

NEW PALTZ HIGH SCHOOL

Course Descriptions

2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR



New Paltz

**NEW PALTZ
HIGH SCHOOL**

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Kathleen Clark
Coordinator of Special Education, Grades 6-12

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GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Kathryn Flanagan
School Counselor

Jessica Peterson
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Stephanie Shoemaker
Director of Guidance

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Mary Kay Fiore
School Psychologist

Lisa Watkins
School Social Worker

INTRODUCTION

The New Paltz Central High School Course Descriptions Handbook has been designed to assist students and parents in the development of a sequential high school program. In the initial section, policies relevant to graduation requirements are provided for your information. The second section provides brief course descriptions for all courses offered within the high school program.

While the brief course descriptions provide insight into the nature of each course, you are encouraged to talk with teachers and/or your guidance counselor for more detailed information. In the initial stages of scheduling, all courses are open to students unless otherwise noted. However, depending on enrollment, courses may not be offered every year.

Your guidance counselor is the best source of help for comprehensive program planning. You are encouraged to read this booklet carefully, to review your options, and to schedule an appointment with your counselor. Keep in mind that it takes time to develop the best course of action for your future. Please make the time and plan accordingly.

Barbara P. Clinton

High School Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Guidance at New Paltz High School is a continuing process that includes educational, career, and personal counseling. Using such information as standardized tests and grades and coordinating the efforts of teachers, school specialists, and parents, the guidance staff assists students to gain insight into themselves and to recognize and develop their true potential.

A guidance counselor is assigned to the student alphabetically. Usually, the guidance counselor works with the student for the four years he/she is in high school.

The guidance program has the following goals:

1. Assist students with the transition into the High School environment and help to resolve academic, social, and personal problems.
2. Advise students on educational and extra-curricular programs most suited to their interests, abilities, skills, and future career aspirations.
3. Help students to select post-secondary employment or educational opportunities appropriate for their career goals.
4. Help students to develop interpersonal skills.
5. Provide parents and teachers with information related to students' educational process and career goals in the 21st century.

PLANNING A PROGRAM

As your program develops, it should result in an enjoyable, successful, and profitable high school career. The degree of success determines your readiness for employment or higher education. The following guidelines will help you in planning your high school program.

1. Establish personal goals and objectives, keeping in mind that they may change.
2. Evaluate your personal interests, aptitude, and needs.
3. Learn career and college entrance requirements as soon as possible.
4. Consult with your parents, teachers, and counselor to benefit from their information and experience.
5. Select courses which will help you to meet the requirements for a diploma and contribute to achieving your goals.

NUMBER OF COURSES TAKEN EACH YEAR

The block schedule of 82-minute periods allows full-year courses to meet every other day for the year and half-year courses to meet every other day for a semester. The maximum number of courses for which a student may schedule in any semester is eight (8), in four (4) blocks. Lunch is in addition to the four blocks.

All students are required to have a full program of required courses and electives each semester. Part-time students in Grade 12 may be scheduled for late arrival or early dismissal.

CREDITS AND TRANSCRIPTS

The Guidance Department serves as the Registrar for the School. Student permanent records are maintained and official transcripts are issued through the Guidance Office. Transcripts to colleges or future employers may be requested through the Guidance secretary.

DROPPING COURSES

Students should see their school counselor for procedures and time limits for dropping or adding a course. Given the block schedule, these factors will vary according to course and units of credit. Changes will be considered without penalty before the fifth week of school only. Courses may be added during the first two (2) weeks

of classes. A student must have written permission of a parent or guardian, his/her school counselor, and the high school principal to drop a course. In the event a student drops a course after 10 weeks into a semester or 20 weeks into a full-year course, a final grade of either the year-to-date average or 60, whichever is lower, will be recorded on the individual's permanent record.

SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF A PREVIOUSLY FAILED COURSE

1. Successfully complete Summer School.
2. Repeat course for one semester (or the equivalent), if not a sequential math course
 - (a) If a student fails both the course and the final exam, he/she must repeat at least one semester (or the equivalent) and take a full-year final exam.
 - (b) If a student fails the course but passes the Regents exam, he/she must repeat at least one semester (or the equivalent) but is not required to take the Regents exam again. The student may do so if he/she chooses.

COURSE SELECTION

Selecting the most appropriate subjects is extremely important. Regardless of whether one plans to attend college or work after graduation, the choice of subjects should be given careful consideration. Proper program planning cannot be stressed too strongly.

Students are encouraged to consult with their counselor, teachers, and parents to help select the most appropriate course of study. A balanced program including required and elective courses should be considered. Students are responsible for planning their schedules.

SCHEDULING PROCESS

The Course Description Booklet will be distributed to students upon request at their initial scheduling meetings with guidance counselors. Alternately, we encourage you to view this booklet on-line.

January - March

Initial Scheduling Meeting for Grades 9, 10, and 11

A completed course selection sheet must be signed by a parent and returned to Guidance.

A computer-generated list of course selections will be posted on the parent portal. If changes are necessary, please contact your child's counselor as soon as possible. See newsletter and/or report cards for specific deadlines.

Late June

If the student fails a course and does not register for summer school to compensate for it, any required subjects will be put back into the student's schedule.

Summer

Schedules will be posted online for all students.

August 28, 2013

9th Grade Orientation.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students who entered Grade 9 in 2007 and thereafter:

REGENTS DIPLOMA		REGENTS WITH ADVANCED DESIGNATION DIPLOMA
# credits	Subject	# credits
4	English	4
4	Social Studies	4
3	Mathematics	3
3	Science	3
1	Foreign Language	3 ^a
.5	Health	.5
1	Art/Music	1
2	Physical Education	2
3.5	Electives	1.5
22	TOTAL	22

^aStudents acquiring 5 units of credit in one of the following may be exempt from the Foreign Language requirement: Art, Music, or Career and Technical Education

MINIMUM TESTING REQUIREMENT

All of the following Regents exams must be passed

REGENTS DIPLOMA

- ❖ English Comprehensive Exam
- ❖ Integrated Algebra
- ❖ Regents Global History Exam
- ❖ Regents U.S. History & Government Exam
- ❖ Regents Science Exam

REGENTS WITH ADVANCED DESIGNATION DIPLOMA

- ❖ English Comprehensive Exam
- ❖ Integrated Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2/Trigonometry
- ❖ Regents Global History Exam
- ❖ Regents U.S. History & Government Exam
- ❖ 2 Regents Science Exams
- ❖ Foreign Language Exam (see Note ^a)

HONORS: A Regents diploma with Honors or Regents with Advanced Designation with Honors requires an average of 90 or better on all the Regents exams required for the diploma as indicated in the list above.

CLASS STANDING

10th grade – Students achieve sophomore status if they achieve at least **4** units of credit.

11th grade – Students achieve junior status if they earn **9** units of credit. At least one of these units must be in English and one in social studies.

12th grade – Students will achieve senior status if they can be scheduled for all subjects necessary for graduation.

Generally, the maximum number of units of credit a student may earn in one school year is eight (8).

RANK IN CLASS

The New Paltz Central School District utilizes a dual ranking system. Such a system provides for ranking of both students who are studying within their own grade levels and students who are termed "accelerated." The process will be provided for accelerated students to be ranked outside the ranking procedure used for regular four (4) year graduates. All student averages will be listed in numerical order from the highest scholastic average to the lowest scholastic average. Accelerated students will be ranked next to the identical scholastic average using the designation of "A" next to the accelerated student's name.

For purposes of ranking, Advanced Placement and college level courses will be weighted differently than Regents and school level courses. The weighting for GPA purposes will be as follows:

School/Regents Courses: 1.00

Advanced Placement/College Level Courses: 1.06

COURSE OFFERINGS BY DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM

Please note: Although all courses are listed, it is not always possible to offer every course every year

Art

ART APPRECIATION

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

In this course, students will examine major works of art, from the ancient world to present day and from a variety of cultures. It is designed to provide an overview and appreciation of the visual arts. This course is designed to develop skills in higher-level thinking, art-related technology, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. Activities will include research papers, class discussions, gallery visits, artist lectures, and historically-based art projects. A sketchbook is required.

CREATIVE CRAFTS

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

This course presents crafts for function and/or beautification. Design principles will be introduced through a variety of materials, including fiber, clay, wood, glass, leather, and metal. The crafts of other cultures and times will be examined. Lessons on various techniques will be applied in individual and group projects. Students will be encouraged to find subjects for original design of functional, aesthetic items.

A notebook is required (sketchbook optional). Grades will be determined by the student's choice of a functional problem to solve, its execution, and the quality of the product as evaluated by the student and the teacher.

STUDIO ART

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

Studio Art is a foundations course which features a hands-on introduction to a variety of fine art processes. Topics include drawing, painting, sculpture, 2-D design, art history, and printmaking. Emphasis will be placed on the use of the elements and principles of design. Students will be exposed to various art movements and cultures. Grades will be based on class projects, homework and sketchbook completion, and teacher evaluation. A sketchbook is required.

DRAWING AND PAINTING

10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

This is an advanced elective course designed to help students to develop their drawing and painting skills. Media to be explored include graphite pencil, pen-and-ink, acrylic paint, watercolor, oil pastel, and charcoal. Students will learn the language of art criticism and will explore different artistic movements throughout history. Grades will be determined by portfolio review. A sketchbook is required.

Prerequisite: Studio in Art or Creative Crafts or IED or DDP or Art Appreciation or permission of instructor.

ADVANCED DRAWING AND PAINTING

11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

Advanced Drawing and Painting is an elective studio arts course dedicated to continued skill-building, portfolio preparation and creative thinking. Subject matter will include still life, landscape, personal interpretation, and creative expression. Historical and cultural issues and field study will be addressed throughout the year. Students will continue to use the language of art criticism through classroom discussions and critique. Grades will be determined by portfolio review. A sketchbook is required.

Prerequisite: Drawing and Painting.

STUDIO IN PRINTMAKING

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

Printmaking is the creation of multiple copies of an image. Throughout this course students will be exposed to a variety of graphic processes, including mono-prints, stencils, linoleum and woodblock printing, etching, silkscreen and more. Historical and cultural issues and field study will be incorporated, as will research and oral presentations. The student's process and product will be evaluated by portfolio review. A sketchbook is required.

Prerequisite: Studio in Art or Creative Crafts or IED or DDP or Art Appreciation.

STUDIO IN SCULPTURE

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to work three-dimensionally. A wide range of media will include cardboard, foam core, wire, wood, plaster, and stone. Students will be encouraged to think outside the box, learning how to look at, create, and critique artwork which exists in three-dimensional space. Research and oral presentations will be required. Grades will be determined by student and teacher evaluation, using rubrics to assess technical and aesthetic success. A sketchbook is required.

Prerequisite: Studio in Art or Creative Crafts or IED or DDP or Art Appreciation.

STUDIO IN CERAMICS

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

A variety of ceramics processes will be presented, including the hand-building methods of coil, pinch, slab and throwing on the wheel. Creation of functional and sculptural forms will emphasize three-dimensional design. Various approaches to glazing and decorative surfaces will be explored, and firing methods will include primitive firing as well as electric kiln firing. Studies will include a view of ceramics throughout history and across cultures. Assessment will be critiqued using rubrics on choice of project, technical execution, and functional/aesthetic success.

Prerequisite: Studio in Art or Creative Crafts or DDP or Art Appreciation or permission of instructor.

ADVANCED CERAMICS

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

Areas of study will include advanced ceramic methods such as wood firing, Raku, wheel technique, ceramic sculpture, preparation of clay and glazes, and other topics driven by student interest. Historical and cultural issues and field study will be incorporated. A journal/sketchbook is required.

Prerequisite: Studio in Ceramics.

STUDIO IN PHOTOGRAPHY

11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

Advanced Art Elective – preference given to upperclassmen.

Fall Semester: Studio in Photography 1

This course provides an introduction to photography. Topics include: how to use a SLR camera, developing black and white film, contact prints, and darkroom enlargements. The assignments are related to camera mechanics as well as the use of available light and successful composition. In the second ten weeks students may opt to use digital cameras with manual control and advanced technique. The history of photography will be emphasized throughout – from the Camera Obscura and making pinhole cameras to digital imaging.

A portfolio of dry-mounted prints is produced and evaluated according to rubrics and critiques. The final assessment also includes student presentations on photographers and a written exam.

- A list of photography supplies for purchase will be provided.
- Use of your own (or borrowed) SLR/adjustable camera is strongly recommended for the duration of the class.

Spring Semester: Studio in Photography 2

This course of study will allow photography students to further skills acquired in the introductory semester. Students may explore: advanced/alternative printing and shooting techniques, studio lighting and portraiture, medium format and other film varieties, advanced use of digital viewfinder and SLR cameras. Students will pursue a photographic series on a subject of their choice – based on exploration, research and experience. Field trips to museums/galleries and guest lectures will be included. The final assessment will consist of a portfolio exhibit/critique and student presentations/demonstrations.

- A list of photography supplies for purchase will be provided.
- Use of your own (or borrowed) SLR/adjustable camera is strongly recommended for the duration of the class.

Prerequisite: Studio in Art or Creative Crafts or DDP or Art Appreciation or permission of instructor.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) STUDIO ART

11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

The AP Studio Art program enables highly motivated students to perform at the college level while still in high school. The College Board offers three (3) AP portfolio exams: 2D Design, 3D Design, and Drawing. The AP portfolio should be viewed as the culminating experience in a student's secondary visual arts training.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor (interview and portfolio review).

STUDIO IN COMPUTER ART

(This course is also listed within the Technology Department's offerings.)

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This is a half-year course where students continue to explore the world of digital fine art and build on their existing skills in art and design. Students complete assignments relating to digital fine art and new media explorations, including creative scanning, digital photography and imaging, vector art and more. Students will be encouraged to develop portfolio-quality artwork. Components of art techniques and art history will be incorporated into lessons.

Prerequisite: Drawing & Painting or Computer Graphics or Studio in Photography or Studio in Printmaking or permission of instructor.

FASHION AND ILLUSTRATION

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course is designed to build students' fashion drawing and illustration skills using various rendering media. Designs will be illustrated through drawing, painting, and mixed media. Fashion illustrations will be viewed as more than a representation or design of a garment, but also as a form of art. Emphasis will be placed on figure drawing and proportion. Students will learn how to find inspiration and develop their own ideas. Textile design and fashion photography will be incorporated. Topics may include: color schemes, fashion figure proportions, techniques and materials, and garment shading for form. Other illustration styles and genres will be explored.

Prerequisite: Studio in Art or Creative Crafts or DDP or Art Appreciation.

Business

INTRODUCTION TO MARKETING

(With emphasis on social media marketing)

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

Do you have an entrepreneurial spirit? Have you ever thought of a really great idea for a new product or invention but didn't know how to turn your idea into dollars? Introduction to Marketing may be just the course for you. This course teaches students how businesspeople create demand for products and services. Students will learn traditional and new social media strategies to advertise, promote and price marketable products.

ACCOUNTING

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

Accounting is often referred to as the language of business. This half-year course is designed to introduce students to keeping business and financial records. Students are taught how to analyze a business's transactions and create financial statements. The course culminates in a project based on the accounting cycle whereby each student creates a real estate company and is responsible for producing financial statements based on monopoly transactions. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to keep a simple set of books.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

Are you an entrepreneur? Do you have what it takes to start and run a small business? In today's economy entrepreneurship is a viable and growing career choice. This class is designed to provide students with an opportunity to recognize and develop their entrepreneurial attitudes, skills and values. The course covers all aspects of business startup from ideas to legal issues. Topics include: conceiving, creating, managing, marketing, financing, and protecting a business. The course culminates with the student developing a hypothetical business plan.

Pending approval.

PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

In today's world having control over your finances is more important than ever. In Personal Financial Management each student is given a virtual job, manages a checkbook, makes a budget, pays monthly rent and other bills, and explores all the costs of life after school. Students will learn the importance of saving for the future, maintaining good credit, and general day-to-day money management skills. Students also learn about investing and create a mock stock portfolio. This course provides students with the opportunity to explore many facets of financial decision-making involved in daily life. As they cover the various units of study in this course, students learn key strategies for planning a future that is financially secure.

THE BUSINESS OF MUSIC

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course gives students the opportunity to learn business skills while exploring the many facets of the music industry. Topics include careers in the music industry, current trends, legal aspects, economic aspects, and marketing in the music industry.

SPORTS MANAGEMENT

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course is designed to provide students with solid information on how to be successful in the sports industry. It presents a general overview of the industry and covers the fundamental knowledge and skill sets of the sports manager. It also provides information to highlight potential employment and career choices. The course includes information on the foundations and principles on which sport management operates and lays the groundwork for successful careers in this field.

While this course focuses on the sports industry, the functional areas of management (planning, organizing, leading, and evaluating) and key skill sets (people skills, oral and written communication skills, and diversity management) are applicable to any industry requiring sound management.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

International Business is a course designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop skills needed to live and work in a global marketplace. The student will acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills for entry-level international business occupations. The course includes political, legal, financial, economic, ethical, and social/cultural considerations.

English

SENIOR WORKSHOP: PRACTICAL WRITING AND INFORMATION LITERACY

12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This is a required course for seniors, designed to refine their formal writing and thinking skills in preparation for the 21st century. Emphasis will be on argumentation, research, and information literacy skills. This course incorporates library and computer lab as part of the class work.

ENGLISH 12/SOCIAL STUDIES 12

1 year

2 credits

This interdisciplinary course will satisfy the requirements for 12th grade English and Social Studies courses, integrating curriculum from Participation in Government, Economics, and English 12. It is designed to develop civic responsibility as students learn to apply academic knowledge to local and national issues. During the course, students will complete a service learning project within our community. As a culminating project, students will share their experiences through presentations to the community.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Social Studies 9-11 and English 9-11, as well as the Global History and Geography Regents Exam, U.S. History Regents Exam, and the English Regents Exam.

ART OF FILM

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This elective course is an exploration of American and foreign film as an art form with an emphasis on its history, development, themes, and genres established in the 20th century. The impact of the cinema and its relationship to our culture is also examined. Study units include Comedy, Science Fiction, Drama, Discovery, and Action/Adventure.

JOURNALISM 1

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This elective course is a comprehensive study and participation seminar. It provides a broad overview of print, broadcast, and online media. Exploratory issues include: the responsibilities of journalists, media bias, and evaluating diverse forms of communication. Students will write all types of articles found in a newspaper and participate actively in NPZ TV.

JOURNALISM 2

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

Students who have successfully completed Journalism 1 can sign up for Journalism 2. In Journalism 2 students apply the basic skills and information taught in Journalism 1 to assist in the production of the school newspaper and special media-oriented projects throughout the school. Working in a laboratory setting, students will have an opportunity to develop qualities of leadership, judgment, and responsibility that will help them to prepare for careers in any field. Students will learn to improve their writing, reporting and editing skills while thoroughly discussing current events and developing literacy skills in the 21st century. This course is for anyone interested in working on a team and developing "real world" writing skills.

EXPLORATORY ISSUES

10th, 11th, 12th

10 weeks

1/4 credit

This class is designed to be an exposé of philosophical thought in conjunction with current events around the world. Built on the theories of Socratic Seminar, the course will engage students in various forms of rhetorical analysis, debate, and social theory. Students will actively participate in debate while exploring perspectives on current events.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

Public speaking is designed to provide a two-fold experience for students. The two basic elements of the course are the organization and preparation of material for oral presentation and the development of poise through experience in actual presentations. Initially, students will prepare for group discussions and other casual speech activities. This will be followed by lessons in preparation and presentation of speeches and oral reports. These talks and demonstrations will be followed by more formal speech activities such as debates, oratory, and comic or dramatic interpretation.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

12th

1 year

1 credit

The Advanced Placement English course in Language and Composition engages students in analyzing prose and improving composition skills by writing essays in various rhetorical modes. Course reading will be wide and deep, including genres from the sixteenth to the twentieth-first century. Careful attention to both textual detail and historical context will provide a foundation for interpretation. This college-level course also hones research and information literacy skills. AP credit will be given in accordance with the results of the AP Exam.

Prerequisite: Required 85% or higher on the English Comprehensive Regents Exam after completion of required course work.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

11th

1 year

1 credit

The Advanced Placement English course in Literature and Composition engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for readers.

The course will include intensive study of representative works from various genres and periods, highlighting work of recognized literary merit. Course reading will be wide and deep, including genres from the sixteenth to the twentieth century. Careful attention to both textual detail and historical context will provide a foundation for interpretation. AP credit will be given in accordance with the results of the AP Exam.

Prerequisite: Required 85% or higher on English Comprehensive Regents Exam and successful completion of required coursework.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

The creative writing workshop provides an opportunity for the student to experiment with various forms of writing and to develop his/her literary skill. This course is a structured journal-writing experience with daily writing assignments. Students will create a portfolio quarterly, which will consist of a variety of writing genres, as well as a final scrap-book project.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP II

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course is a continuation of the Creative Writing Workshop, designed to extend opportunities for developing writers.

UNDERSTANDING MEDIA

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course focuses on the influence mass media have on society, specifically how gender, race and violence are represented in television, film, radio, newspaper, magazines, advertisement and the Internet. Students are responsible for essays, projects, presentations, and journals.

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course will focus on the growing influence of science fiction and fantasy on our culture. Literature is presented in its historical context and includes works by Bradbury, Asimov, Heinlein, and many others. Students will examine various short stories, novels, and films and will create their own works of fantasy and science fiction.

SHAKESPEARE

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This semester-long course is designed to put the fun back into Shakespeare. We'll do some acting, we'll study the life and times of this famous writer, and we'll read three of his great plays and watch the film versions of them. You will leave this course well-prepared for college English and future exposure to Shakespeare's works.

NOVEL AND OTHER FICTION (FICTION TO FILM)

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

Did you know that some of your favorite films probably started out as great works of fiction? Have you ever seen *The Shawshank Redemption*? *Slumdog Millionaire*? *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*? *Stand By Me*? *Equilibrium*? In this elective, we'll study these terrific films and the novels and short stories that inspired them. Join us in the fun and register for Novel/Fiction today!

GREEK MYTHOLOGY

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course focuses on Greek mythology. Using various works of classical literature, we will examine the role of the archetypal hero. Texts include Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*, *The Iliad*, and *The Odyssey*.

WRITING FOCUS: THE ELEVENTH YEAR

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This required 20-week course focuses on structured writing assignments, including a research project. The NYS Learning Standards are addressed through written response to novels, plays, short stories, and poetry. All students will take the Comprehensive English Regents examination at the conclusion of the course.

SAT PREP: CRITICAL READING/WRITING

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

10 weeks

1/4 credit

This course will cover strategies and techniques for mastering the SAT Critical Reading and Writing Sections.

POETRY

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

10 weeks

1/4 credit

During this course, students will read and analyze a range of poetry from the 17th century to contemporary times. This course is offered in preparation for college-level study.

POETRY II

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

10 weeks

1/4 credit

Poetry II will review the history of poetry (from Poetry I) and pursue an in-depth focus on a particular poetic movement of the student's choice. Students will write original poetry, as well as analyses of poems.

Prerequisite: Poetry I

LITERATURE WORKSHOP

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

10 weeks

1/4 credit

Students will analyze short works of modern literature in preparation for college-level study.

ENGLISH 10

1 year

1 credit

ENGLISH 10 STRETCH

**(meets every day, alternating 80/40 minute blocks)
10th**

1 year

1 1/2 credits

This course encompasses a wide range of skill-building aligned to the NYS curriculum. Literary forms include the short story, the novel, drama, and poetry. Writing skills are incorporated in accordance with the writing skills sequence developed by the English department. Additional units of study may include speech and debate, introduction to the media, the environment, and related assignments in library research.

ENGLISH 9

1 year

1 credit

**ENGLISH 9 STRETCH (meets every day, alternating
80/40 minute block)**

1 year

1 1/2 credits

Emphasis is placed on development of communication skills. This course includes skill programs related to students' needs in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The focus on writing will include correct usage, literature analysis, and composition.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL)

1 year

1 credit

Students are selected for this course based on results from the Home Language Survey and a language proficiency test. This course provides support to improve students' literacy and communication skills and to reinforce mainstreamed instruction. Cultures, traditions, and languages are validated during the course to help students assimilate into American culture while maintaining pride in their native heritage.

Family and Consumer Science

NUTRITION AND FOOD PREP

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

Content of the course includes nutrition awareness, meal-management and food purchasing, food preparation, meal service, and related career explorations.

CULTURE AND FOODS

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course will focus on helping the student gain a greater understanding of meal patterns of various countries and regions. Content of this course includes preparing and evaluating foods and exploring career opportunities.

Prerequisite: Nutrition and Food Prep.

GOURMET FOODS (not offered 2013-2014)

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course is an exploratory food preparation course focusing on advanced preparation techniques, the appearance and presentation of foods, and the use of specialized equipment.

Prerequisite: Nutrition and Food Prep

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

The majority of people in our society become parents. The course is centered upon the vast number of choices individuals must make in relation to raising children. The economic, social, educational, and physical conditions which influence children are identified and their implications explored. The process of raising children in today's society is complex. The content of this course will aid in developing enlightened decisions.

HOUSING AND INTERIOR DESIGN

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

In this course, students investigate how lifestyle, social and economic factors, and stages in the life cycle influence housing decisions. They will explore how culture and the environment influences housing design in relation to past, present and future perspectives. Through hands-on experiences, students will cover design elements and principles as they relate to architecture and interior design and will design and draw three rooms to scale. Students will use consumer skills to evaluate home furnishings. Careers related to housing and interior design will be explored.

FASHION DESIGN 1

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course is the study of clothing as it relates to culture, history, social, and economic situations. There will be opportunities to develop creativity by studying design principles and applying them to the construction and selection of clothing. By learning clothing construction skills, students will be able to increase their wardrobes, evaluate the quality of ready-made garments, and become better consumers. Careers in the fashion and textiles area will also be explored. Two sewing projects will be completed.

FASHION DESIGN 2

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course is a continuation of Fashion Design 1. Students will further develop their clothing construction skills and learn more advanced construction techniques and use of machines. Each student will choose several different sewing projects that include new learning experiences.

Prerequisite: Fashion Design 1.

LIFE PREP

9th

10 weeks

1/4 credit (pass/fail)

This is a required course designed to help students to plan for their future. Students will identify their interests and abilities and analyze these in relationship to possible careers. Goal-setting and developing a pathway to achieve these goals will be discussed. Some topics to be addressed include writing résumés and cover letters, budgeting, understanding credit cards and savings, parenting decisions, and working as a team. All assignments must be satisfactorily completed.

Mathematics

AP CALCULUS AB

11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

This course is intended for students who have a thorough knowledge of college preparatory mathematics, including algebra, axiomatic geometry, trigonometry, analytical geometry (rectangular and polar coordinates, equations and graphs, lines and conics), and elementary functions. Students who successfully complete the course and the AP exam may receive college credit.

Prerequisite: Pass Introduction to Calculus and recommendation of instructor.

AP STATISTICS

11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

Recommended for students pursuing majors in science, engineering, math, social sciences, health sciences, business, and journalism, the AP Statistics course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: analyzing and comparing distributions of data, investigating methods of data collection, producing models using probability theory and simulation, and statistical inference. Students who successfully complete the course and the AP exam may receive credit and/or advanced placement for a one-semester introductory college statistics course.

Prerequisite: Algebra 2/Trigonometry or Introduction to Calculus or recommendation of instructor.

INTRODUCTION TO CALCULUS

11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

This course, designed for students who have successfully completed Algebra 2/Trigonometry, focuses on applications involving polynomial, exponential, and trigonometric functions and differential calculus. This includes the study of tangents, related rates, curve-sketching, and maximum-minimum problems. Where possible, the topics in this course are explored graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally.

ALGEBRA 2/TRIGONOMETRY

11th

1 year

1 credit

This course focuses on a wide variety of functions in addition to algebra of real and complex numbers, trigonometry, statistics, and probability. Students will be expected to take the NYS Algebra 2/Trigonometry Regents exam in June.

Prerequisite: Geometry.

ALGEBRA 2

1 year

1 credit

This course focuses on a wide variety of functions in addition to algebra of real and complex numbers, statistics, and probability. Students will be expected to take Algebra 2/Trigonometry the following year.

GEOMETRY

1 year

1 credit

The course covers coordinate geometry, locus, parabolas, circles, and transformations, among other topics. There is a strong emphasis on word problems and applications of the topics covered.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Integrated Algebra and pass Integrated Algebra Regents exam.

GEOMETRY A

1 year

1 credit

This is the first year of a two-year curriculum. The sequence will culminate with a NYS Geometry Regents Examination at the end of the two years. Students will take a local Geometry A final in June.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Integrated Algebra B or Integrated Algebra course.

INTEGRATED ALGEBRA

1 year

1 credit

This course is designed for students who have a final average above 70% for Math 8 or received a mastery level raw score of 3 or better on the Math 8 state exam. This course will cover the algebra content of the Math A curriculum, review basic pre-algebra, and explore algebra and its applications to real-life problems in other content areas. This course will prepare students to take the Algebra Regents.

INTEGRATED ALGEBRA A

1 year

1 credit

This course will review basic pre-algebra and algebra and its applications to real-life problems in other content areas. Students will have more time for lessons, practice, and strengthening algebraic skills in this learning environment.

SAT PREP MATHEMATICS

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

10 weeks

1/4 credit

This course will cover strategies and techniques for mastering the SAT Mathematics section.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 1

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course is a basic introduction to computer programming. Emphasis is on problem-solving, algorithm development, and implementation using a high-level language. Topics include data types, variables, assignment, input/output, flow-control constructs, procedures and functions. The development of good programming habits is stressed. Students use Build Your Own Blocks (SNAP!) and JavaScript as programming languages.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the Integrated Algebra Regents exam at mastery level or permission of instructor.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 2

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course is a continuation of Computer Science 1. Additional topics include object-oriented concepts and design. Students will learn more about the JavaScript programming language.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Computer Science 1 or permission of instructor.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE

11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

The major emphasis in the AP Computer Science course is on programming methodology, algorithms, and data structures. Applications provide the context in which these subjects are treated. JavaScript is the vehicle for implementing computer-based solutions to particular problems and projects. The course is highly symbolic and demands strong problem-solving skills. Students who successfully complete the course and the AP exam may receive college credit.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Computer Science 2 or permission of instructor.

COLLEGE PREP MATH

12th

1 year

1 credit

College Prep Math focuses on the math and critical thinking skills needed in college and the work space. We will be studying topics both in algebra and geometry, as well as basic trigonometry, statistics, and probability. Our approach to mathematics is aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards (Mathematics: Standards for Mathematical Practice). **This course is offered only to students who have completed Integrated Algebra and/or Geometry.**

Music

MUSIC THEORY

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This is a fundamentals of music theory course. Topics include notation, scales, keys, intervals, major and minor chords and their inversions. This is an excellent class for a student interested in music, looking to learn more to improve their skills and musical understanding. This class is helpful to any instrumentalist including guitar players, pianists, songwriters and vocalists. No prerequisite is required for this class.

MUSIC LITERATURE

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This is a classical music survey class designed to familiarize the student with music of historic periods from Baroque to Contemporary. Emphasis is on composer study, music listening, music appreciation, historical context and parallels with the visual arts.

VOICE 1

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 Year

1/2 credit

This course is an introduction to the basic fundamentals of singing through vocal exercises, breathing techniques, individual and group performances, sight-singing and ear-training.

VOICE 2

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 Year

1/2 credit

This course is a continuation of Voice 1. It is designed to further develop the technique of singing with greater concentration on individual vocal production, sight-singing, ear-training and an introduction to singing in foreign languages.

Prerequisite: Voice 1.

GLEE

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1 Year

1 credit

If you like to sing pop, rock, R&B, musical theater, jazz, and barber shop music (among other genres), then this course is for you! This class will cover the technique required to sing these genres of music, singing in four-part harmony, and the skills necessary to sing a solo versus singing in a background choir. Movement will be incorporated into many performances. Some costumes and props will also be involved. Performances are a mandatory requirement of this class. The group will perform at all three school concerts, as well as other performances throughout the school and the community. The goal of this class is to learn how to create an enjoyable show for our audiences.

AFRICAN DRUMMING

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/4 Year

1/4 credit

This 10-week course will take students on a musical journey to West Africa. During the journey students will learn to play the djembe, West Africa's most popular drum. Students will learn authentic rhythms from various countries. The rhythms will be the vehicle used to travel to and study each country. This course combines drumming with geography, history, and culture of African countries and people. Instruments are provided.

This course would pair well with, or as a follow-up to, Black History 1 to create a 1/2 year sequence.

BAND

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

Band rehearses on A days throughout the school year. All students enrolled in band participate in both concert band and marching band activities. The major ensemble program includes Marching Band, Concert Band and Jazz Band(s). A varied selection of music is used to develop ensemble playing skills and knowledge of musical styles, literature and terms.

Band members must also take school instrumental lessons (described below) and attend additional dress rehearsals and concerts. Students are required to attend all scheduled performances.

Group instrumental lessons are given once per week and are scheduled as a pull-out program to rotate throughout the school day. Weekly lessons are 40 minutes, half of a class block. Standard method books, small ensemble material, and NYSSMA graded solos are used to foster musical growth and to develop technical proficiency. Allowances are made for makeup lessons in the event of labs, exams, etc.

Prerequisite: Minimum proficiency of level III – IV as described in the NYSSMA manual or permission of instructor.

MIXED CHOIR

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

The Mixed Choir is an academic course offered to allow students the opportunity to learn and sing in a large choral-performing ensemble. This class meets to rehearse for one (1) block every other day. The Mixed Choir performs music from standard choral literature of varied music styles and time periods. Concert performances are a mandatory requirement of this class, as are weekly small group lessons. Students are taught music reading skills using hand sign solfeggio, as well as proper vocal technique and performing skills. The goal of this course is to provide students the chance to learn to read music, to develop their voices, and to expand their knowledge of choral music and its history through choral literature.

Prerequisite: Minimum proficiency of Level III – IV as described in the NYSSMA manual or permission of instructor.

Physical Education and Health

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1/2 credit

All students are required to satisfactorily complete a physical education program, which covers a wide range of activities suited to the individual needs of the student. Students will participate in units such as archery, lacrosse, volleyball, flag football, Latin dance, swimming, pickleball, ping pong, orienteering, badminton, team-building activities, bowling, floor hockey, international dance, softball, golf, tennis, and basketball. Students are also engaged in activities promoting physical fitness and strength development. Lifetime fitness is stressed and developed in all classes. Attendance and participation are considered among the criteria for completion of the physical education requirement. Students must dress and participate in physical education for each semester enrolled.

**In tenth grade, Health/Physical Education will emphasize and coordinate nutrition and healthy lifestyles, First Aid and CPR, child abuse, suicide, and acquaintance rape.*

HEALTH EDUCATION

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This required health course is designed to cover the functional knowledge and skills mandated by New York State. Topics include physical activity and nutrition, disease prevention, alcohol and other drugs, tobacco, violence prevention, human sexuality and sexual risk, and HIV/AIDS. Personal health and social skills development topics include self-management, relationship management, stress management, communication, planning and goal setting, decision making, and advocacy. This course is designed to allow students to reflect on their own attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors as they impact their own social, mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health.

CURRENT HEALTH ISSUES

9th, 10th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This seminar course is offered as a pass/fail class. A discussion-based course, exploratory in nature, it allows students the chance to develop and explore their own thoughts, feelings, and attitudes. Topics include HIV/AIDS, sexually-transmitted infections, substance use and abuse, self-esteem, disordered eating, mental health issues, abusive relationships, and current event issues.

CURRENT HEALTH ISSUES

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This seminar course is offered as a pass/fail class. A discussion-based course, exploratory in nature, it allows students the chance to develop and explore their own thoughts, feelings, and attitudes. Topics include HIV/AIDS, sexually-transmitted infections, substance use and abuse, self-esteem, disordered eating, mental health issues, abusive relationships, and current event issues. At this level there is an emphasis on transferring these critical thinking skills to students' next stage of life.

INTRODUCTION TO SPORTS MEDICINE AND ATHLETIC TRAINING

11th, 12th

10 weeks

1/4 credit

This phys ed elective course covers basic topics in sports medicine and athletic training. Unit topics include Anatomy and Physiology, Human Structure and Function, Physiology of Exercise, First-Aid and CPR/AED, Nutrition and Weight Control, and Health and PE Careers. Students will be actively involved in the study of applied movement science.

Prerequisite: Biology.

Project Lead The Way (PRE-ENGINEERING)

Project Lead The Way, Inc. (PLTW) is a national program forming partnerships among public schools, higher education institutions, and the private sector to increase the quantity and quality of engineers and engineering technologists graduating from our educational system. The program is partially funded by Charitable Venture Foundation, a private foundation located in Clifton Park, New York. PLTW has a support staff of experienced technology educators and college and university partners to support schools as they implement PLTW curricula. PLTW has developed a four-year sequence of courses which, when combined with college preparatory mathematics and science courses in high school, introduces students to the scope, rigor and discipline of engineering and engineering technology prior to entering college.

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING DESIGN

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

This course teaches problem-solving skills using a design development process. Models of product solutions are created, analyzed, and communicated using solid-modeling computer design software.

PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING

10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

This course helps students to understand the field of engineering and engineering technology. Exploring various technology systems and manufacturing processes helps students to learn how engineers and technicians use math, science, and technology in an engineering problem-solving process to benefit people. The course also addresses concerns about social and political consequences of technological change.

DIGITAL ELECTRONICS

10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

This is a course in applied logic that encompasses the application of electronic circuits and devices. Computer simulation software is used to design and test digital circuitry prior to the actual construction of circuits and devices.

Prerequisite: Completion of the Integrated Algebra (Math A) and Geometry curriculum or permission of instructor.

CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE

11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

This course provides an overview of the fields of civil engineering and architecture, while emphasizing the interrelationship and dependence of both fields on each other. Students use state-of-the-art software to solve real-world problems and communicate solutions through hands-on projects and activities. Topics include the roles of civil engineers and architects, project planning, site planning, building design, and project documentation and presentation.

Prerequisite: Open to 10th grade students with permission of instructor.

ENGINEERING DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

12th

1 year

1 credit

In this capstone course, students work in teams to design and develop an original solution to a valid open-ended technical problem by applying the engineering design process. Students perform research to choose, validate, and justify a technical problem. After carefully defining the problem, teams design, build, and test their solutions while working closely with industry professionals who provide mentoring opportunities. Finally, student teams present and defend their original solution to an outside panel.

Science

SCIENCE RESEARCH COURSE

10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

The Science Research Course is a three-year elective science course, which engages students in a long-term science research project. During the sophomore year, a student defines a topic, conducts journal research, contacts the authors of the journal studies, locates a research facility in which to do the research, plans the project, and publicly presents his/her initial research. The junior year is devoted to the research project itself and includes additional public presentation. During the senior year, the student completes the research and writes the formal research paper. All students must submit their projects to the Intel Science Competition, attempt to publish his/her work and make a formal public presentation. Students can earn up to twelve (12) college credits through SUNY Albany for their work.

AP PHYSICS B

12th

1 year

1 credit

The AP course in physics includes topics in both modern and classical physics. Knowledge of algebra and basic trigonometry is required. Basic calculus concepts may be introduced in connection with physical concepts such as acceleration and work. Understanding of the basic principles in the solution of problems is a major goal of the course. The AP Physics B course seeks to be representative of topics covered in similar college courses. Accordingly, percentage goals have been set for coverage of the five general areas: Newtonian mechanics, 33%; kinetic theory and thermodynamics, 10%;

electricity and magnetism, 25%; waves and optics, 15%; and modern physics, 17%. Upon completion of the course, students are expected to take the Advanced Placement exam. The examination is administered at the High School at the student's expense.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Regents Physics, Course III and simultaneous enrollment in a higher-level math class.

PHYSICS

12th

1 year

1 credit

This course presents a modern view of physics with emphasis placed on the fundamental concepts underlying this basic science. Topics include the conservation of energy, the conservation of momentum, and the conservation of charge in related areas rather than in isolation. Mechanics, wave motion, electricity and atomic physics are also studied. Laboratory work is required. Upon completion of this course, the student will take the Physics Regents exam.

AP CHEMISTRY

12th

1 year

1 credit

This is a fast-paced, rigorous college-level chemistry course covering the topics of quantum theory, chemical bonding, states of matter, solutions, thermodynamics, electrochemistry, kinetics, equilibrium, and acids and bases. There is a strong emphasis on problem-solving, teaming in lab projects, and computer-based data-gathering, with research and interdisciplinary experiences. Upon completion of the course, students must take the Advanced Placement examination. A fee of approximately \$85.00 is required for the exam.

Prerequisite: Student must have an overall Regents Chemistry average of 85 or better to enroll in the course or permission of the instructor.

CHEMISTRY

11th

1 year

1 credit

It is highly recommended that students enrolling in the course have successfully completed Regents Algebra and Geometry and have passed one other Science Regents exam.

The course is designed to provide a basis in the major units of chemistry, including atomic theory, the periodic table, behavior of matter, bonding, solutions, acids and bases, and redox reactions. In addition to the 40-week course, there is a required 10-week module that covers the topics of organic chemistry, gas laws and kinetics. Students will utilize reading for content comprehension, logic and deductive reasoning skills as well as interpretation, analysis, and formulation of real world and theoretical problems. Students will be responsible for using content knowledge to predict products, propose explanations, and construct viable hypotheses and experiments to address various chemical phenomena. A strong emphasis is placed on the use of mathematics to calculate and assess theoretical estimates in conducting diverse experiments. Upon completion of this course, students will take the Chemistry Regents exam. Students must complete a minimum of 20 satisfactory, logged laboratory hours in order to take the Regents examination.

GENERAL CHEMISTRY

11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

General Chemistry is designed to give students a deep understanding of chemistry through the use of practical, real-world applications. It covers a variety of standard chemistry concepts, including atomic theory, the periodic table, bonding, organic chemistry, behavior of matter, solutions, redox, acids and bases, and nuclear chemistry. General Chemistry is organized into four main units: water, materials, petroleum, and air/personal impact. There is a strong emphasis on research and collaboration. Students are expected to complete one major project

per quarter in addition to several labs and presentations. Students will utilize problem-solving, multimedia presentation, self-critique, and revision, as well as meaningful research and evaluation skills.

METEOROLOGY AND WEATHER FORECASTING

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This one-semester course will focus on the interactions between the atmosphere, oceans, and land that influence the weather. An emphasis will be placed on the collection and analysis of real-time and historical weather data and techniques used in weather-forecasting. Students will learn how to interpret and create weather maps. The course will provide hands-on experience in the use of technology to develop weather forecasts. Students will use satellite images from the Internet, weather data collected from the high school's weather station, and computer-generated models of the atmosphere for this purpose. The course will culminate with students generating forecasts for the school community.

OCEANOGRAPHY

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course is for students who are interested in developing an understanding of the basic concepts of oceanography and marine biology, about the oceans of the world and organisms that live in them. The course includes the study of marine organisms of our own coastal areas. Major areas of study include the following: (1) The World's Oceans, (2) Chemical and Physical Factors, (3) Evolution of Life, (4) Marine Plants, (5) Invertebrates, (6) Marine Vertebrates (fish, reptile, bird, and mammal), (7) Marine Ecology, and (8) Sand Beaches, Dunes, Rocky Shores, Coral Reefs, and Marine Biomes. The student's progress will be evaluated by performance on tests, quizzes, class participation, and projects.

FIELD BIOLOGY

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course will use nature as a laboratory, combining principles of ecology, environmental science and wildlife survival. Study topics include animal skulls and tracks, plant biology and interactions between organisms. Field work will include wildlife and plant identification, habitat diversity and journal writing. Students will conduct ecological investigations including opportunities to explore experimental design, collection of field data, analysis and interpretation of data and presentation of research.

FORENSIC SCIENCE

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

Students will obtain a basic understanding of the branches of forensic science and its applications in society. They will utilize case studies to gain knowledge of forensic techniques and terminology, and collect and categorize evidence and data. Students will use observations and evidence to analyze crime scenarios and create comprehensive reports. The class will be exposed to careers related to forensic science (detective, arson investigator, print specialist, medical examiner) and learn from and make connections with community members. The course is designed to promote collaboration and develop a student's ability to listen intently and speak confidently. Intellectual curiosity and personal integrity will be enhanced through successful completion of this course.

AP BIOLOGY

10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

AP Biology is an in-depth course that builds on the foundation established in Regents Biology. Students are required to take an entrance exam for acceptance into this course, which is designed to give students a broader background and more sophisticated laboratory experience. At the conclusion of the course, the student will have the skills for a more competitive college biology program. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement exam in biology in May. The examination is administered at the High School and is taken at the student's expense.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Regents Biology and Regents Chemistry with a minimum of an 85 average or by permission of instructor.

BIOLOGY: LIVING ENVIRONMENT

9th, 10th

1 year

1 credit

Students investigate such topics as the interrelationship between plants and animals, ecology, modern evolution, reproduction, and development. In addition to the 40-week course, there is a required 10-week laboratory module in Reproduction and Development. Upon completion of this course, students will take the Regents Biology examination.

THE PHYSICAL SETTING: EARTH SCIENCE

9th

1 year

1 credit

This course focuses on the earth as a dynamic planet whose various systems are in constant change and interaction with each other and their dependent organisms. Explored within this setting are the earth's crust, interior, oceans, and atmosphere. The unique nature of Earth is investigated, as well as the earth's place in both the solar system and the universe as a whole. Student inquiry is stressed, as many of the concepts are uncovered through the use of labs and the interpretation of real data. In addition to the 40-week course, there is a required 1,200-minute module in astronomy. These lab experiences are documented by the student through acceptable lab reports prior to sitting for the Regents exam. All students are required to take the end-of-year Regents exam to successfully complete the course.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

AP Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary course including geology, biology, chemistry, and geography. It is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course with a laboratory and field investigation component. Emphasis is placed on exploring the interrelationships of the natural world – analyzing environmental problems both natural and manmade and evaluating the relative risks associated with these problems. Alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing environmental catastrophes will also be explored.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Regents Biology and Regents Earth Science with a minimum of an 85 average or by permission of instructor.

BIOCHEMISTRY

10th (second semester with Chemistry), 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

An introduction to the chemistry of biological compounds, this course is a systematic study of carbohydrates, lipids, amino acids, proteins, nucleic acids, and their components. Metabolism of the biological compounds is studied as are the interrelations among the carbon, nitrogen, and energy cycles.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course deals with the structure and function of the human body and mechanisms for maintaining homeostasis within it. Topics Include the study of cells, tissues, and the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary and reproductive systems. The concepts of development, metabolism, fluid and electrolyte balance, and acid-base balance are also explored.

Social Studies

AP MACROECONOMICS

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

The purpose of an AP course in macroeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole. This course places particular emphasis on the national budget, national income, price determination, and theories behind economic systems. Students will also learn about economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. They will have the opportunity to propose plans designed to improve aspects of the national economy. This course mirrors freshmen-level courses in college. All students must take the AP exam in May, and college credit may be earned for this course by passing the AP exam. It is not necessary to take AP Microeconomics to take this course. The examination is administered at the High School and is taken at the expense of the student.

Prerequisite: 85 or above on US History & Government Regents or permission of instructor.

AP MICROECONOMICS

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

The purpose of an AP course in microeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision-makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets and includes the study of factor markets and the role of the government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Any student planning on going to college for a business-related degree would have to take this course during freshman year. All students must take the AP exam in May, and college credit may be earned by passing the AP exam. The examination is administered at the High School and is taken at the expense of the student.

Prerequisite: 85 or above on US History & Government Regents or permission of instructor.

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

The curriculum of this AP course introduces United States government and politics to students, beginning with Constitutional underpinnings to the structure and functions of our modern-day government. Students are required to understand the U.S. government and its institutions from their textbook and current events, classroom discussion, lectures, debates, and a variety of project-based learning activities designed to engage the student. The examination is administered at the High School and is taken at the expense of the student.

Prerequisite: 85 or above on US History & Government Regents or permission of instructor.

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

The AP Comparative Government and Politics curriculum has been significantly revised to reflect new conceptual trends in the teaching of comparative political science. The decision to revise the existing course was made after curriculum surveys of college and university courses and in consultation with prominent political scientists involved in the teaching of comparative politics. The revised curriculum moves away from a country-by-country approach to one that uses country studies as illustrations of concepts and themes. The study of government and politics in six core countries – Britain, China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia – provides the content for conceptual and thematic analysis. The new course will have greater emphasis on themes such as globalization, democratization, political change, public policy, and citizen-state relations.

The main themes covered in the new course include:

- (1) Introduction to Comparative Politics
- (2) Sovereignty, Authority, and Power
- (3) Political Institutions
- (4) Citizens, Society and the State
- (5) Political and Economic Change
- (6) Public Policy.

The examination is administered at the High School and is taken at the expense of the student.

Prerequisite: 85 or above on US History & Government Regents or permission of instructor.

AP AMERICAN HISTORY

11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

This is primarily a course for eleventh and twelfth grade students who have a special interest in history and have secured permission of the instructor. The course is arranged chronologically with an emphasis on the interpretation and analysis of documentary evidence and contemporary historiography. Summer reading and writing assignments are required. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Examination in United States History, which is administered nationally in mid-May. The examination is administered at the High School and is taken at the expense of the student. The AP exam is taken in addition to (not in lieu of) the State Regents exam.

Prerequisite: 85 or better on Global History Regents or U.S. History & Government Regents or successful completion of AP European History and by permission of instructor.

SOCIAL STUDIES 12/ENGLISH 12

1 year

2 credits

This interdisciplinary course will satisfy the requirements for 12th grade English and social studies courses, integrating curriculum from Participation in Government, Economics, and English 12. This course is designed to develop civic responsibility as students learn to apply academic knowledge to local and national issues. As part of the class, students will complete a service learning project within our community. As a culminating project, students will share their experiences through presentations.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Social Studies 9-11 and English 9-11, as well as Global History and Geography Regents Exam, US History Regents Exam, and the English Regents Exam.

ECONOMICS

12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course is designed to help the student understand the complexities of our economic system. Students have the opportunity to explore contemporary social and political trends in order to build an understanding of why and how our government and private enterprise interact. Students are involved in a simulated business activity and prepare a portfolio of assignments, which is used as an assessment tool. Contemporary economic theories are explored, and current economic issues of state and national significance are examined. This is a senior-level course, required for graduation.

PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course is a study of democracy in action through participation in governmental activities. As part of the class, students will complete service learning projects within our community. Emphasis is on local government operations and how a citizen can effect change through the democratic process at all levels. Students will attend public meetings, debate current policy issues, and stay up-to-date with political events. Assignments, guest speakers, current events discussions, teacher lectures, and media presentations will be directed toward developing an understanding of the issues facing us today and how public policy is generated to deal with such issues. This is a senior-level course, required for graduation.

UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

11th

1 year

1 credit

This course emphasizes the history and development of the United States and surveys important national developments in politics, government, foreign policy, and economics. An extensive body of material deals with the Constitution and its application to contemporary American issues. All students are required to pass the Regents exam.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

This course is designed for 10th, 11th and 12th grade students to further study issues in European history. It is conducted primarily as a seminar on the changes in social, political, religious, and economic trends and forces that shaped European history from approximately 1450 to the present. Students in this course are required to analyze, interpret, and apply primary-source evidence and literature. In addition, they will read college-level texts and demonstrate effective writing and oral communication skills. Summer reading and writing assignments are required. Students take the AP European History examination in May. The examination is administered at the High School and is taken at the expense of the student. 10th grade students also take the Global History Regents exam in June.

Prerequisite: 85 or above average in history course of previous year.

GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

10th

1 year

1 credit

Global History and Geography is a two-year program. At the end of this class students are required to pass a Regents examination covering the material studied in both Global 9 and Global 10. Global 10 begins with the Renaissance and continues through to the present, focusing on geography and its effect on culture, government, economics and history.

GLOBAL HISTORY 10 STRETCH (meets every day, alternating 82/40 minute block)

1 year

1 1/2 credits

This course covers the same topics as Global History 9 and 10, however, the class is conducted at a pace appropriate with student learning and incorporates supplemental skills practice in preparation for the Regents exams.

GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

9th

1 year

1 credit

This is a 2-year program. At the end of Global 10 students are required to pass a Regents examination covering the material studied in both Global 9 and Global 10. Global 9 begins with prehistory and ancient civilizations and concludes with the time of the Renaissance. Throughout the course we will also focus on geography and its effect on culture, government, economics and history. There is a local final at the conclusion of 9th grade, which counts as 20% of the course grade.

CURRENT ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This is an historical and contemporary look at international politics, U.S. foreign relations, U.S. domestic policy, and the global economy. The course will be flexible in nature to accommodate significant current events, but the general direction will be to study how the world has developed to what it is today and to project where it is going next.

HUMAN RIGHTS

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

10 weeks

1/4 credit

This course will examine the United Nation's Declaration of Human Rights, drafted by Eleanor Roosevelt, as well as three recent violations of human rights since World War II: Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge in the 1970's, Bosnia in the 1990's, and Rwanda in 1994. The class will use journals to record information, personal observation, and insights on how to protect human rights and will explore these topics and events through film, newspaper, and Internet activities. The course concludes with a study of how the individual can impact situations today in areas like Darfur.

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

10 weeks

1/4 credit

In this course, students will study cultures on a parallel with the Global 9 and 10 curriculum, but at a more in-depth level. Topics covered are: rites of passage, gender roles and creation, cultural "universals," creation of culture, music in culture, mythology and lore, "cargo cults," religion, outsiders, art, architecture, literature, body modification, and more.

POST-WORLD WAR II AMERICA AS "POP CULTURE"

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course examines the social and cultural developments within the United States since the end of World War II. The roles of music, sports, icons, trends, film, fashion, television, and art during this time period will be analyzed thematically, as well as the influence of war, race, and gender on popular culture.

BLACK HISTORY 1

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

10 weeks

1/4 credit

This is an interdisciplinary course of study intended to provide the student with an understanding of the historical impact of ancient African cultures (3000 BCE-1500 ACE) on world history. Where applicable, the extension of practices and innovations which reflect African origins will be applied to modern cultures. A guest West African drummer will highlight and enrich the learning experience.

BLACK HISTORY 2

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This is an interdisciplinary course of study intended to provide the student with an understanding of the African-American and Afro-Caribbean experience (1500-2008). The semester culminates with a musical anthology of the African-American experience.

AP PSYCHOLOGY

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic, scientific study of human and animal behavior and cognitive processes. Students are familiarized with the psychological principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Students are expected to take the AP exam. The examination is administered at the High School and is taken at the expense of the student.

Prerequisite: 85 average or higher in English and Social Studies, or by permission of instructor.

PSYCHOLOGY

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This introduction to psychology is designed to help the student appreciate the complexity of human behavior and personality development. The course focuses on supported learning and application and makes the connection between the scientific principles of psychology and the lives of today's student population. Topics include human development, personality theory, psychological disorders, states of consciousness, and current theoretical approaches to psychology. Daily class discussions and various projects enhance our theoretical test work. Guest speakers are incorporated to enhance student understanding.

SOCIOLOGY

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This course uses case studies, observations, panel discussions, experimentation, guest speakers, and articles on current events to study topical group behavior issues in the U.S. Students will find that practical issues may inspire intellectual excitement. Traditional sociological topics, in addition to such current issues as cultural diversity, gender relations, white-collar crimes, welfare, and the resurgence of nationalism in today's world will be covered.

Technology

DESIGN AND DRAWING FOR PRODUCTION 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

1 year

1 credit

This course provides students with instruction and problem-solving opportunities in the design fields of Architecture, Graphics, and Industrial Design and Engineering. Students will use traditional techniques, 3-D computer graphics, and other design-based software and media to complete projects. This course will prepare students for advanced studies in Computer Graphics and Video Editing and also serves as a prerequisite for Advanced Technology and Art courses.

COMPUTER GRAPHICS 1

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit (or full year Graphics 1 & 2 for 1 credit)

This is a studio-based computer course in which students will gain an understanding of graphic design and new media. Students will learn about computer graphics as it relates to digital photo-imaging, advertising, entertainment, television, animation, and communications. Students will gain proficiency with graphics software Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator by completing several projects. Students will also be introduced to motion graphics and to animation software and techniques in preparation for Graphics 2.

Prerequisite: DDP or Studio in Art or Creative Crafts or permission of instructor.

COMPUTER GRAPHICS 2 (MEDIA ARTS)

10th, 11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

In this course, students will have the opportunity to build on their design skills gained in Computer Graphics 1. Students will use Photoshop, Illustrator, Rhino 3-D, Flash, and other motion graphics and web design software. Explorations will include animation techniques, digital photography, scanning, and other processes. Students will create advanced print graphics, motion graphics, 3-D animation, and some web design.

Prerequisite: Computer Graphics 1 or permission of instructor.

STUDIO IN COMPUTER ART

10th, 11th, 12th

(This course is also listed within the Art Department's offerings.)

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This is a half-year course where students continue to explore the world of digital fine art and build on their existing skills in art and design. Students complete assignments relating to digital fine art and new media explorations, including creative scanning, digital photography and imaging, vector art and more. Students will be encouraged to develop portfolio-quality artwork. Components of art techniques and art history will be incorporated into lessons.

Prerequisite: Drawing & Painting or Computer Graphics or Studio in Photography or Studio in Printmaking or permission of instructor.

DIGITAL VIDEO EDITING 1

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit (or full year Video 1 and 2 for 1 credit)

This is a course where students have the opportunity to learn basic skills and techniques in all phases of filming and editing a digital video production. Students also learn special effects techniques in filming and editing. Students will produce several short original video productions for the Web or other presentation venues.

Prerequisite: Computer Graphics 1 or permission of instructor.

DIGITAL VIDEO EDITING 2

11th, 12th

1/2 year

1/2 credit

This is a half-year course for students who have completed Digital Video Editing 1 and would like to either pursue advanced studies or simply spend more time working on video projects. In this course, students will be able to direct and produce an original video for college applications, NPZ-TV, Public Access, or for personal development. This course allows students to fully apply skills and techniques learned in Video 1.

Prerequisite: Digital Video Editing 1.

ADVANCED GRAPHICS AND VIDEO EDITING FOR BROADCAST

1 year

1 credit (1/2 year with permission of instructor)

This course is designed for highly motivated media students to build on their existing skills in video editing and/or graphic design in a real-life application. Students will create and produce original video presentations, graphics and motion graphics for broadcasting on NPZ-TV and New Paltz Public Access channels.

Required Prerequisite Options: Video Editing 1 / Computer Graphics 1 & 2 / or Digital Video Editing 1 & 2 / or permission of instructor.

World Languages

ARABIC 1

CHINESE 1

ITALIAN 1

SPANISH 1

1 year

1 credit

The focus of world language-learning is functional communication. Students are taught to express themselves in all types of everyday life situations. Students will be able to ask and answer questions regarding personal biographies and will be able to talk about their families, friends, and education. They will learn how people in the foreign countries live, shop, travel, and interact at meals. They will learn to express themselves regarding their health, hometown, physical environment, and what they do with their leisure time. Through these topics of discussion, students will learn the differences between and similarities of the two cultures. This course will culminate with the New York State Proficiency exam. There is no proficiency exam in Chinese.

CHINESE 2*

ITALIAN 2

SPANISH 2

1 year

1 credit

Students will continue to expand on topics introduced in Level 1. Topics encompass those outlined by the LOTE (Languages Other Than English) curriculum. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills will be further developed. Culture and current events are continuing strands for an understanding of world communities.

** Students who take Mandarin Chinese 2 can receive credit for Elementary Chinese 1 at SUNY New Paltz.*

CHINESE 3**FRENCH 3****ITALIAN 3****SPANISH 3****1 year****1 credit**

These Regents-level courses address Checkpoint B of the New York State Learning Standards in Foreign Language. The ultimate objective of Levels 2 and 3 is for students to be able to function independently in foreign countries. Culture and current events are continuing strands. This course will culminate in the New York State Comprehensive Regents exam.

FRENCH 4/University in High School French**ITALIAN 4/University in High School Italian****SPANISH 4/University in High School Spanish****1 year****1 credit**

Emphasis in this course is placed on improving students' listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills. Both grammar and cultural topics are incorporated through articles, current events, and genres of literature. More extensive reading, auditory comprehension, and oral exercises further develop the skills of language acquisition, and students communicate in the target language through spontaneous conversation. An additional goal is to provide a bridging experience between High School and college by developing independent study habits, responsibility, and self-motivation. Spanish 4 will focus on Spain.

In Level 4, students may elect to take this course for four college credits through the University in High School program sponsored by SUNY. This course may also be taken for high school credit only.

Prerequisite: A grade of 85 or better in Level 3 or teacher recommendation.

FRENCH 5/University in High School French**ITALIAN 5/ University in High School Italian****SPANISH 5/University in High School Spanish****1 year****1 credit**

The purpose of this course is to raise the level of the student's understanding of the French or Spanish language, literature, and culture. The course will provide advanced instruction in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. College-level work is required. Upon successful completion of the course, the student may earn four credits from SUNY. The course may also be taken for high school credit only. Spanish 5 will focus on Latin America. An additional goal is to provide a bridging experience between High School and college by developing independent study habits, responsibility, and self-motivation.

Prerequisite: A grade of 85 or better in Level 4 or teacher recommendation.

FRENCH 6/University in High School French**French Culture, Composition & Conversation**

This course begins advanced coursework in French and introduces students to more complex aspects of French language and culture. Students work on improving abilities in the four skills areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening comprehension with an expectation of increased precision and fluency. Emphasis will be placed on developing ideas and synthesizing and supporting opinions.

Anticipated: 4 college credits

Pending approval.

The Career and Technical Center

11th, 12th

THE MISSION OF THE ULSTER BOCES CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER

The Career & Technical Center provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the 21st century. Emphasis is placed on trade-specific skills, general employability training, and applied academics. Graduates leave the program prepared to enter the workforce and/or post-secondary training institutes and colleges.

Courses are redesigned annually, based upon employment potential, student interest, and feedback obtained from occupation-specific craft committees. Courses vary in length and are taught by experienced instructors with many years of job service in their fields. Each course is designed to provide individual instruction to allow a student to learn at his or her own pace. Courses emphasize a hands-on approach. Each teacher maintains close ties with business and industry to keep current on employer needs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 25 career education programs provide training in many areas.
- Students learn foundational skills, including technical reading and writing, applied math, communication, and computer literacy.
- Students have the opportunity for school-to-work experiences, including apprenticeship and internship assignments.
- The Career & Technical Center has a zero-tolerance for violence, providing a safe and productive learning environment.
- The Career & Technical Center provides New Visions programs for high school seniors with internship rotations in the fields of advanced robotics and engineering, education, health, media and game design, and visual and performing arts.

TWO YEAR PROGRAMS

AUTOBODY COLLISION TECHNOLOGY

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

AVIATION

CARPENTRY/BUILDING TRADES

CISCO A+ COMPUTER REPAIR/NETWORK OPERATING SYSTEMS

GRAPHICS VISUAL ARTS

COSMETOLOGY

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CULINARY ARTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION

FASHION DESIGN & MERCHANDISING

HVAC: HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR CONDITIONING

CUSTOM ROBOTIC DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

**MOTORCYCLE/OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT/
TURF MANAGEMENT**

WEB-BASED ENTREPRENEURSHIP & BUSINESS

WELDING/METAL FABRICATION

ONE YEAR PROGRAMS

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS EXPLORATION

NEW VISIONS: ADVANCED ROBOTICS AND ENGINEERING

NEW VISIONS: EDUCATION

NEW VISIONS: HEALTH

NEW VISIONS: MEDIA AND GAME DESIGN

NEW VISIONS: VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

NURSE ASSISTANT

For course descriptions and additional information regarding programs, go to www.ulsterboces.org.

BOARD POLICIES

POLICY #7221

EARLY GRADUATION

A student shall be eligible for early graduation in fewer than eight (8) semesters upon completion of all requirements for graduation, excluding physical education, as mandated by Commissioner's Regulations. A student shall not be required to continue enrollment for the sole purpose of completing physical education requirements. The District, upon request from the student's parent/guardian, shall grant the student a high school diploma prior to his/her completion of the eighth (8th) semester in accordance with Commissioner's Regulations.

8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR)
Sections 100.5(a) and 100.5(e)

POLICY #8430

INDEPENDENT STUDY

The New Paltz Central School District will offer independent study for the purpose of providing alternative educational experiences for students. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop and implement procedures, including criteria for high school credit, which will facilitate quality student achievement.

Independent study, for credit, will be available to meet the individual needs of students in grades 9 through 12. The Principal, after consultation with relevant faculty, may award credit for work done through independent study. The decision should be based on whether the student's record indicates that the work is consistent with New York State commencement level learning standards and is of comparable scope and quality to that which would have been done in the school awarding the credit. Credit shall be granted only for courses in the approved curriculum.

8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR)
Section 100.5(d)(5)(i)(b)

www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us