Laporte, IN. Students will learn how to combine yoga movements with aerial arts. Using a yoga swing, you will be guided through a gentle, all level practice with a few tricks and challenges sprinkled in for fun. The class also concludes each week with yoga, meditation, and a smoothie.

Other Course Offerings:

SAT Prep

.5 credit

A Junior level course in which students are exposed to the core content SAT and MSTEP testing standards is English, Math and Science.

Building Trades

1.0 credit per trimester

A program based on Residential Construction. Students complete competency-based modules including: Small to large-scale residential construction, safety, tools and equipment, blueprints, building materials, floors, walls, ceilings, stairs and roofing, window and doors, site layout, foundations, interior and exterior finishing, and project management. Students obtain a basic knowledge of tools, methods, materials, and technologies currently used in the construction industry; emphasis is placed on theory, as well as related math concepts. Practical experience is gained through on-site and community service-based construction projects throughout the year, and students will also complete the construction of a home during the school year.

Computer Programming

0.5 credit

Basics concepts in understanding computer programming are taught in this course. The Michigan Merit Curriculum Essentials covered in the course include scientific inquiry, scientific reflection, logic, ladder logic and mathematics standards such as binary counting or XOR encryption. Hands-on laboratory and inquiry experience is integrated into the course through the arduino platform and Openscad or other computer assisted design with 3-D printing and CNC (Computerized Numerical Cutting). Some of this course will be conducted in the STEAM facility for utilization of the industrial 3-D printers. There is emphasis on the coding of the 3-D printed products. The course will also reinforce student awareness of current technology and its applications as well as the practical application of scientific principles in the field of Computer Programming and 3-D Printing. The course will emphasize the value of application mastery such as Excel certification will also be woven through the course. Keyboarding will also be emphasized to minimize errors while writing code. This course is offered in conjunction with IUSB Ed2go focusing on a different programming language or application each trimester. These have included Java, C++, HTML, CSS, and Python and may change based on student programming needs annually.

Foods/Nutrition

0.5 credit

This course allows students to study foods and nutrition as related to health and wellness. Students will gain a broad base of knowledge and awareness regarding nutrition issues. Application of information and knowledge will be applied to one's personal life. Students will have the opportunity to improve decision-making skills, critical thinking skills, technology skills, and communication and interpersonal skills. Skills related to shopping, food safety, and food preparation will also be explored. Areas of study will focus on "My Food Plate", food labels, food-borne illness, grocery budgets, food storage and preparation, safety in the kitchen, recipes, nutrition, eating disorders, meal management and career options.

Guided Academics

0.5 credit

This course is designed to provide a Tier two intervention for academic support. Students will have time for SAT test prep, homework, and individualized assistance to support learning.

Health

0.5 credit

The purpose and goal of Health class is to allow students to gain awareness, knowledge, and information that will enable them to assess themselves and gain personal growth aimed at achieving healthy behavior & living a long healthy life. Through health education, students learn to obtain, interpret, and apply health information and services in ways that protect and promote personal, family, and community health. Students will have the opportunity to improve critical thinking skills, use their technology skills, and gain skills for becoming a productive citizen and lifelong learner. This course will be approached from the holistic point of view. Content area of study will begin with a strong foundation of health and wellness, first aid, CPR, and AED certification (if pass all tests), STI & HIV prevention, human sexuality education, social and emotional health, personal health and wellness, nutrition and physical activity, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. State standards and benchmarks will guide the curriculum.

Peer to Peer

0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Available for students with 10th grade status or above

Peer to Peer is designed for students who are interested in going into education and/or working with others. High School students enrolled in Peer to Peer will be educational and social supports, role models, and friends to a student who qualifies for special education services, is an English Language Learner, has a 504 plan, or needs more support in the classroom. As a Peer to Peer LINK, each student will be assigned to participate in class or a social situation with another student for a minimum of one class period per day. In addition to being a role model and friend, students will assist with things such as modeling appropriate classroom and social behaviors, organization of assignments and supplies, and focusing on tasks within the classroom. Students will attend Peer to Peer forums one time per month to reflect on Peer to Peer experiences and discuss the progress toward goals of the student who is receiving LINK support. Being a Peer to Peer LINK is an opportunity to portray leadership skills as well as an opportunity to learn how to advocate for others.

Radio & Audio Production

0.5 credit

In Radio & Audio Production, students will be introduced to the basics of audio production and be challenged to create a variety of programming that is informative, entertaining, professional, and impactful to the New Buffalo student body and community. This course will require students to "write for the ear," produce daily content stories, perform interviews, cover school events, select music, and much more. Radio & Audio Production is a project-based class, meaning that creativity, collaboration, and revision are central to our study.

Yearbook

0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Available for students with 10th grade status or above

Yearbook Editors must apply through [this application](#)

In Yearbook, students become published journalists and photographers with their work appearing in New Buffalo High School's annual yearbook, *The Buffalodian*. Yearbook staff members conduct personal interviews, write news copy and photo captions, create well-designed layouts, take captivating photographs, market and sell books, and become familiar with various publishing and design programs. Students must demonstrate a high proficiency in writing as they take copy through multiple drafts. Staff members must conduct themselves as responsible, dependable journalists with initiative and creativity, and must demonstrate mature behavior inside and outside the classroom. Yearbook staff members are expected to attend evening and weekend events for coverage and photography. This course may be repeated with instructor approval and students may assume editorial responsibilities through the application process.

YA Book Club: Beyond the Pages

0.5 Credit

Prerequisite: Available for students with 10th-grade status or above

Immerse yourself in the captivating world of young adult literature! This course, run more like a book club, offers a space to delve into diverse genres, from fantasy and science fiction to realistic fiction and contemporary romance. Each session will feature engaging discussions, creative activities, and opportunities to share your perspectives. We'll analyze character development, explore social issues, and discover the power of storytelling. Whether you're a seasoned YA reader or just discovering the genre, you'll find a welcoming community and a wealth of exciting stories to explore. Each week will feature guided discussions, character analysis, and creative writing prompts. We will have one creative project at the end of the course, to show your appreciation for your favorite book. (This course counts as elective credit ONLY. It does NOT fulfill the requirements of the core English classes.)

Exploring the Magic of Children's Literature

0.5 Credit

This book club-style course invites you to rediscover the rich and diverse world of children's books. We'll journey through classic and contemporary tales, including *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, alongside picture books, folktales, and short stories. We'll explore themes, characters, and the power of storytelling through lively discussions and creative activities. This is a space to share your love of reading and develop a deeper appreciation for the fairytales and books that have shaped our imaginations. Each week will feature guided discussions, character analysis, and creative writing prompts. We will have one creative project at the end of the course, to show your appreciation for your favorite book or genre. (This course counts as elective credit ONLY. It does NOT fulfill the requirements of the core English classes.)

AK Smith Career Center

1.0 credit per trimester

This program for juniors and seniors provides hands-on career training in a variety of programs. Students have the opportunity to earn college credits and certifications. Students must apply

and be accepted into the program through the school counseling office. For a list and description of courses offered, visit <https://www.mcas.k12.in.us/domain/1569>.

Berrien County Career Technical Education

Berrien County offers career and technical education programs at learning centers throughout the county. CTE prepares students for employment and/or post-secondary education in a broad range of occupations. Students must apply and be accepted through the school counseling office. For a complete list of programs visit <https://www.berriencte.org/cte-programs/>. Transportation must be provided by the student.

On-line Dual Credit / Credit Recovery

This flexible online learning program through Educere is designed to meet students at their individual development plan. For students seeking advanced challenges, the **Dual Enrollment** pathway offers the opportunity to take accredited college courses online, earning both high school and transferable college credit simultaneously. For students needing to stay on track for graduation, the **Credit Recovery** pathway provides a self-paced, supportive environment to retake previously uncompleted core courses and master essential state standards. Students will work independently with digital curriculum tools under the guidance of a certified mentor teacher.

Eligibility: Grades 9–12 (Credit Recovery) / Grades 11–12 (Dual Enrollment)

Prerequisites: Counselor and Administrative approval; minimum GPA requirement for Dual Enrollment.

School-to-Career (Work-Based Learning)

- **Course Length:** Full Year
- **Grade Levels:** 12
- **Prerequisites:** 2.0 GPA, good attendance record, concurrent enrollment in a related course, and an updated Educational Development Plan (EDP).
- **Credit:** 0.5 to 1.0 elective credit per semester (Determined by hours worked)
- **Deadline:** Student request is due by June 1st of the prior academic year
- **Organizations & Industries:** Pre-approved Berrien RESA partnerships

School-to-Career is a structured Work-Based Learning (WBL) program designed to give students academic credit for real-world work experience. Whether you are pursuing an employment opportunity, internship or pre-apprenticeship, this course allows you to step outside the traditional classroom to develop industry-specific skills, build a professional network, and test-drive your future career.

Students will be matched with or may propose their own local employment/internship placements aligned directly with the career goals identified in their state-required Educational Development Plan (EDP).

*Tentative Course; based on BOE approval, teacher availability and student requests.