



2024-25 Course Offering Descriptions

West Central High School

****Use this book WITH your PLP Packet to select appropriate classes for next year.***

West Central High School Graduation Requirements

Minimum # of credits to graduate: 23

| <u>Department</u> | <u>Credits</u> |
|---|---|
| English | 4.0 |
| <i>Includes:</i> | |
| • English I | 1.0 |
| • English II | 1.0 |
| • English III | 1.0 |
| • Senior Comp and World Lit (or AP English) | 1.0 |
| Social Studies | 3.0 |
| <i>Includes:</i> | |
| • Geography | .5 |
| • World History | .5 |
| • US History | 1.0 |
| • Government | .5 |
| • Civics | .5 |
| Math | 3.0 |
| <i>Includes:</i> | |
| • Algebra I | 1.0 |
| • Geometry | 1.0 |
| • Algebra II* | 1.0 |
| <i>**Algebra II may be waived and replaced by another math elective with school approval</i> | |
| Science | 3.0 |
| <i>Includes:</i> | |
| • Physical Science | 1.0 |
| • Biology | 1.0 |
| • Science Elective | 1.0 |
| For those students planning to attend a 4-year college, they are STRONGLY encouraged to take Chemistry as their 3rd science | |
| *Chemistry or Physics is required for the SDOS | |
| Fine Arts | 1.0 |
| PE | .5 |
| Personal Finance | .5 |
| Computer Science | .5 |
| Any combination of the following: | 1.0 |
| • Approved Career and Technical Education | |
| • World Language | |
| Health | <i>Needs to be documented on transcript; not necessarily for credit</i> |
| Other Electives | 6.5 |

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACADEMY

The West Central School District has purchased slots in the Sioux Falls Public School District Career and Technical Academy (CTE). The CTE Academy offers over 40 state approved Career and Technical Education courses in several different focused programs. This state-of-the-art Academy offers a continuum of courses from introductory level to highly advanced. Any student in grades 11 and 12 may apply to attend. West Central can send 3 students a semester; not everyone who applies for this program will get in. Students must provide their own transportation. **If a student is approved to attend the CTE Academy, it is the expectation that they will remain there all year.**

Some of the classes available include: Intro to Arts/AV Technology, Health Careers, Welding, Intro to Auto, Hospitality & Tourism Management, Restaurant Management, Culinary Arts, Project Lead the Way: Engineering and Biomedical Science, and Intro to Human Services.

Applications can be found on the Counselor's Registration Information page or in the office.

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

DUAL CREDIT

Dual Credit classes are available through all SD Board of Regents Universities and SD Technical Institutes at a current rate of \$48.33 per credit. Qualifications to take these courses are set by the post-secondary schools. All Dual Credit must be approved by counselor/administrator.

- Dual Credit classes will be documented on high school transcript with final grade and appropriate credit earned (1-2 college credit course = .25 WCHS credit; 3-5 college credit course = .5 WCHS credit)
- Families will be responsible for cost of class and materials
- Online classes will be required unless the time of Dual Credit course does not interfere with student's high school schedule
- Students may use an online Dual Credit course to fill semester course load.
- Dual Credit courses count as electives. In some cases, they can be used for the equivalent high school course credit with administration pre-approval.
- Number of courses taken will be limited to the following:
 - Junior year (*minimum GPA requirement of 3.5*)
 - 1st semester - 1 Dual Credit Course (**Supervised Learning required*)
 - 2nd semester - if prior success, student may be approved to take up to 2 courses (***if you have a full schedule, student may take 2 DC courses within 1 Supervised Learning WITH PRIOR ADMIN APPROVAL*)
 - Senior year (*minimum GPA requirement of 3.25*)
 - 1st semester - 2 Dual Credit Courses
 - 2nd semester - If prior success, student may be approved to take up to 3 courses
 - (***if you have a full schedule, student may take 2 DC courses within 1 Supervised Learning WITH PRIOR ADMIN APPROVAL*)

SD VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL

SD VHS is the only authorized provider of virtual high school courses (not to be confused with Dual Credit College courses) that are approved by SD Department of Education. All Virtual High School courses must be approved by a counselor/administrator.

- Classes taken through SD VHS will be documented on transcript with final grade and credit earned
- Family will be responsible for cost of any class taken, as well as class materials unless deemed appropriate and necessary by school
- Students can use SD VHS classes to fill required semester course load.
- Available for students in grades 11 or 12

Completing online courses (DC or SD VHS) over the summer is an option; however, there is no staff available so student must be able to work independently and arrange tests on college campus if required.

WCHS COURSE OFFERINGS

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Agriculture Leadership

1 credit

Open to: Grades 10 - 12
Prerequisite: Must be an FFA Member
Description: This course will focus on helping students to develop their potential for premiere leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Students will engage in in-depth study of FFA, agriculture topics, and SAE based awards. All students will complete an AgriScience Project.

Animal Science*

1 credit

Open to: Grade 10-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Topics of study to include: Introduction to Animal Science; Nutrition; Animal Health, Genetics, Breeding and Reproduction; Management and marketing of animals and animal products; Small animals and international agriculture; Meats and meat processing; Some detail study will be done in the species of cattle, sheep, swine and horses; careers in animal science. Students will learn about careers in Animal Science and be involved in the National FFA organization and SAE. All students will complete an AgriScience Project.

*** This course does NOT count towards science electives.**

Biotechnology*

1 credit

Open to: Grade 11, 12
Prerequisite: Biology
Description: A comprehensive study of DNA, genetic engineering, microorganisms, cloning, reproductive biotech, transformation and other concepts and techniques used in producing and altering biological processes and products. Students will also learn about careers in biotechnology, and be involved in the National FFA organization and SAE. All students will complete an AgriScience Project.

*** This course can count towards Science electives**

Horticulture/Floriculture

1 credit

Open to: Grades 10 -12
Prerequisite: None
Description: This course will introduce students to the career possibilities in the Green Industry. Topics of study will include: Introduction to Horticulture, plant parts and functions, taxonomy and name, plant propagation to include seeding, cuttings, grafting and tissue culture (cloning), greenhouse management and crops, light and temperature interaction, hydroponics. Pesticides, herbicides, plant diseases and pests, biological pest control, vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits, lawn establishment and management. Landscaping - planning, architecture, management, value, careers in the horticulture and floriculture fields. Floral design, selection and storage of plant

materials, corsages, arrangements, holiday and wedding arrangements, drying flowers, pricing and marketing and customer service. Students will gain hands-on experience through work in the greenhouse. Students will also become involved in the National FFA Organization and SAE. This is a full year course. All students will complete an AgriScience Project.

Natural Resources

1 credit

Open to: Grade 9

Prerequisite: None

Description: Topics of study to include: Soil formation, erosion, and erosion control. Water supply, use, management, pollution, and use planning. Forestry, forestry products, management, fires and control. Fish and wildlife, game management, marine and freshwater fishery management, aquaculture, outdoor recreation, fossil fuels, alternative energy sources, nuclear power, metals and minerals, careers in natural resources. Students will also explore the National FFA organization, basic record keeping and SAE. All students will complete and AgriScience Project

Vet Science and Companion Animal Care*

1 credit

Open to: Grade 11-12

Prerequisite: Biology and Animal Science

Description: This course will develop students' understanding of veterinary science and the small and companion animal industry. Topics of study will include: animal anatomy and physiology, animal nutrition, animal reproduction, diseases, parasitology, poisoning and toxicology, animal ethics and welfare issues, animal health, small, large and exotic animal medicine, veterinary medicine, veterinary office practices, and animal services to humans. Career exploration will focus on veterinarian, veterinary lab technicians, office lab assistant, small animal production, research lab assistant, and animal nutrition lab technician. Students will also become involved with the National FFA Organization and SAE. All students will complete an AgriScience Project

*** This course can count words Science electives**

| |
|--|
| CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION BUSINESS EDUCATION |
|--|

Accounting I

1 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: The SD Department of Labor and Regulation lists Accountants as one of the Top 30 Hot Jobs in South Dakota based on projected increased demand for workers in this profession. Take this class to learn more about this growing profession! Knowledge of accounting concepts are beneficial to understanding the workings of any organization. Businesses, the government, hospitals, schools, nonprofits, and all other organizations make decisions based on finances. Therefore, accounting is a valuable class for all students regardless of their career plans, and is highly recommended for students who are considering a career in business, finance, or entrepreneurship. In accounting I, students will learn the complete accounting cycle for businesses that are organized as a proprietorship, partnership, and as a corporation. Students will learn to analyze, journalize, and post transactions. Other topics covered include the following: financial statements, adjusting entries, closing entries, and payroll. ****Hybrid class**

Business Law

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 10-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Have you ever wondered about your rights or responsibilities as a citizen of the United States? In this course you will learn about those rights and responsibilities and gain a better understanding of the United States legal system by studying criminal and civil law. Additionally, you will learn about the role of the court system at the local, state, and national level. Contract law, international law, and business regulation are a few of the other topics covered in this course. Students will participate in a mock trial and will go on a field trip to the federal courthouse in Sioux Falls. This course is beneficial for students and highly recommended for students who are planning careers in government, law, entrepreneurship, business, or finance.

Entrepreneurship/Intro to Business

1/2 credit

Open to: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Have you ever considered owning your own business someday? Are you considering a career in business? Are you interested in learning more about how businesses operate? If so, this class is for you. In Intro to Business, you will learn about business and economic concepts vital to running a business. Some of the topics to be covered include globalization, economic systems, business organizational structures, human resources, economics, entrepreneurship, finance, management, and marketing. Participating in a business simulation, and writing a business plan are part of the curriculum. All students who plan to major in accounting, marketing, business, finance, entrepreneurship, or similar areas are highly encouraged to take this class.

Personal Finance

1/2 credit

Open to: Grades 11-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Are you ready to live on your own? This course is designed to help you learn what you need to know in order to live independently. In Personal Finance you will learn how to manage money, save, invest, and find a place to live. Additionally, students learn about insurance, handling credit, and planning for major expenditures such as buying a car, a home, or attending college. Participation in this class is designed to improve consumer decision-making skills and knowledge of consumer legal rights. **This course is a requirement for graduation.**

Sports and Entertainment Marketing

1/2 credit

Open to: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Professional sports teams and entertainment venues such as restaurants rely heavily on marketing in order to be successful. How do they convince people to attend events and spend their money on their products and/or services? How do they develop their brand? How do these businesses target you as a consumer? Learn the answers to these questions and much more in this course. All students are encouraged to take this class and it is highly recommended for any student planning to own a business or those who are interested in careers in business, sales or

marketing. The following are some of the topics that will be covered as they relate to marketing: basic business concepts, economics, entrepreneurship, advertising, online marketing, social media marketing, marketing research and customer satisfaction. Projects will include writing a marketing plan, conducting marketing research and shooting a TV commercial.

| |
|--|
| CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMPUTER SCIENCE/ARTS A/V & COMMUNICATIONS |
|--|

Broadcast Technology

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: Computer Applications
Description: Broadcast Technology explores the ever-changing world of television, radio, entertainment, and commercial video performance. Students gain valuable insight into the careers of broadcast journalism in news, sports, and entertainment. Students will gain industry experience by writing scripts, filming, editing, and producing original performances. Students will work in collaborative teams to produce video projects using relevant A/V equipment and editing software. Special emphasis is placed on creativity, writing, and the editing process.

Computer Applications

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Learn how to use your Mac efficiently and effectively! This course is typically taken in the first semester of a student's freshman year and serves as the foundational course for upper level computer courses. The primary goal of this course is for students to become proficient in word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software programs in iWork (Apple Suite) and Google Drive. Additionally, students will learn about digital citizenship, computer terminology, Mac tips and tricks, K12email, copyright laws, iCal, Photo Booth, iPhoto, iMovie, basic programming skills, and effective online research techniques. Everything students learn in this course will be used in the other classes they take throughout their high career. This is a hands-on, authentic learning, project-based course that teaches students to interact with technology effectively.

Graphic Design I

1/2 credit

Open to: Grades 10-12
Prerequisite: Computer Applications
Description: Graphic Design I explores Legal and Ethical Issues, Career Opportunities, Fundamentals of Computer Graphics, Raster or Vector Graphics, Tools Used to Create Graphics, 2D & 3D Basic Animations.

Graphic Design II

1/2 credit

Open to:

Grades 10-12

Prerequisite:

Graphic Design I

Description:

Graphic Design II explores career opportunities, graphic design methods, design elements, design principles, page layout, typography, color theory, creating media and forms of published media. This is the more advanced version of Graphic Design I.

Intro to Arts AV Tech

1/2 credit

Open to:

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite:

Computer Applications

Description:

Introduction to Arts, A/V Technology & Communication course enables students to understand and critically evaluate the role of media in society. Course content includes: investigation of visual images, printed material and audio segments as tools of information, entertainment and propaganda; improvement of presentation and evaluative skills in relation to mass media; recognition of various techniques for delivery of a particular message; and, in some cases, creation of a media product.

Web Development I

1/2 credit

Open to:

Grades 10-12

Prerequisite:

Computer Applications

Description:

Web Development I is a course designed to guide students in a project-based environment implementing web development techniques. Through the use of hypertext markup language (HTML5) coding, Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), and JavaScript students will plan, design, develop, deploy, and maintain website projects. Students will learn fundamentals for a career in web development as they complete projects and create their own website.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Human Relations

1/2 credit

Open To:

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite:

None

Description:

This class examines the role and dynamics of family, work, and other significant relationships. Through this course, students will analyze healthy relationships with children and adults of all ages in the context of family and workplace. The course will also cover strategies and resources to meet the needs of all individuals, families, and communities.

CAREER AND DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

Event Management

1/2 credit

Open To: Grade 11
Prerequisite: Juniors on the Prom Committee
Description: In Event Management, students organize, plan, implement, and evaluate events while developing event management skills. Event Management is a pathway course in the Hospitality and Tourism career cluster; Recreation, Travel & Tourism Pathway.

Foundations of Travel and Tourism

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Foundations of Travel and Tourism assists students in charting a career path in one of the world's largest industries ... travel and tourism. Students look at the different segments of the tourism industry and explore careers that the industry offers. Students look at the economic impact and ramifications of development on the economy. Students also explore emerging trends and the impact of technology. Foundations of Travel and Tourism is a pathway course in the Hospitality and Tourism career cluster; Recreation, Travel & Tourism pathway.

Leadership & Service

1/2 credit

Open to: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: Must be a FCCLA member
Description: Independent project-based class that allows students to identify leadership characteristics, practice teamwork, and improve their use of soft skills while in the workplace and community.

Intro to Education and Training

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 10-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Education is a lifelong process. There is a need for continued learning after the traditional end of formal education. Educators and trainers provide educational opportunities for these life-long learners. This course is designed to give high school learners and overview of the opportunities, occupations, and skills needed in the education and training career cluster.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

Human Development 1 (Prenatal to Toddlers)

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Understanding patterns, sequences, and stages of development is vital for guiding infants and toddlers to make informed decisions. Due to an increasing number of working parents and a need for highly qualified educators, trained personnel in the childcare field are in demand. Human development knowledge is essential for individuals seeking a career in education, health, medical and human service professions, and many other careers involving working with infants and toddlers. *This class allows you to take a real-care baby home, but not required*

Human Development 2 (Preschool to School Age)

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed to be a project-based in nature. The following topics will be discussed: preschool and school-age theories in practice; growth and development; regulations and opportunities in the child care industry; special topics related to children such as childhood diseases, special needs, and child abuse/neglect; and first aid/emergency training. Students will have the opportunity to work with children in a preschool setting. An experiential learning activity will also be part of the class. This class is designed for students who enjoy working with children.

Human Development 3 (Adolescence to Adulthood)

1/2

credit

Open To: Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: Each person passes through various life stages. These stages are infancy, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, midlife and later life. Understanding human development helps students prepare for the roles of adulthood. *Human Development: Adolescence through Adulthood* is a course that is designed to enable students to gain knowledge necessary to understand the developmental stages from adolescence through late adulthood. The course will examine the developmental tasks, traits and problems of each of these stages

NUTRITION CLASSES

All Nutrition/Food Classes are limited to 20 students due to safety regulations

Culinary Arts

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 10-12

Prerequisite: Foods 1

Description: Students in Restaurant Management/Culinary Arts I learn entry-level culinary skills needed for success in the food service industry or continuing education. Students train in industry-specific skills that can be used in all areas of the food service industry. Restaurant Management/Culinary Arts I is a pathway course in the Hospitality and Tourism career cluster; Restaurant and Food Service Pathway

Foods 1

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: Foods 1 is the fundamental basics of learning how to cook. Students will be introduced to food safety & sanitation, learning about kitchen equipment and demonstrate preparation of basic food products.

Food Technology

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9 -12

Prerequisite: None

Description: Food Technology offers opportunities to study the composition, structure, and properties of foods. Students examine changes that occur during the processing, storage, preparation, and consumption of food. Students explore the effects of various materials, microorganisms, and processes on food products through laboratory experiments. Food Technology is a pathway course in the Hospitality and Tourism career cluster; Restaurant and Food Service Pathway.

Nutrition and Wellness

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Nutrition and Wellness educate students to make healthy lifestyle choices for personal, family, and career success across the lifespan. Topics include the impact of technology on nutrition, food choices, wellness and stress management, meal planning and preparation, dietary guidelines, and food safety and sanitation practices.

Nutritional Sciences

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 10-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Nutritional Sciences provide an in-depth study of nutrition and how it affects the human body. Topics include extensive study of major nutrients, nutrition/food choice influences, technological and scientific influences, special diets, and career exploration in this field. Attention will be given to nutrition, menu planning, industry-based food safety, and sanitation. Laboratory experiences will be utilized to develop food handling and preparation skills. Nutritional Sciences is geared toward students interested in careers involving dietetics, education, and health and wellness-related fields.

TEXTILES

Textile classes will be offered as a customized learning plan for students

Fashion Design

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: This is an applied knowledge course intended to help students explore different aspects of careers in the fashion design industry. Students will study the history of the fashion industry, elements, and principles of design, textile competition, and fashion illustration. Students will explore trends in fashion design and engage with industry-specific technology used to produce fabrics and create fashion lines.*Students will have opportunities to sew in the classroom as well as other textile projects*

Interior Design

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: This course provides students with an introduction to interior design. Students learn to create impact using the elements and principles of design. Areas of study include understanding both personal and client wants and needs, housing options, design styles, furniture arrangement, floor plan evaluation, space planning, project presentation, and interior design-related careers.

**CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**

Architectural Drafting & Design

1/2 credit

Open To: Grade 10-12
Prerequisite: Intro to Drafting & Design
Description: This course will expose students to ADDA (American Drafting Association Apprentice) standards in architectural drafting. The desire for this course is for students to receive industry based training in architectural drafting. This is considered a higher level high school course. Topics covered include: architectural design fundamentals, drawing management, plot and foundation plans, residential construction plans. Software Used: Google SketchUp, ArchiCAD, Chief Architect. This class is offered every other year.

Building Trades

1 credit

Open To: Grade 9-10
Prerequisite: None
Description: Students will gain insight into the career of building trades by developing practical skills such as safety on the job-site, construction math, use of hand/power/pneumatic tools, basic residential blueprint reading, basic land surveying techniques, building construction of a shed, plumbing, electrical, concrete employability skills and career exploration required to succeed in the construction industry.

Cabinetmaking

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 11-12
Prerequisite: Intro to Architecture and Construction
Description: The objective of this course is to continue what was learned from Introduction to Architecture and Construction and use it in creating a project from a set of working drawings with both handheld and power tools. Safety and knowledge of tools are VERY IMPORTANT. Student will purchase all materials needed for their project (wood and hardware).

Introduction to Architecture & Construction

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9 - 11
Prerequisite: None
Description: This course covers the areas of architecture and construction In construction we will cover all the facts of planning and constructing a wooden project. The class will cover operations of various hand/power tools, safety while working in the shop, and different small construction techniques. The students will be making two projects for themselves that they will be taking home. **Students will be responsible for purchasing their own materials to make their projects.**

Introduction to Drafting & Design

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9 - 12
Prerequisite: None
Description: This course will expose students to the ADDA (American Drafting Association Apprentice) standards in both mechanical and architectural drafting. This is considered a higher level high school course. The desire for this course is for the students to receive industry based training at the basic level before taking either Mechanical or Architectural drafting. Topics covered include: terminology and drafting equipment; drafting math skills; basic shapes, lettering, line symbols; drawing techniques; computer aided design software; career ready practices.

Mechanical Drafting & Design

OFFERED 2025-26

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 10 - 12
Prerequisite: Intro to Drafting & Design
Description: This course will expose students to ADDA (American Drafting Association Apprentice) standards in mechanical drafting. The desire for this course is for the students to receive industry based training in mechanical drafting. This is considered a higher level high school course. Topics covered include: geometric construction; mechanical drafting; manufacturing design process. Software used: Google SketchUp and SolidWorks. This class is offered every other year.

Residential Construction

1 credit (per semester)

Open To: Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become familiar with the workforce of constructing wood framed houses from the ground up. The program will emphasize knowledge and skill development in building layout, rough and finish carpentry, blueprint reading, job site safety, and health, math, communications, human relations, quality and customer service. Students will be exposed to the same conditions as one would expect to encounter on the job and must be prepared to work outdoors regardless of the weather. Class size is limited to 12 student and seniors will be given priority. At the completion of this program, students will be able to: read blueprints for technical information; use hand and power tools safely and efficiently; plan work to efficiently use time and material; work as a productive team member; frame building; perform finish carpentry skills; select appropriate building materials; identify and correct job hazards for a safe work environment; demonstrate the ability to follow OSHA safety requirements; use reading, writing, and listening skills to express ideas effectively; apply occupational math concepts in building related problems; demonstrate professional responsibility at work site.

Tech for the Non-Traditional Student

1 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: 'Non-Traditional', in this course, is meant as those students who typically do not take Industrial Technology courses. This course is meant to give students an overview and hands on experience in many areas. **Students may take this course for the full year or for either semester.** First semester topics will include: basic car mechanics, woodworking and basic welding. Second semester topics will include: basic construction, drafting, interior design and 3D printing. Other topics may be covered in each semester as well.

ENGLISH REQUIRED

AP English Language & Composition (formerly Honors English III)

1 credit

Open To: Grade 11

Prerequisite: Although not required, Honors English is recommended

Description: The AP English course is designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement test in English Language and Composition in the Spring. Beyond this goal the course is designed to prepare students to write, read, and analyze literature at a level appropriate for college. The class will read a wide variety of novels, plays, short stories and literary analysis based upon American Literature such as The Scarlet Letter, The Grapes of Wrath, Cold Mountain, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Snow Falling on Cedars and Fallen Angels. There will be a focus on research and rhetoric that will culminate in a variety of essays. All of the reading is done outside of class and the class time is devoted to understanding, discussing and analyzing literature to prepare students for an extended research paper and project based activities. There will be lots of group work and opportunities to get out of your desk to experience the literature. Summer reading and work is required as part of the course.

AP English Literature

1 credit

Open To: Grade 12
Prerequisite: Although not required, Honors English is recommended
Description: The AP English course is designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement test in English Composition and Literature in the Spring. Beyond this goal, the course is designed to prepare students to write, read, and analyze literature at a level appropriate for college. The class will read a wide variety of novels, plays, short stories and literary analysis such as *Kite Runner*, *Oedipus Rex*, *Hamlet*, *Tess of the D'Ureilles*, *Beloved*, and *Metamorphosis*. Grades are based on class discussions tests and perps. All of reading is done outside of class and the class time is devoted to understanding, discussing and analyzing literature. There will be lots of group work and opportunities to get out of your desk to experience the literature. Research is also a central focus of the class, including a class-wide debate and 6-8 page research paper. Summer reading and work is required as part of the course, including at least two poetry responses, and independent novel and a variety of other reading and papers.

English I

1 credit

Open To: Grade 9
Prerequisite: None
Description: This course covers a wide area of language arts, including grammar, writing, vocabulary, short stories, novels, poetry, career education and an introduction to public speaking. Students will write a variety of essays using MLA style and format ranging from argumentative, literature analysis, research, and narrative writing. Students will read a novel, an epic poem, and a Shakespearean play; along with numerous works of short stories and informative writing.

English II/Speech

1 credit

Open To: Grade 10
Prerequisite: None
Description: In this language arts course students will continue their study of writing, critical reading, and grammar skills. Students will read a variety of short stories, poetry, informational texts, at least one novel, an epic poem, and a Shakespearean play. Particular focus will be given to research, persuasion, and rhetoric. Students will write a variety of essays using MLA style, ranging from creative writing, literature analysis, research, and persuasive writing. The spring semester is Speech class, and while students will still practice reading and writing, this semester will focus heavily on basics of public speaking.

English III/American Lit

1 credit

Open To: Grade 11
Prerequisite: None
Description: English III is a year-long class that continues the integration of reading, writing, speaking and critical thinking skills as students study the language and literature of America. The class will focus on a study of notable American authors with such readings found in poetry, short stories, and novels. Students will write narrative, persuasive, and literary analysis essays utilizing MLA format. The three essays are REQUIRED elements for passing this course. In addition, students will focus on various aspects of career planning to explore opportunities available after graduation. Students continue to build their career portfolios and prepare

for the numerous junior level standardized tests which all have career planning components (ASVAB, PSAT, ACT). Students in English III have the opportunity to job shadow then share a presentation based on the job shadow experience and on research in that field.

Honors English I, II

1 credit

Open To: Grades 9-10
Prerequisite: Students are identified based on standardized test scores, language arts grades, attendance and teacher recommendation.
Description: Honors students have a sincere desire to pursue a more rigorous program in English and should really enjoy reading and/or writing. The honors track features more reading, more writing and more class discussion and is the feeder program for AP English. There is one honors section of approximately 15-20 students at each grade level. Students who do not maintain a B- or better at semester may not continue in the honors track. Summer reading is expected at all levels to enable students to develop their maximum potential in the academic pursuit of reading and the study of English; students who fail to complete the summer reading requirements throughout the summer may not continue in the honors track. Students who miss more than 10 days per year for any reason may find it particularly difficult to keep up with the pace of Honors English/AP. Students who miss a lot of school for any reason should think carefully about their suitability for the program.

Senior Composition

1/2 credit

Open To: Grade 12
Prerequisite: None
Description: This course is designed to prepare students for the functional written communication skills required in college courses. Students will write descriptive personal experience narratives, one of which is created into a "book" that will then be shared with the class. Writing will also focus on ad analysis, persuasive writing, and research papers utilizing MLA documentation. Independent reading is a component of the class.

World Literature

1/2 credit

Open To: Grade 12
Prerequisite: None
Description: The literature read in this course will be novels and plays chosen from different time periods and different cultures. Students will read, discuss, write journals and analytic essays and tests, and give oral presentations to the class. Independent reading is a component of the class.

| |
|--------------------------|
| ENGLISH ELECTIVES |
|--------------------------|

Contemporary Literature

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Contemporary Literature is a one-semester course in which students will explore the themes of contemporary novels. Students will read a variety of genres including graphic novels, short stories, and best-selling fiction and non-fiction novels from the last 20 years. Students reflect on reading assignments, make projections of literary outcomes, engage in analysis of texts, and respond to contemporary

issues and trends. Students will read five novels through the semester which will be chosen based on a small selection within a various genre. Students will write formal journals, keep a reading log, and participate in numerous Socratic Seminar discussions throughout the semester. Students will also write a literary analysis essay for a semester assessment as an alternative to taking a test.

Creative Writing

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 10-12
Prerequisite: A 'C' average in English or instructor's permission
Description: This course is a one-semester course designed to strengthen creative writing skills. Students will focus on the areas of short stories, drama and poetry with the primary goal being to increase the student's abilities to express emotion, originality, and clarity through the written word. Students will be required to enter multiple writing contests through the semester. Students must possess acceptable writing skills and a true desire to write with creativity and sincerity.

Dystopian Literature

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9 -12
Prerequisite: None
Description: This course is a deep dive into the dystopian story genre: those fictional stories where people lead wretched, dehumanized lives, usually while trapped in an oppressive or post-apocalyptic society (examples of this genre include *1984*, *The Hunger Games*, or *The Giver*). Students will learn the common story elements of dystopian stories. In particular, students will analyze how different dystopian stories comment and criticize elements of our real world. Students will read short stories, at least three novels, as well as a film. Classwork will range from normal worksheets and tests, to analytical essays, and group presentation projects.

Exploration of Literary Genres (former called Independent Reading)

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: This course is designed for the student who truly enjoys reading and would like to devote an entire class period to doing so each day. Students are allowed to choose their own books within a certain literary genre: only books are allowed, no other reading material. Students will post daily reading journals to respond to their books, will complete small and large group discussions, and will be required to complete book projects at least once a quarter. This is a repeatable course. ****Hybrid class**

Film Appreciation I

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 10-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: This course will examine cinema through the years. We will be looking at classic movies, such as *Casablanca*, *Singin' in the Rain*, and *Some Like it Hot*, and move to more modern classics such as *The Sixth Sense* and *Moulin Rouge*. We will discuss and examine the art of film creation, from lighting to camera angles. Class time will be spent viewing movies, researching and discussing them.

Film Appreciation 2

1/2 credit

Open To:

Grades 10-12

Prerequisite:

None

Description:

This course expands on the coursework from Film Appreciation I. (Taking Film Appreciation I first is advised, but not required, to take this class.) It focuses more intensely on film history, from its origins to today. Students will also study the different departments involved in creating a movie and their terminology (cinematography, editing, etc.). Students will analyze how a director and the various departments' choices affect a movie's overall vision. They will also study particular film genres, such as animation or comedy. Work in this class will include regular worksheets and tests, research on the behind-the-scenes processes of different movies, and several projects where students will make their own films.

History of American Musical

1/2 credit

Open to:

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite:

None

Description:

This class will explore the history behind the American Musical through the critical examination of musicals as movies. Its goal is to analyze the American musical in its entirety along with people and departments integral to the success of the genre. It will include an exploration of why directors included and excluded certain parts of the musical and how actors brought their roles to life. Students will delve into the genre and explore terminology and musical genres. Students will complete projects, research papers, and daily work.

Mythology

1/2 credit

Open to:

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite:

None

Description:

This course is a study of the various mythologies found throughout the world (with special focus on Greco/Roman, Norse, and Arthurian mythology). It focuses on how mythologies reflect the belief systems of the cultures that create them, as well as how often they seek to explain the natural world. This class is reading heavy, with students required to read many different myths and stories. Activities in this class will include analyzing and discussing various myths and stories, researching time periods and cultures, as well as various writing assignments, creative activities, and presentation projects.

News Media

1 credit

Open To:

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite:

None

Description:

This class is designed to offer students "real world" experience, both in modern media/news and in a classroom atmosphere that is much like working in the real world. The student will have the opportunity to learn about all facets of news, but will have the option to focus on print news (monthly Trojan Tribune newspaper) or broadcast (TV and podcasts). The class focuses on the application of written and oral communication skills through a variety of projects. The course is performance-based and emphasizes effective interpersonal and team-building skills. Students will have some choices in selecting special projects of interest to them. **Class size limited at 20.**

Yearbook Journalism I, II, III

1 credit

Open To: Grades 10-12
Prerequisite: An 'A' or 'B' average in English class and computer class
Description: Students in this course will be the production staff for the yearbook. Students will learn mechanical details and use of equipment necessary for publication of a computer-generated yearbook. They will study basic layout, interviewing, feature writing, and photography. Leadership, teamwork, being able to work independently and meeting deadlines in an atmosphere simulating the real world are emphasized. Students must also be willing to commit time after school or after the school year to complete the yearbook. **Class size limited to 15.**

FINE ARTS - Art

Art I

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: This course enables students to explore several art forms (e.g., drawing, painting, design, and printmaking) and to create individual works of art. These initial courses emphasize observations, interpretation of the visual environment, visual communication, imagination, and symbolism. This course covers the language, materials, media, and processes of a particular art form and the design elements used. This course also includes the study of major artists, art movements, and styles.

Art II

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: Art I
Description: This course enables students to explore several art forms (e.g., drawing, painting, two- and three-dimensional design, printmaking, and sculpture) and to create individual works of art. This more advanced course encourages students to refine their skills while also developing their own artistic styles following and breaking from traditional conventions. This course covers the language, materials, media, and processes of a particular art form and the design elements used. This course also includes the study of major artists, art movements, and styles.

Art Portfolio

1/2 credit

Open to: Grades 10-12
Prerequisite: Art I and Art II; teacher approval
Description: Art Portfolio is designed to address a variety of factors and methods including evolving technologies when preparing and refining artwork for portfolio presentation and or when deciding if and how to preserve and protect art. Students will create, select, respond to, and present work that clearly reflects newly obtained technical skills, increasing conceptual thinking and is a reflection of their personal interests. This course includes individual critiques and peer review.

Photography

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: Photography courses provide students with an understanding of photographic media, techniques, and processes. This course focuses on development of photographic compositions. Students may learn to make meaningful visual statements with an emphasis on personal creative expression to communicate ideas, feelings, or values. Photography includes the history of photography, historic movements, image manipulation, critical analysis, and some creative special effects. Students engage in critiques of their photographic images, the works of other students, and those by professional photographers for the purpose of reflecting on and refining work.

Sculpture

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: Art 1
Description: This course promotes creative expression through three-dimensional works. Sculpture class will explore representational and abstract sculpture through subtractive (carving), additive (modeling), and assemblage techniques in one or more media. This course includes the production of representational and abstract sculptures while incorporating elements of art and principles of design, along with a study of historical and contemporary sculpture and sculptors from a worldwide perspective. Sculpture class provides instruction in the process of responding to art through analysis, critique, and interpretation for the purpose of reflecting on and refining work.

FINE ARTS - Music

Band/Instrumental Music

1 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: The high school instrumental ensemble is the core of the instructional program in instrumental music for students at WCHS. The ensemble provides students with opportunities for creativity, self-expression, and aesthetic awareness through active participation, rehearsal and performance in a variety of settings. (Included among these are Concert Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Pep Band, contests, concerts, drumline and All-State events). Through the study of quality literature, students develop technical skill and musical knowledge increase musical awareness and understanding, explore historical and cultural perspectives, and acquire application techniques to transfer to other musical situations. Emphasis is placed upon music for lifelong enjoyment, both through active and passive participation. The band performs at many different events throughout the year.

High School Chorus

1 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: All students wishing to be in High School Chorus need to sing for vocal director for placement of voices. This process will take place in may for students in 8th - 11th grade. Students new to the district will audition in the Fall. The vocalization will be comprised of, but not limited to, vocal range and singing a familiar melody. Course content will cover repertoire that is easy or medium difficulty in the genre areas of sacred, secular, 20th century, classical, romantic, multicultural, foreign language, popular, etc. The elements of music,

terminology and music theory skills will be taught and reinforced through the process of learning the selected repertoire. Chorus members will present their abilities in several performances, not limited to the winter concert, the spring concert, the pops concert and large group contest. Grading will be based on participation, assignments, and attendance at performances.

Music Appreciation

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is a one semester course that focuses specifically on the students' appreciation of music. This class will help students explore the world of music and to develop an understanding of the importance of music in their lives. This course does not require students to perform at concerts. ****Hybrid class**

Piano

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: Piano courses provide students an introduction to, and refine the fundamentals of, music and keyboard including literature and techniques such as scales, chords, and melodic lines and may offer instruction in more advanced techniques. Formal and informal performances are typically included as well as experiences in creating and responding to music. This class is for the beginner (having little to no experience) - to the advanced player, and anywhere in between. This class will be limited to 12 students.

Rock and Roll History Music Appreciation

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is a one semester course that focuses specifically on developing an appreciation for Music History, concentrating specifically on the history of Rock and Roll in the USA and Europe starting in the early 1900s through music made today. This class will help students explore the world of music and to develop an understanding of the importance of music in their lives. This course does not require students to perform at concerts. This is a hybrid class and outside classwork is expected to complete the course. ****Hybrid class**

Small Ensemble

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Enrolled in Band/Instrumental Music

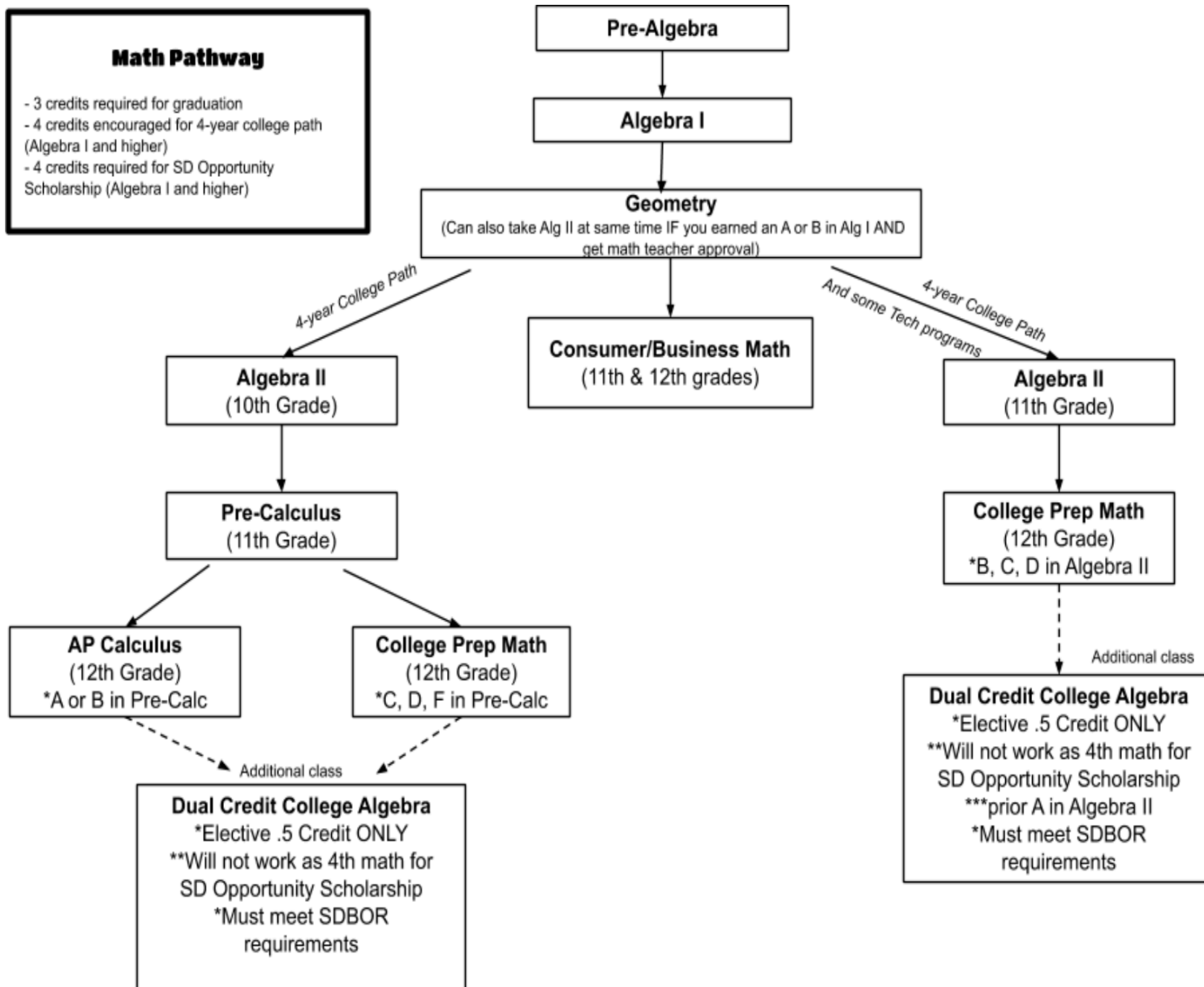
Description: Students will have a role in developing a personalized curriculum for the semester. Students can learn a secondary instrument and/or continue to develop musically on their primary instrument. Students also have the ability to work towards honor ensembles such as All-State Band, All-State Jazz Band, Solo/Ensemble Contest, collegiate honor bands, and/or collegiate scholarship auditions. Emphasis is placed upon music for lifelong enjoyment, both through active and passive participation. The ensembles will perform at a couple different events throughout the 2nd semester.

| |
|----------------------------|
| FINE ARTS - Theater |
|----------------------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------|
| <u><i>Drama I</i></u> | | 1/2 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 9-12 | |
| Prerequisite: | None | |
| Description: | Drama I is an introductory class that is designed to expose students to all areas of theater. Students will learn terminology, the basics of stage design, and present various individual and group performances - exploring both the technical and performance areas of theater. The largest hands-on project of this course is to design a set piece of character costume for the spring musical, then actually construct the design and have it put onstage! The culminating performance piece of this course is a ten minute presentation, in which students exhibit a variety of skills fostered through the Drama I semester. Students all leave Drama I with the necessary knowledge of stage terminology and theater vocabulary necessary to take Drama II. Attendance is extremely important in this class, as nearly all assessments are performance-based. This class will be limited to 20 students. | |

| |
|-------------------------|
| FOREIGN LANGUAGE |
|-------------------------|

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------|
| <u><i>Spanish I</i></u> | | 1 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 9-12 | |
| Prerequisite: | Must have 'C' average or better in previous year's English class | |
| Description: | Spanish I is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. This is a study of basic Spanish through the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The students are introduced to the language in such a way that they learn the grammar as well as how to communicate orally in the language. A good working knowledge of English grammar is an advantage to an student taking this course. | |
| <u><i>Spanish II</i></u> | | 1 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 10-12 | |
| Prerequisite: | Spanish I | |
| Description: | This course begins where Spanish I left off. It further studies the development of the four language skills of listening, conversational speaking, reading and writing. Students advance their skills in the language to narrating about their lives in the past tense. Their vocabulary grows as well as their ability to function in the language. | |
| <u><i>Spanish III</i></u> | | 1 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 11-12 | |
| Prerequisite: | Spanish I and Spanish II | |
| Description: | This course is a basic grammar review of Spanish I and II with an emphasis on compound tenses and the subjunctive mood. Vocabulary is expanded. Literature is introduced and students learn to converse on a variety of topics. | |



| |
|--------------------|
| MATHEMATICS |
|--------------------|

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------|
| <u>Algebra I</u> | | 1 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 9-12 | |
| Prerequisite: | None | |
| Description: | Algebra I is the basis of all upper level math courses. Students will apply the operations of arithmetic to variables instead of specific numbers. This course involves order of operations, evaluating expressions, and adding like terms. Students will learn how to solve, factor, and graph equations, and use the quadratic equation. The four basic operations and other knowledge gained will be applied to whole numbers, fractions, decimals, integers, monomials, binomials, polynomials, and radicals. The students will be working with rational and irrational numbers. Algebra is required of all students in order to graduate. | |
| | | |
| <u>Algebra II</u> | | 1 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 10-12 | |
| Prerequisite: | Algebra I and Geometry | |
| Description: | Topics covered include linear, quadratic, cubic and rational functions. Students will use both algebraic and graphical methods to solve a variety of problems. <i>Students who wish to take Algebra II and Geometry concurrently must have math department approval to do so.</i> | |
| | | |
| <u>AP Calculus</u> | | 1 credit |
| Open To: | Grade 12 | |
| Prerequisite: | Need a 'C' or higher Pre-Calculus | |
| Description: | Topics covered are functions, limits, derivatives, and integrals. Students will be prepared to take the AP Calculus Exam at the end of the year. | |
| | | |
| <u>College Prep Math</u> | | 1 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 12 | |
| Prerequisite: | Need a 'C' or higher in Algebra II | |
| Description: | College Mathematics Preparations courses solidify quantitative literacy through the use and extension of algebraic, geometric, and statistical concepts. These courses prepare students for postsecondary liberal studies mathematics coursework; this course is NOT intended to serve as remedial mathematics courses. Course content typically includes algebraic operations, solutions of equations and inequalities, number sets, coordinate geometry, functions and graphs, probability and statistics, and data representation. **Hybrid class | |
| | | |
| <u>Business Math</u> | | 1/2 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 11-12 | |
| Prerequisite: | None | |
| Description: | Students in all types of vocational programs will benefit from learning the math operations presented, but the course is primarily focused on those entering business related fields. The student will review such essentials as decimals, fractions, equivalents, percents, and weights and measures. We will apply these basics to such practical problems as checking accounts, interest computation, discounts, sales, payroll, time payment plans and commercial loans. This class is intended for students NOT planning to enroll in a 4-year college. This class is only offered every other year. | |

Consumer Math

1/2 credit

OFFERED 2025-2026

Open To: Grades 11-12
Prerequisite: None
Description: This course will cover practical math techniques used in commerce and everyday life. The purpose of this class is to simulate a real life environment from purchases, loans, taxes, debt, credit, cars, insurance and other day to day activities. **This class is intended for students NOT planning to enroll in a 4-year college. This class is only offered every other year.**

Geometry

1 credit

Open To: Grades 10-12
Prerequisite: Algebra I
Description: This course encourages students to apply the algebra learned in Algebra I. It is a course that teaches the student to think in step-by-step logical order. Students will be working with lines, angles, triangles, and other geometric figures. They will also start to develop reasoning skills that are based on facts and proof and not on assumptions or appearance.

Pre-Algebra

1 credit

Open To: Grade 9-12
Prerequisite: Teacher/Administration Approval
Description: This course reinforces arithmetic skills, developing the necessary Algebra concepts of variables, real numbers, formulas and single variable equations. Students will be introduced to algebraic expressions, simplifying expressions, solutions to equations, and graphing. These concepts will lay the groundwork for Algebra I.

Pre-Calculus

1 credit

Open To: Grades 11
Prerequisite: Algebra II & Geometry
Description: Topics include the study of functions (linear, quadratic, cubic, power, exponential, logarithmic, logistic), trigonometry, sequences, probability and statistics.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Fitness

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 10-12
Prerequisite: PE
Description: This class offers students who have already completed PE a chance to expand their understanding of health and fitness. Students will be responsible for developing and monitoring their own fitness program. Students will also track their diet and nutrition. **Students may only take this class and/or Team Sports for a total of 1 credit.**

Physical Education

1/2 credit

Open To: Grade 9
Prerequisite: None
Description: The purpose of this course is to help the student improve his/her fitness level. Students will spend part of each block participating in cardio activities, strength exercises and team sports. **PE is a requirement for graduation.**

Team Sports

1/2 credit

Open To: Grade 10-12
Prerequisite: PE
Description: Team Sports provide students with knowledge, experience, and an opportunity to develop skills by participating in more than one team sport. Examples, but not limited to: volleyball, basketball, soccer, etc. **Students may only take this class and/or Fitness for a total of 1 credit.**

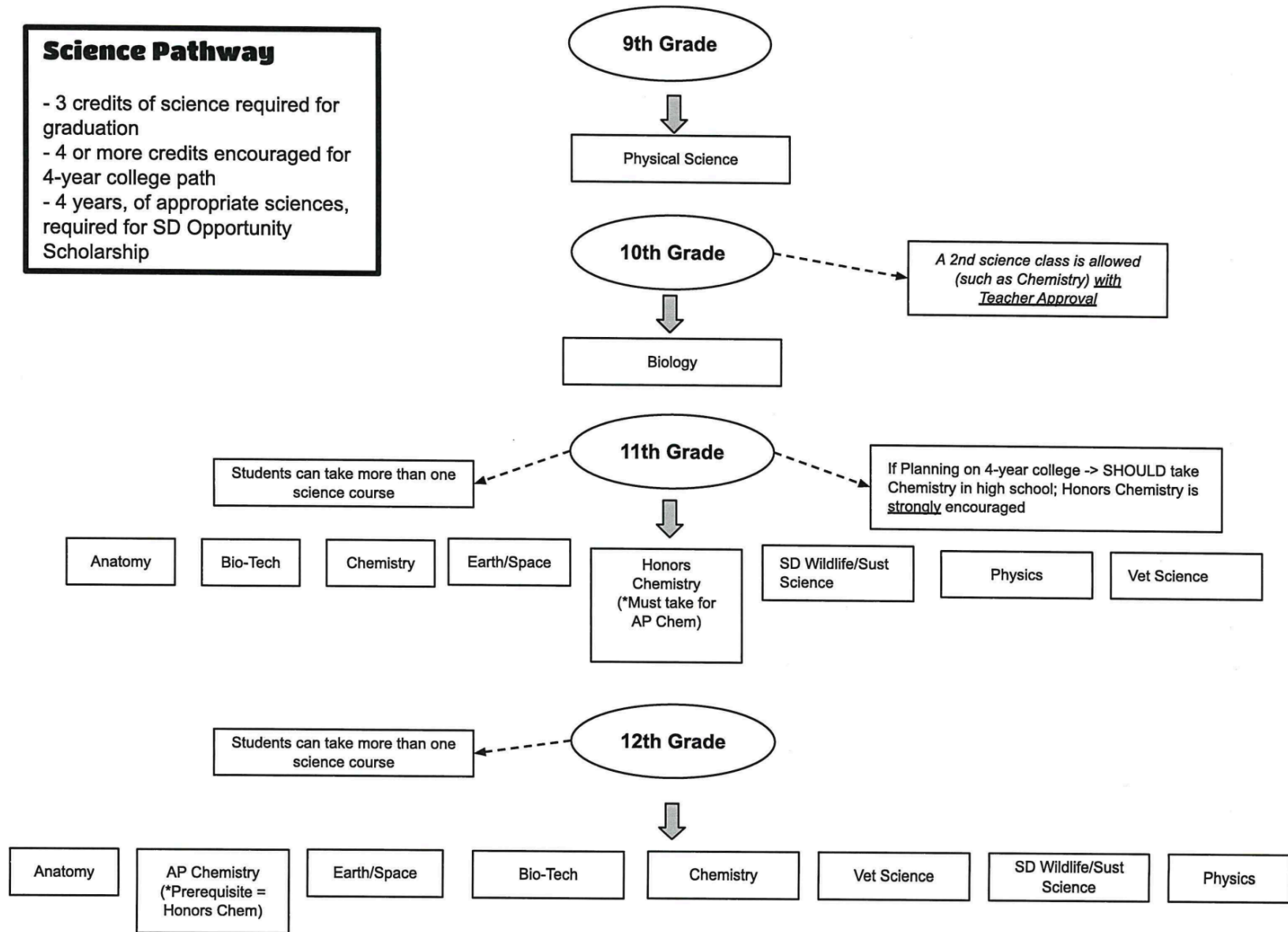
Weightlifting

1/2 credit

Open To: Grade 9 -12
Prerequisite: PE
Description: The emphasis in this course is on muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, and safety. The core lifts in this course include squat, hang clean, deadlift and bench press. Weight room safety, warm-up/cool down procedures, lifting technique and safety for all lifts and individual goal setting are all important components in this course.

Science Pathway

- 3 credits of science required for graduation
- 4 or more credits encouraged for 4-year college path
- 4 years, of appropriate sciences, required for SD Opportunity Scholarship



| |
|----------------|
| SCIENCE |
|----------------|

Anatomy/Physiology

1 credit

Open To: Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course studies the structure and function of the human body and it's comprising parts. The ten body systems are studied in detail and some diseases and conditions of each are discussed. The final project of this course is the pig dissection, which acts as a review of all systems studied throughout the year. This course is recommended for students interested in health careers and laboratory sciences.

AP Chemistry

1 credit

Open To: Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra II and Honors Chemistry

Description: AP Chemistry is an advanced chemistry course that will prepare students to take the AP Chemistry exam in the spring. This class is intended to prepare students for college chemistry. Students who have not had Chemistry before may be allowed to take this class with teacher permission. This class is strongly recommended for students interested in careers in engineering, pharmacy, and advanced health sciences. *You will be expected to complete summer work.*

Biology

1 credit

Open To: Grade 10

Prerequisite: None

Description: Biology comes from the Greek language and means the study of life. Students will study life forms from algae to the multicellular animals. Content includes basic cell biology, genetics, ecology, microbiology, anatomy, and physiology. Students participate in a variety of hands on activities including, but not limited to, modeling concepts, online interactive labs, slide preparation and microscope use, observation of living organisms, and dissections.

Biotechnology

1 credit

Open To: Grade 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: A comprehensive study of DNA, genetic engineering, microorganisms, cloning, reproductive biotech, transformation and other concepts and techniques used in producing and altering biological processes and products. Students will also learn about careers in biotechnology and be involved in the National FFA Organization and SAE.

Chemistry

1 credit

Open To: Grade 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed for students who are planning a post-secondary education. It is a general chemistry course that will cover many principles of the subject though lecture, mathematical problem solving, and lab activities. This course is strongly encouraged for students considering any health or engineering related careers.

Earth and Space Science

1 credit

Open To: Grade 11 & 12

Prerequisite: None

Description: Earth and space Science is a science course covering two semesters focusing on the study of space, geologic structures and forces, the waters on our planet, and the atmospheric forces that shape our world. During the first semester of study, students will explore the Earth's spheres including the geosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, atmosphere, and the cycles of the Earth such as the water and carbon cycle. Through various classroom activities students will gain a basic understanding of weather terminology and demonstrate their knowledge of weather systems, climate change, and the effects of weather conditions.

During the second semester, students will focus on space science, emphasizing a basic understanding of the principles of physical science and how they relate to the universe as a whole. Topics will focus on solar systems, constellations, moon phases, the evolution of stars, and space exploration. Special focus will be given to new discoveries and current space technology. Students will demonstrate their understanding of topics using observational and critical thinking skills.

Upon completion of the course, students will be sensitized to various moral and environmental issues being brought to the fore by research of the universe.

Students may take one or both semesters. If a student is planning to attend a 4-year college, this should NOT replace Chemistry or Physics as their third science.

Honors Chemistry

1 credit

Open To: Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Must have a 'B' average in the previous year's high school math AND science courses

Description: This course is an upper level science elective for students looking to go to college and pursue a degree in science, engineering or a medical field. Students interested in taking AP Chemistry should strongly consider Honors Chemistry. Topics covered will include: Atomic theory, the mole, chemical nomenclature, stoichiometry, chemical bonding, solutions, gas laws, solid/phase diagrams/ intermolecular forces, redox reactions, nuclear chemistry, acids and bases. This course has a lab component and student can expect to spend one to two days a week in the lab.

Physical Science

1 credit

Open To: Grade 9

Prerequisite: None

Description: Physical Science is divided into two parts at West Central. The first semester is spent introducing the students to basic chemistry and the second semester to basic physics. Course work is evenly divided between the written text, problem solving, and lab work. Physical Science is required of all students in order to graduate.

Physics

1 credit

Open To: Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Geometry required; Algebra II is highly recommended before taking Physics; There may be some instances where Trigonometry is used to solve problems

Description: Physics is the study of the relationship between matter and energy and will cover such topics as forces, motion, heat, light, waves, electricity, magnetism and nuclear physics. This is a basic, non-calculus based physics and is recommended for students considering any science based career.

Sustainable Science

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 10-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: This Environmental Science course will be lab and project based. Students will examine the relationship between organisms and their environment. An emphasis will be placed on understanding connections within earth systems and between earth systems. Students will investigate the impact of humans on earth systems and their role in developing sustainable practices. Important science topics that will be analyzed include pollution, carbon cycle, water, energy, etc. **If a student is planning to attend a 4-year college, this should NOT replace Chemistry or Physics as their third science.**

South Dakota Wildlife

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 10-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: This Zoology science course will be lab and project based. Students will gain an understanding of South Dakota animals, their role in their environment or habitat, their life cycles, their economic value, and their relationships with other organisms. Comparative anatomy, basic life processes, and the chemistry of living things will also be integrated. Students will investigate factors that impact animal populations and conservation practices that can preserve populations of SD wildlife for future generations. **If a student is planning to attend a 4-year college, this should NOT replace Chemistry or Physics as their third science.**

Vet Science and Companion Animal Care

1 credit

Open to: Grade 11-12

Prerequisite: Biology and Animal Science

Description: This course will develop students' understanding of veterinary science and the small and companion animal industry. Topics of study will include: animal anatomy and physiology, animal nutrition, animal reproduction, diseases, parasitology, poisoning and toxicology, animal ethics and welfare issues, animal health, small, large and exotic animal medicine, veterinary medicine, veterinary office practices, and animal services to humans. Career exploration will focus on veterinarian, veterinary lab technicians, office lab assistant, small animal production, research lab assistant, and animal nutrition lab technician. Students will also become involved with the National FFA Organization and SAE. All students will complete an AgriScience Project, **If a student is planning to attend a 4-year college, this should NOT replace Chemistry or Physics as their third science.**

| |
|--------------------------------|
| SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIRED |
|--------------------------------|

American Government 1/2 credit

Open To: Grade 12
Prerequisite: None
Description: This course is a required course for graduation. The course will focus on the study of the United States government and Constitution. As part of this curriculum, students will participate in a mock congressional hearing. Throughout the semester, students will be expected to stay informed on current events that apply to government.

Civics 1/2 credit

Open To: Grade 9
Prerequisite: None
Description: Civics is a one semester, required, course during which students will learn the basic content and skills needed to be a productive citizen in a constitutional democracy. Students will also be expected to stay informed on current events. This course will serve as a foundation for senior Government.

US History 1 credit

Open To: Grade 11
Prerequisite: None
Description: Us History is intended as a survey course. We will study the familiar political, military, economic, and constitutional history. We will also integrate women's African American, Asian American, Native American, and Latino American history with the history of popular culture, geography, literature, and the arts. We will work chronologically to the end of the 20th century concentrating on major themes and incorporating many group, computer, library, and individual projects with novels and primary sources.

World Geography 1/2 credit

Open To: Grade 9
Prerequisite: None
Description: World Geography is a one semester graduation requirement. The study of geography will deal with the study of the earth's natural features (mountains, rivers, soils, and vegetation), climate and how they vary. Students will learn how to read maps and charts plus locate countries, explore cultures, and identify economic products that are important to our survival. These goals will be accomplished by using the five themes of geography.

World History 1 credit

Open To: Grade 10
Prerequisite: None
Description: One semester of World History is required for graduation. Students frequently take both semesters to also meet an elective requirement. World History I, which is offered first semester will cover mankind's journey from ancient and early civilizations through the Renaissance up to the Age of Revolution. World History II, offered second semester, will start with the Industrial Revolution, covering significant people and events through Sept 11, 2001 with an emphasis on the global conflicts of the 20th Century.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------|
| <u><i>AP Economics</i></u> | | 1/2 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 11-12 | |
| Prerequisite: | None | |
| Description: | This course is offered during the second semester. It will be a one semester course that will focus on the study of Microeconomics. The main areas of concentration will include basic economic concepts; the nature and function of the product market and factor market; types of market structures; and the role of government. It is also expected students be able to think critically about material from class and apply it to issues in current events. At the completion of the course, students may choose to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Microeconomics. | |
| | | |
| <u><i>AP World History</i></u> | | 1 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 10-12 | |
| Prerequisite: | None | |
| Description: | In AP World History: Modern, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation. At the completion of the course, students may choose to take the Advanced Placement Exam in World History: Modern | |
| | | |
| <u><i>Contemporary US Issues</i></u> | | 1/2 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 11-12 | |
| Prerequisite: | None | |
| Description: | Students will study the political, economic, and social issues facing the United States that span from the VietNam War through present day events. <i>This class is offered every other year.</i> | |
| | | |
| <u><i>International Studies</i></u> | | 1/2 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 11-12 | |
| Prerequisite: | None | |
| Description: | This course will focus on a achieving a contemporary and historical understanding of major political, economic, social, and cultural issues that dominate the complex international relations of the world in which we live. <i>This course is offered every other year.</i> | |
| | | |
| <u><i>Native American Studies</i></u> | | 1/2 credit |
| Open To: | Grades 10-12 | |
| Prerequisite: | None | |
| Description: | This course is designed to allow students to learn about the history and culture of the indigenous peoples of the Americas. The class will begin with a post-Columbian overview of indigenous populations across the American continents. The class will gradually focus on the indigenous populations from | |

United States history. Second quarter emphasis will be placed upon learning and applying the *Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings*.

Psychology

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: Psychology is the scientific study of the behavior of living things. Behavior includes physical characteristics, cognitive activity, emotional states, and social and environmental factors. The course is built around lab activities that reinforce and teach key concepts.

Sociology

1/2 credit

OFFERED 2025-2026

Open To: Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: Sociology is the scientific study of society. Sociology is about people - how they act, react and interact in their everyday lives and under extraordinary circumstances. It is about thoughts, feelings and ideas. Sociology is also about the social contexts - groups, neighborhoods, cities and whole societies. Conformity and deviance, religion and education, growing up, discrimination, poverty, crime and problems of mass society will be topics discussed and explored in this course. *This class is offered every other year.*

OTHER ELECTIVES

Test Prep

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: This class focuses on basic test-taking skills and strategies to help students perform better on standardized, as well as, instructor-made tests. Particular focus is on the ACT test, which students take for college entrance and scholarship qualification. Other tests such as the ASVAB, placement tests for vocational schools and Common Core testing are also focused on. Students will be required to take the nation-wide ACT test on test day.

Career Connections

1/2 - 1 credit

Open To: Grade 11 or 12

Prerequisite: None

Description: This class gives students an opportunity to dive deeper into their career search and make connections to help get a better and clearer path for their post-graduation plans. This is a great opportunity for those students who want to dive deeper into the career search, who are still questioning what options they even have, and/or are needing extra support to help them through the questions and steps for their post-secondary plans.

There are 3 types of experiences a student may complete within this class:

- #1 Short-term Internships (short-term experience in multiple workplaces)
- #2 Long-term internships (2nd semester seniors only; may last the full semester)
- #3 Trades Apprenticeships (i.e. Electrician; may last 2 semesters)

Additionally, students will meet and listen to numerous businesses and organizations sharing all the different levels and possibilities of employment within their industry. This class will provide students with an opportunity to learn more about different career fields, gain valuable hands-on experience, and network with professionals in several career fields of interest.

Life Management: Skills for Success at WC and Beyond

1/2 credit

Open To: Grades 9 -12

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed to provide high school students essential skills and insights to navigate adolescence and prepare for a successful future. You will learn a range of life skills using different models, discussions and discovery projects that empower you for the challenges and successes you face in life.

Some of the topics include: Stress Management, Conflict Resolution, Time Management, Positive Leadership, Responsibility in Action, Cultivating the Classroom Environment, and Pathways for Future Education and Professions.

Student Aide

1/4 credit

Open To: Grade 12

Prerequisite: None

Description: The overall goal of the student aide class is to give students experience in working with people. Because of the nature of the work expected, only students with good attendance records and good school attitudes will be considered for the class. Students will coordinate schedules and work expectations with their assigned staff members. Students will be graded on punctuality, organizational skills, and quality of work. The class may be taken for service learning hours instead of the 1/4 credit. Each teacher is limited to one Student Aide per semester. *An application with teacher signature is required for those interested.*

Teacher Aide

1/4 credit

Open To: Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Description: A more advanced position in the classroom, the Teacher Aide will be actively helping the teacher with the teaching and reinforcing of lessons. Students must be approved by the teacher. ***The only classrooms that require a TA include: math, Spanish, Band, Interactive Media, AP Economics and physical science.***

*****A student cannot have both a TA and SA in the same semester*****