AVON MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

Program of Studies

2021-2022

285 West Main Street ● Avon, MA 02322 ● Tel 508-583-4822 ● www.avon.k12.ma.us/amhs

Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to familiarize students and their parents with the course and program offerings at Avon Middle-High School and assist them in the selection of a meaningful program of studies. Success in high school greatly depends upon the selection of appropriate courses. Careful thought and consideration should be given to making choices for future schooling or career preparation and to meeting the requirements for graduation. Course selection will be considered final and no changes will be permitted after the second week of the academic year except by permission of the administration and written permission of a parent.

This program of studies represents a joint effort of the administration, guidance department, and faculty members of Avon Middle-High School to reflect its mission and expectations.

Administration

Christine Godino	Superintendent
Jennifer Meek	Director of Pupil Services
Dawn Stockwell	Principal
Stephen Centerrino	Assistant Principal
Michael Hayes	Athletic Director

Office Staff

Galye Richardson	School Secretary
Daniel O'Donnell	Guidance Counselor
Dawn Kosinski	School Psychologist
Jeanne Cartwright	Guidance Secretary
Mary Blackburn	School Nurse

School Committee

Tracy Sheehan	Chair
Ann Hagberg	Vice-Chair
Sharon Marble	Secretary
Maria Piccirilli	Member
Paul Chapman	Member

Statement of Non-Discrimination

The Avon Public Schools is committed to ensuring that all of its programs and facilities are accessible to all members of the public. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, gender, gender identity, homeless status, or sexual orientation.

High School Faculty and Staff Assignments

Jason Alves	Technology/Engineering
Lysa Bennett	Special Education
Tim Clifford	Mathematics
Thoa DiChiara	Art
Richard Dockendorff	Physical Education/Wellness
Joseph Donovan	Social Studies
Riarco Ellis	Music
Matthew Ferro	Social Studies
Caterina Francisco-Swanson	Spanish
Christine Frew	Physical Education
Olga Gonzalez	Spanish
Diane Hill	Computers/College to Career
Rebecca Howe	English
Pegeen Kerr	Spanish
Melissa Leverett-King	ELL Teacher
Peter Lochrie	Mathematics
Kris Miguel	English
Kristina Nilsen	English
Sandra Penke	Speech
Jeanne Perriello	Mathematics
Amanda Pyne	English/Drama
Joseph Regonlinski	Special Education
Hannah Rounseville	Special Education
Beth-Ann Shepley	Biology
Corey Spellman	Special Education
Thomas Speroni	Chemistry
Joel Tenenbaum	Physics/Physical Science
Lauren Vogel	Library Media Specialist
Kerriann Whitworth	Social Studies

A Message from the Principal

Avon Middle-High School offers a variety of courses designed to meet diverse student needs. It is our intent to promote a high level of academic achievement for all students and to offer programs that meet the needs of students who may be going on to college as well as those going directly to the world of work. Our goal is to provide a meaningful educational experience which will provide every student with a firm foundation for the future.

Your family's thoughtful and careful attention to the course selection process will help us to develop a schedule that will best meet students' needs. We must have accurate course request data when we make decisions regarding the number of sections of each course, teaching assignments, and the placement of courses in the schedule for the following year. The selection of courses should be considered a serious matter as it is difficult and many times impossible to accommodate changes after teaching assignments and class placements and sizes have been determined.

Accreditation Statement

Avon Middle-High School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., a non-governmental, nationally recognized organization whose affiliated institutions include elementary schools through collegiate institutions offering post-graduate instruction. An accredited school or college is one which has available the necessary resources to achieve its stated purposes through appropriate educational programs, is substantially doing so, and gives reasonable evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Institutional integrity is also addressed through accreditation.

Accreditation by the New England Association is not a guarantee of the quality of every course or program offered, or the competence of individual graduates. Rather, it provides reasonable assurance about the quality of opportunities available to students who attend the institution.

Core Values Statement

The Mission of Avon Middle High School is to create an atmosphere that encourages intellectual pursuit where teachers employ a variety of teaching strategies to meet the diverse needs of our students. Our aim is to prepare students to be self-directed, inquisitive learners. We encourage collaboration among teachers, students, and the community in order to develop students who are life-long learners and productive, responsible citizens of a global society.

Profile

Community and School: Avon is a suburban, middle-income residential community of approximately 5,000 residents, located 20 miles south of Boston. The school system consists of a pre-school (grades Pre-K), an elementary school (grades 1-6), and a middle-high school (grades 7-12). The high school has 191 students and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. In 2019, the school graduated 52 students. The Avon Public Schools participate in the School Choice program, which allows students from other communities to enroll in our district. These students are selected by an application/lottery system. In 2021-2022, the high school consists of a principal, an assistant principal, 29 teachers, a librarian, a guidance counselor, a school psychologist, a school adjustment counselor, a nurse, an ESL teacher, and speech and occupational therapists.

Curriculum: Avon is a comprehensive high school, offering courses with an emphasis on broad-based academic preparation for students going on to colleges, technical schools, certificate programs, and the military as well as for those entering the ‘world of work’. Curricular and extracurricular programs are designed to complement one another by addressing the development of the whole person – socially, intellectually, and physically.

Academic Program: Avon Middle-High School’s challenging academic program includes graduation requirements of four years of English, math, and physical education, three years each of a lab science, and social studies, two consecutive years of a world language, one course with a computer literacy component, and one course in the fine or applied arts.

A combination of rigorous English curricula over four years and a variety of social studies courses such as World History, U.S. History (two years), and Civics/American Government, provide a complete humanities program. World language programs include courses in Spanish, levels 1 through 4.

Science courses such as Biology, Chemistry, Physical Science, and Physics complement a full range of mathematics courses including Algebra I, Algebra II, Statistics, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus/Discrete Math.

The Computer Technology Department offers a comprehensive program to prepare students for work or college.

Advanced Placement courses in Biology, Physics, English, Statistics and Calculus are offered to juniors and seniors based on sufficient enrollment. Taking an AP course and exam is a collaborative effort between the student, the parent/guardian, and the school. AP courses are college courses offered in high school, not simply honors level high school courses. They require students to be self-directed, responsible, and willing to spend an average of 7 hours a week doing work outside of school. The syllabus for each AP class has been approved by the College Board and as such all course requirements must be completed entirely in order to receive credit. The student, the parent, and the school all play a role and must make a commitment to meet the expectations noted below.

The student agrees to organize his/her time and effort to successfully complete the AP course in which he/she is enrolled. The student will notify teachers immediately if he/she falls behind in class readings and/or assignments. Consistent attendance is critical to succeeding in an AP course. The student will be expected to complete assignments, readings and projects outside of class time. Once registered for the course, the student will not be allowed to drop the course, and will be expected to take the College Board's AP Exam in order to receive credit for the course.

The parent/guardian agrees to be familiar with and accept the AP course requirements and policies, and to help his/her child organize study time in support of class assignments. The parent/guardian agrees to purchase required materials and to pay the exam fee as determined by the College Board (The cost of taking multiple exams is the responsibility of the student and parent.) Students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch may be eligible for free or reduced-price AP testing.

The school (AP Teacher and AP Coordinator) agrees to provide rigorous instruction and challenging course content as described in the AP Course Description. The school will provide the student with a copy of the Bulletin for AP Students and Parents and agree to administer the AP Exam in a fair and secure environment as outlined in the AP Coordinator's Manual.

Electives include Sculpture, Drawing and Painting, Art Portfolio, Digital Art, Metalsmithing, Film Editing, Musical Materials, Keyboard/Guitar, Band, Chorus, Digital Media, Computer Science, Software Applications, Coding, Biotechnology, Engineering Technology, Robotics, Drama, Writer's Workshop, Journalism, Scientific Explorations, Anatomy & Physiology, Marine Biology, Psychology, Movie Physics, News & Media Literacy, and Yearbook Production.

Edgenuity/Long Distance Learning: Students take various courses over the Internet that are not available at school.

Athletics

Avon Middle-High School has a proud tradition of dedication and success against the odds, dating back to the championship seasons of the 1950's. The tradition has been carried forward through the diligent efforts of the coaching staff and the commitment of our student-athletes. Avon student-athletes distinguish themselves from their contemporaries in other schools through their tireless work ethic and closeness with their coaches in both the athletic and academic areas of school life. Perhaps the best feature of Avon Middle High School's athletic program is its high level of participation.

Team Sports: This year the athletic program will include the following team sports:

Freshman Football Freshman Basketball Varsity Cross Country

Varsity Football	Varsity & JV Boys Basketball	Varsity & JV Girls Volleyball
Varsity Boys Soccer	Varsity & JV Baseball	Varsity & JV Girls Basketball
Varsity Girls Soccer	Varsity & JV Softball	Varsity Basketball Cheerleading

Extracurricular Activities

Art Club: Students engage in a variety of art activities designed to enhance skills, develop a portfolio, or complete self-directed projects in the art studio. Participation in art field trips is allowed for all Art Club members in good standing.

Class Officers: Each class annually elects a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. These officers meet after school as the need arises to manage the social and financial affairs of their respective classes. They conduct class meetings and represent their classes in dealings with the class advisors and the Student Council. This activity is open to students in grades 7 through 12.

Diversity Club: Diversity Club members coordinate activities that promote sharing of and appreciation for the cultures of all of the groups represented at AMHS. Activities include Mix It Up at Lunch Day, field trips, ethnic films and cuisine, presentations, and participation in the annual World of Difference Youth Congress.

Drama Club: The Drama Club presents three shows per year and has offerings for students in all grades. In the fall, a full-length comedy or drama is presented. In the winter is Student Shorts, the annual student-directed play festival. In the spring, the club presents the annual student/faculty musical.

Hip Hop Dance: Students choreograph dances and put them together to perform for the talent show and sometimes enter exhibitions with other schools. It is not just fun, it is also great exercise and anyone who loves to dance is welcome.

National Honor Society: The Dr. Christopher Morss Chapter of the National Honor Society is open to students in grades 10, 11, and 12. To be eligible, students must display excellence in scholarship, character, leadership and service, and have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Members engage in peer tutoring, recycling, blood drives, and other community service activities.

National Junior Honor Society: The Dr. Christopher Morss Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society is open to students in grades 7, 8, and 9. In order to be eligible, students must display excellence in scholarship, character, leadership, citizenship and service.

Student Advisory Council: The purpose of the Student Advisory Council is to provide a meaningful link and to promote a mutual sense of respect and understanding between the student body and the school committee. The chairperson of the Student Advisory Council serves as a non-voting member of the Avon School Committee, sits with the committee at public meetings and is available to represent the attitudes, interests and concerns, both positive and negative, of the student body. Student Advisory Council members participate in state and regional workshops on topics such as student government, curriculum, and other education related issues. This activity is open to students in grades 9 through 12.

Student Council: Student Council representatives are elected annually to serve as the primary representatives of the student body to the administration. The council is composed of representatives from each grade. The function of the council is to present the administration with proposals for improvement of the schools, to present and discuss concerns regarding school policies and procedures, to assist the administration in scheduling and managing school-sponsored fundraising activities, and to act as a leadership group within the school. This activity is open to students in grades 7 through 12.

Yearbook Production: The Avon High School Yearbook is published annually. In addition to scheduled class time, yearbook production is an intensive and time-consuming extracurricular activity. It provides students with opportunities to work in advertising, business management, finance, writing, copy editing, layout, design, art, photography, and public relations. Students interested in Yearbook Production must fill out a special application available from the adviser at the time of course sign-ups in the spring. Interviews may be a criterion as well. Only ten students, whose applications are approved, will be accepted into this activity.

Graduation Requirements

1. All students need to accumulate 120 credits for graduation. To be considered a senior and to participate in senior class activities during the school year, a student must have earned a minimum of credits. ***Students who have not completed all their graduation requirements one school day after the last final examination will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony*.** (For junior status, a student must have earned a minimum of 60 credits; sophomore status - a minimum of 30 credits)

2. Subjects and specific credits required for graduation:

English - four years	4 courses
Mathematics - four years	4 courses
Science - three years	3 courses
Social Studies - three years	3 courses
World Language - two consecutive years	2 courses
Computer Literacy	1 full year course or 2 semester courses
Fine or Applied Art	1 full year course or 2 semester courses
Physical Education/Health	4 courses
Electives	5 courses
Community Service	40 hours*

*40 hours of community service can be completed over the course of a student's four years at AMHS. Community Service can be done at a single location or at a variety of locations depending on a student's interests. Students may begin fulfilling the community service requirement on the first day after the completion of eighth grade.
**Civics Project Students must complete an approved civics project prior to their graduation through History Department

3. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires that all students must satisfy one of the following two conditions in both English Language Arts and Mathematics to earn a competency determination: Meet or Exceed the scaled score of 472 on the English Language Arts and 486 on the Mathematics grade 10 MCAS tests, or pass with a scaled score of 455 on the English Language Arts and 469 on the Mathematics grade 10 MCAS tests and fulfill the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan. Students shall, in addition to meeting the requirements described above, attain a minimum of Needs Improvement (scaled score of 220) on one of the high school end-of-course science tests (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics or Technology/ Engineering).

4. All students must schedule a program of study with at least 30 credits each year.

5. Failure in courses required for graduation is a serious matter. Such courses and the associated credits may be earned by successfully completing and passing a comparable summer school course, or by taking and passing an approved day-school or evening-school course, or by re-taking and passing the course at

Avon Middle-High School the next school year.

6. Students may choose courses and levels with parental consent and teacher input.

Avon Middle-High School reserves the right to schedule students based on course enrollment, conflicts, graduation requirements, staffing, previous student achievement and other relevant considerations.

Sample Curriculum

Grade 9 – 35 Credits English 9 – College Prep ***or*** Honors Algebra - College Prep ***or*** Geometry - Honors World History II – College Prep ***or*** Honors Biology - College Prep ***or*** Honors Foreign Language – College Prep Physical Education One elective required	**Grade 10** – 35 Credits English 10 - College Prep ***or*** Honors Geometry - College Prep ***or*** Honors Algebra II – College Prep ***or*** Honors U. S. History I – College Prep ***or*** Honors Physical Science – College Prep ***or*** Honors Foreign Language – College Prep Physical Education One elective required
Grade 11 - 35 Credits AP English Language & Composition American Literature- College Prep ***or*** Honors Algebra II – College Prep ***or*** Pre-Calculus-Honors Chemistry - College Prep ***or*** Honors U. S. History II – College Prep ***or*** Honors Physical Education Two electives required *Foreign Language Recommended*	**Grade 12** – 35 Credits AP English Literature & Composition English 12 ***or*** British Literature – College Prep AP Calculus ***or*** AP Statistics ***or*** Statistics - College Prep Physical Education Electives - 5 required

Required Number of Courses

Students are required to take seven courses per day per year whenever possible.
Dropping a Course: Courses will not be changed or dropped AFTER THE SECOND WEEK OF SCHOOL without the consent of sending and receiving teachers, guidance, administration, and parents. For this reason, course selection should be given very serious thought and deliberation.

Descriptions of Course Levels:
AP: Advanced Placement courses follow the curriculum established by the College Board to prepare students for AP exams and possible college level credit.
Honors: These honors courses offer an accelerated and enhanced curriculum and are designed for highly capable and motivated students.
College Preparation: These courses present a substantial academic challenge to prepare students for college and careers.
Electives: These courses are essential for deepening student engagement with our 21st Century Expectations for Learning.

College Admission Guide

Most four-year colleges require a MINIMUM of 16 college preparatory courses for admission. These usually include the following:

English	4 years
Laboratory Science	3 years
World Language	2-3 years (in one language)
Mathematics	4 years (Algebra I + II, Geometry)
Social Science	3 years (including one course in U.S. History)

Selective schools/majors may require further years of study. Please check individual catalogues for specifics.

Massachusetts State Colleges & Universities
Minimum Entry Requirements

The Massachusetts State Board of Higher Education has implemented a series of minimum requirements for admission to all state colleges and universities. Students who meet the standards are eligible to be considered for admission. Admission is not guaranteed.

Minimum college preparatory academic units:

4 years of English
4 years of Math (Algebra I, II, & Geometry or Trig)
3 years of Science (2 years of lab science)
2 years of Social Science(1 year U.S. History)
2 year of World Language (in a single language)
2 years of College Preparatory Electives

High School GPA/SAT I Requirements*

High School GPA ** (Weighted)	Minimum SAT I Score (Critical Reading + Math) **Add 30 Points for UMASS campuses**	OR	Minimum ACT Score (Alternative to SAT)
3.00-4.00	N/A		N/A
2.51-2.99	920		19
2.41-2.50	960		20
2.31-2.40	1000		21
2.21-2.30	1040		22
2.11-2.20	1080		23
2.00-2.10	1120		24
Less Than 2.0	Not Admissible*		Not Admissible*

NOTE: THESE ARE MINIMUM STANDARDS AND MEETING THEM **DOES NOT** GUARANTEE ADMISSION. Please refer to the Board of Higher Education website at www.mass.edu for more specific information regarding admissions standards. Currently, State Colleges & Universities are allowed to admit

up to 10% of their incoming freshman class as "Special Students". Generally, these are students who have a GPA between 2.0 and 3.0, but whose SAT scores do not make them eligible through the sliding scale. Admission criteria for this 10% category are institutionally determined and may vary amongst the state colleges. This policy is year-to-year and may not be in effect in the future.

Massachusetts State Colleges & Universities do not use our GPA. They recalculate GPA based on their own scale. They count only college prep courses. An A= 4.0, B= 3.0, etc. Full year Honors level and AP course receive an extra .5 and 1.0 points respectively. Please refer to the Board of Higher Education website at www.mass.edu for more specific information

*Students who do not meet the standards may be considered for admission to a state college by attending an approved summer enrichment program. The following state colleges have offered BHE approved summer enrichment programs: Fitchburg State College, Mass. College of Liberal Arts, Mass. Maritime Academy, Salem State College, Worcester State College, and Westfield State College. Criteria, application procedures, and structure of these programs may vary amongst the colleges. Students should check with colleges to find out if the programs will be offered

Two-year community colleges may admit any high school graduate. The Joint Admissions Program guarantees admission to many four-year public colleges/universities. For details, visit www.mass.edu

Grade Placement

As students progress through high school, promotion is based on the accumulation of credits toward meeting graduation requirements. Students will be expected to acquire a minimum number of credits in the following manner:

30 credits - to be a sophomore	90 credits - to be a senior
60 credits - to be a junior	120 credits to graduate

Grading System

A+	97 - 100	**C+**	77 - 79	**F**	Below 59
A	93 - 96	**C**	73 - 76	**W**	Withdrawn
A-	90 - 92	**C-**	70 - 72	**WF**	Withdrawn Failure
B+	87 - 89	**D+**	67 – 69	**N**	Not graded
B	83 - 86	**D**	63 - 66	**INC**	Incomplete
B-	80 - 82	**D-**	60 - 62	**X**	Excused

Class Rank

Procedures recommended by the Joint Committee of the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers are followed in determination of rank-in-class. All prospective graduates who have entered Avon Middle-High School prior to their senior year are ranked on all major subjects excluding Physical Education. Exact rank, beginning with ninth grade subjects, is determined at the end of the eleventh grade. Courses that differ substantially in their levels of academic challenge are weighted accordingly.

Summer/Night School

Students who wish to make up for a failure in a course required for graduation or to raise a final grade in order to satisfy prerequisites for a future course, may do so by 1) repeating the course or 2) attending any approved/accredited summer school. Students must receive approval from the guidance department BEFORE applying for summer school. No more than two summer school courses may be taken in any year.

To be eligible for Summer School a student has to earn a grade of F+ (50-59) which may be made up in summer school. The summer school grade must be a C- (70) or higher. Students who wish to repeat courses during any year other than the year immediately following the failure must have approval from the guidance department and administration. Three (3) night-school courses may be taken for credit toward graduation but not for rank-in-class credit. These courses must be approved by the guidance office and the principal.

Academic Recognition

Honor Roll: In recognition of outstanding achievement, students with the **indicated GPA** are placed on the Honor Roll. All courses are considered **un-weighted** for calculation. A mark of D, F, WF, or I in any course will eliminate students from the Honor Roll. High Honors: Cumulative Average of 90 or better. Honors: Cumulative Average of 80 - 89

Guidance Services

The guidance program is devoted to the task of ensuring the development of each student's talents and capabilities to the fullest extent. The major objectives of the program are to guide each student to a high level of self-understanding and direction and to make realistic educational and career decisions. Students are presented with the alternatives and means to assist them as they work toward attaining their goals. Materials are located in the guidance office for student exploration of further education, careers and occupations. These materials are available for use by all students, faculty, and the general public.

Standardized Testing Program
Required: Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) – All students must pass an English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science test in order to receive a diploma from a Massachusetts public school.

Students in Grades 10 and 11 will be given the opportunity to take the PSATs during the school day in October of each school year. Students in grades 11 and 12 are highly encouraged to take the SAT. The SAT should be taken in the Fall or Spring of the student's Junior year, and again in the Fall of the Senior year.

Additional group standardized testing may be required as needed and approved by the superintendent of schools and/or the Avon School Committee. Psychological and diagnostic tests will be administered on an individual basis when necessary and with parental permission.

Scholarships: Financial aid is offered by individual colleges and by various statewide private organizations. In addition, seniors may also apply for several Avon based scholarships. The number and amounts of each vary from year to year, with an average total in the last ten years of $35,000.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Staff and students believe that no individual aspect of our Core Values, Academic Expectations, and Civic/Social Expectations should be isolated or dedicated to any one area of academics, extracurricular, or our daily school activities and that they should, instead, be a part of and guide everything we do.

Core Values Statement

The Mission of Avon Middle-High School is to create an atmosphere that encourages intellectual pursuit where teachers employ a variety of teaching strategies to meet the diverse needs of our students. Our aim is to prepare students to be self-directed, inquisitive learners. We encourage collaboration among teachers, students, and the community in order to develop students who are life-long learners and productive, responsible citizens of a global society.

Academic Expectations

These expectations were written with the intent that they apply to teaching and learning in all disciplines and in all other school activities.

Learning Expectation 1: Information Acquisition, Evaluation and Application
Students demonstrate that they can acquire, evaluate and apply information.

Learning Expectation 2: Effective Communication
Students demonstrate that they can develop purpose, gather resources, utilize organization, consider the audience, reflect on process and outcome.

Learning Expectation 3: Problem Solving
Students demonstrate that they can analyze problems, develop and implement strategies and evaluate their solutions.

Learning Expectation 4: Collaboration and Cooperation
Students demonstrate that they can cooperate as individuals and collaborate as members of a group.

Social and Civic Expectation 5: Respect and Responsibility (for self, community, world)
Students demonstrate decision-making skills, responsible behavior, initiative, respect for intellectual property, participation in school and wider communities, and a recognition of value in others.

English

Successful completion of four years of English is required for graduation. Courses are offered at three levels. These levels may be elected or assigned based on a student's needs, interests, or ability. The English courses will develop the communication skills necessary for everyday life and for the workplace. Students will learn how to write and speak standard English clearly, to use basic references, and to communicate effectively in today's world. Students will practice the process of good writing. They will write a research paper and be required to read a wide variety of literature both in class and as outside reading.

100 COLLEGE ENGLISH 9 Grade 9 5 credits
In this course, students will be introduced to various authors such as August Wilson, Ray Bradbury, Edgar Allan Poe, William Shakespeare, and Harper Lee. Students will learn to integrate textual evidence into

their writing, using in-text citation to document their sources. Grammar review and vocabulary lessons from Greek and Latin roots will be emphasized. Outside reading assignments will be required.

101 HONORS ENGLISH 9 Grade 9 5 credits

In this course, college bound students will be introduced to various authors such as Charles Dickens, William Shakespeare, Mark Twain, and Harper Lee. Critical thinking skills will be developed through emphasis on both oral and written communication. The students will study the origins of the English language. Outside reading assignments will be required. Vocabulary lessons and grammar review will be an integral component.

Prerequisite: B or better in Grade 8 English and/or teacher recommendation.

110 COLLEGE ENGLISH 10 Grade 10 5 credits

In this course, students will continue to develop the reading and writing skills necessary to be an effective communicator and thinker. Readings will include a wide range of literary and informational texts, with emphasis placed on analyzing authors' techniques, use of language and development of theme. Writing assignments will engage students in the writing process and emphasize the use of strong evidence, valid reasoning, and elaboration when constructing written responses. The study of Greek and Roman vocabulary roots will also be addressed. Students will be given many opportunities to practice and master the skills needed to be successful on the grade 10 ELA MCAS.

111 HONORS ENGLISH 10 Grade 10 5 credits

This course will provide an accelerated and more rigorous treatment of English 10 texts and skills. Outside reading and writing assignments will be required. Students will engage in close analysis of various writers such as Arthur Miller, Nathaniel Hawthorne and John Steinbeck. Additional emphasis will be placed on analyzing authors' techniques, use of language and development of themes. Writing assignments will engage students in the writing process and emphasize the use of advanced rhetorical techniques when constructing written responses. The study of Greek and Roman vocabulary roots will also be addressed. Students will be given many opportunities to practice and master the skills needed to be successful on the grade 10 ELA MCAS.

Prerequisite: C or better in Honors English 9 or B or better in College English 9 and/or teacher recommendation.

124 COLLEGE AMERICAN LITERATURE Grade 11 5 credits

In this course, students will analyze American novels, poetry, and plays, and will write expository essays based on literary elements such as theme, conflict, and characterization. Tools for good expository writing such as methods for writing opening paragraphs, thesis statements, and supporting paragraphs will be emphasized along with the writing process. A research paper will be written. Vocabulary will be integrated into the reading assignments and writing will be a regular part of the course.

126 HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE Grade 11 5 credits

In this course, students will analyze American novels, poetry, and plays, and will write expository essays based on literary elements such as theme, conflict, and characterization. Tools for good expository writing such as methods for writing opening paragraphs, thesis statements, and supporting paragraphs will be emphasized along with the writing process. As a culmination, a term-long research project will be completed at the end of the year. Vocabulary will be integrated into the reading assignments as well as a separate part of the curriculum. Students in the honors class will be working at an accelerated pace and will be expected to complete work independently. Acceptance in the honors class is based on previous grades as well as teacher approval.

104 ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Grade 11 &12 5 credits

The AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. As in the introductory college composition course, the purpose of the AP English Language and Composition course is to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers. Students who successfully complete the course and exam may receive college credit, advanced placement or both for a one-semester introductory college composition course. Students enrolled in this course must take the AP examination to receive AP credit for the class. The fee for this examination is the responsibility of the student. Fee reductions are available for qualified students.

122 COLLEGE ENGLISH 12 Grade 12 5 Credits

This class focuses on skills needed after high school whether you choose college, trade school, or the workforce. We will be reading and studying short stories, drama, poetry, and nonfiction writing. All forms of communication will be a focus in this class, including reading, writing, speaking, clarity, understanding, and the ability to explain.

128 COLLEGE BRITISH LITERATURE Grade 12 5 Credits

In this course, students will study the history of English literature and will read selections of early and middle English literature such as *Beowulf* and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. The students will also study Shakespeare and two of his plays, *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*.

130 HONORS BRITISH LITERATURE Grade 12 5 Credits

In this course, students will study the history of English literature and will read selections of early and middle English literature such as *Beowulf* and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. The students will also study Shakespeare and two of his plays, *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*. In addition, the honors level course will include independent research and novel projects.

105 ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Grade 11 & 12 5 credits

This course is designed to be an academically rigorous and challenging course which emulates college material, emphasizing writing concisely, thinking analytically and reading critically. Students will deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and commentary on life and the human condition. As they read, students will consider a work's structure, style and themes as well as such elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone. This course will include an intensive study of representative works from various genres, cultures and periods spanning from the 5th century B.C. to contemporary times. Students will consider the social and historical values these works reflect and embody. This year-long class is designed for dynamic seniors who are eager to challenge themselves as readers, to experiment with a variety of writing assignments and to contribute to daily discussions about literature. Students enrolled in this course must take the AP examination to receive AP credit for the class. The fee for this examination is the responsibility of the student. Fee reductions are available for qualified students.

Prerequisites: Students must: achieve a qualifying score on the AP Literature and Composition Pretest; earn a combined grade of B+ or better in Honors American Literature or a combined grade of A- or better in College American Literature; recommendation of English teacher and complete required summer reading assignments.

140 JOURNALISM Grades 9-12 2.5 credits

Students will learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students conduct interviews, research, write, and design their own publications.

World Languages

Mission of the World Language Team

The goal of the World Language Team is to initiate within the student a lifelong journey of language acquisition where students speak and use Spanish in spontaneous and authentic ways. By engaging learners in an environment of linguistic and cultural immersion that fosters creativity, risk-taking, and cultural competence, students gain the confidence necessary to continue using foreign language skills outside of the classroom and in their future endeavors throughout the world.

251 SPANISH I Grades 8-12 5 credits

This elementary course introduces students to the essentials of Spanish by promoting their development in these basic linguistic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is given to promoting skill in speaking and grammatical construction. Listening and speaking skills are continually reinforced and perfected through use of tape recordings of native speakers of Spanish. Culture of the Hispanic world is also studied.

261 SPANISH II Grades 9-12 5 credits

This course strengthens and builds upon the foundations laid in Spanish I. Delving more deeply into all aspects of Spanish grammar and idiom, the student refines pronunciation, speaking, and writing skills. Traditional class work is augmented by the use of tape recordings in the individualized laboratory program. Students further their knowledge of Hispanic cultures.
Prerequisite: C- or better in Spanish I or permission of instructor.

271 HONORS SPANISH III Grades 10-12 5 credits

This course involves the study of more complex grammar and building of idiomatic structures through the use of topics presented by native speakers. The student is required to make speeches and to prepare cultural presentations and lectures. More in-depth cultural material and literature of various genres are available for study.
Prerequisite: C- or better in Spanish II or permission of instructor.

281 HONORS SPANISH IV Grade 12 5 credits

This course refines all aspects of Spanish studies from the first three years. Grammar is reviewed. Composition writing with literacy analysis, selected readings in a variety of literary genres, and further historical and cultural studies are offered.
Prerequisite: B- or better in Spanish III or permission of instructor.

Mathematics

The Mathematics Department offers a program that follows the recommendations of the curriculum standards of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the guidelines of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Students in this program will learn to communicate mathematical ideas, to reason effectively, to be problem solvers, and to make connections between mathematics and real-world situations. In all mathematics courses students are responsible for meeting the Avon Middle High School Academic, Civic and Social Expectations for Student Behavior.

Mathematics Sequence of Courses 2020-2021

Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12
						Statistics College Prep
Algebra I College Prep	→	**Geometry** College Prep ***or*** Honors	→	**Algebra II** College Prep ***or*** Honors	→ or →	**Pre-Calculus** College Prep
Geometry College Prep ***or*** Honors	→	**Algebra II** College Prep ***or*** Honors	→ or →	**Pre-Calculus** Honors **Pre-Calculus** College Prep	→ →	**AP Calculus** Or **AP Statistics** **Pre-Calculus Honors** **Or** **AP Statistics**

*Please note: These are the typical sequences of math classes taken at AMHS. Students are able to move between the College Prep and Honors sequences as long as they have met the prerequisites for the course.

418 ALGEBRA I Grade 9 5 credits

This course follows the curriculum of the integrated Model Mathematics I course outlined in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks aligned to the Common Core Standards in 2011. The scope is limited to linear and exponential expressions and functions as well as sequences, absolute value, step, and piecewise functions. Linear systems and regression techniques for fitting data to linear models will be explored. Geometry topics covered in this course include constructions, triangle congruence and transformations, problem solving with polygons, coordinate geometry, special triangles and quadrilaterals. Students will use mathematics in real life applications and make connections to other disciplines.
Prerequisite: Algebra readiness test.

422 GEOMETRY Grade 10 5 credits

This course follows the curriculum of the integrated Model Mathematics II course outlined in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The focus of the course is on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions; comparing their characteristics and behavior to those of linear, exponential, absolute value, step, and piecewise functions from Algebra I. Students extend the laws of exponents to rational exponents, and the laws of probability to compound events. They extend their knowledge of number systems to include complex numbers. Geometry topics include similarity of triangles, right triangle trigonometry, special right triangles and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students prove theorems involving lines, angles, triangles, and other polygons. They explore a variety of formats for writing proofs.

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Algebra I.

424 HONORS GEOMETRY Grade 9 5 credits
This course is designed for students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in Algebra I. It will provide an accelerated and more rigorous treatment of algebra and geometric concepts of the Geometry topics. A particular difference is the level of difficulty of proofs.
Prerequisite: B or better in Algebra I and teacher recommendation.

426 COLLEGE ALGEBRA II Grade 11 5 credits
This course follows the curriculum of the integrated Model Mathematics III course outlined in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. In this course students will integrate and apply the mathematics they have learned from their earlier courses. Students will apply methods from probability and statistics to draw inferences and conclusions from data. They will extend their understanding of expressions and functions to include polynomial, rational, logarithmic and radical functions. Their knowledge of right triangle trigonometry will be expanded to include general triangles and radian measure. The domain of the trigonometric functions will be extended to all real numbers. Students will consolidate their knowledge of functions and geometry to create models and solve contextual problems. Graphing calculator required (TI-84 or TI-83). **Prerequisite:** Passing grade in Geometry.

428 HONORS ALGEBRA II Grade 10 5 credits
This course is designed for students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in Mathematics II. It will provide an accelerated and more rigorous treatment of the Mathematic II topics. Graphing calculator required (TI-84 or TI-83).
Prerequisites: C+ or better in Honors Geometry or a B or better in College Geometry and teacher recommendation.

432 COLLEGE PRE-CALCULUS Grade 11-12 5 credits
This course is designed to extend the mathematics students learned in Mathematics I-III and further prepare them for success in college mathematics. Students explore and apply concepts of vectors and matrices to model and solve real-world problems. They extend their work with complex numbers, logarithms, exponential, polynomial, rational and trigonometric functions. They link classroom mathematics and statistics to everyday life, work, and decision-making using mathematical modeling. This course does not prepare a student for AP Calculus. Graphing calculator required (TI-84 or TI-83).
Prerequisites: Passing grade in Algebra II.

452 PRE-CALCULUS HONORS Grade 11-12 5 credits
This mathematics course is a rigorous examination of functions and their graphs. This is a faced paced course and students need to be prepared to work hard. Students will develop the skills necessary to analyze and graph a function without the use of a calculator. However, a graphing calculator is required for this course. (TI-84 or TI-83) The course will also help students understand limits and how limits are used in analyzing both functions and their graphs. These techniques lead to a stronger foundation in the basics of calculus. The trigonometric component of this course will include, but not be limited to, trigonometric identities, graphical analysis, right triangle trigonometry, the Unit Circle, Law of Sine, Law of Cosine, and solving trigonometric equations. This is a Pre-AP Calculus course, the goal of which is to prepare the student for the rigor of an AP course.
Prerequisites: B or better in Honors Geometry or teacher recommendation.

454 PERSONAL FINANCE Grades 9-12 2.5 credits
In this introductory finance course, students learn basic principles of economics and best practices for managing their own finances. Students learn core skills in creating budgets, developing long-term financial plans to meet their goals, and making responsible choices about income and expenses. They gain a deeper understanding of capitalism and other systems so they can better understand their role in the economy of

society. Students are inspired by the experiences of finance professionals and stories of everyday people and the choices they make to manage their money.

453 STATISTICS Grade 12 5 credits

This course is an introduction to probability and statistics with emphasis on data collection and analysis techniques that are useful in business, engineering, social and the biological sciences. Topics include conditional probability, the binomial and normal distributions, confidence intervals, linear regression and correlation, and hypothesis testing.

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Teacher Recommendation **TI-83 or 84 graphing calculator is required.**

490 ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS AB Grade 12 5 credits

Calculus is the culmination of all that students have learned in mathematics. It has true applications in the real world in every technical and medical career. Topics include: Limits and continuity, derivatives, applications of derivatives, the definite integral, differential equations and mathematical modeling, and applications of definite integrals. This is a demanding mathematics course and study groups are highly recommended. Graphing calculator required (TI-84 or TI-83).

Students who successfully complete the course and exam may receive college credit, advanced placement or both for a one-semester introductory college calculus course. Students enrolled in this course must take the AP examination to receive AP credit for the class. The fee for this examination is the responsibility of the student. Fee reductions are available for qualified students.

Prerequisite: B or better in Honors Math Analysis & Trigonometry or teacher recommendation.

492 ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS Grade 12 5 credits

The purpose of the AP course in statistics is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes:

1. Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departures from patterns
2. Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study
3. Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation
4. Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses

Students who successfully complete the course and exam may receive college credit, advanced placement or both for a one-semester introductory college statistics course. Students enrolled in this course must take the AP examination to receive AP credit for the class. The fee for this examination is the responsibility of the student. Fee reductions are available for qualified students.

Physical Education/Health

Physical Education courses promote the wellbeing of the individual: physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally. Self-improvement is essential to success in these courses and in life. The physical education program stresses fitness, individual, and team sports. Programs may be modified or waived only with a written physician's recommendation or during the term in which students participate in varsity or junior varsity sports.

900 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 2.5 credits

Students participate in a program of planned activities with an emphasis on fitness and positive self-image. Individual and team sports as well as the basics of weight training and individual exercise are introduced. Fitness testing is conducted in September, at mid-year, and in June.

903 WELLNESS 2.5 credits

This course is for students who want to take responsibility for their own physical and emotional health. It is designed to promote making healthy food choices, maximizing the amount of exercise one gets, controlling emotions, and handling certain social situations. Students will engage in a range of activities from fitness walking to healthy cooking. This is a hands-on course and participation is crucial. Students will be graded on their participation as well as on assigned projects.
Prerequisite: C- or better in Physical Education.

910 Health 2.5 credits

Health Education provides students with knowledge, attitudes, and skills to make health-promoting decisions. The classes address the physical, mental, emotional, and social dimensions of health. Good Health is not a one-time decision but a series of decisions continuing throughout our lives.

Students will develop high level comprehension and understanding in the areas of Personal Wellness, Mental and Emotional Health, Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco, Body Systems and Disease, Nutrition and Fitness, Consumer and Environmental Health, and Human Sexuality.

Health Education is crucial to enhance the overall health and well-being of individuals and their respective communities. Health will provide students with knowledge, attitudes, and skills to make healthy decisions for life-long health and wellness.

Science

The Science Department offers courses in chemistry and the physical and biological sciences. These courses stress scientific concepts and principles, investigative and problem-solving skills, and the development of scientific attitudes. Curiosity, objectivity, and honesty are fostered, helping students to use scientific knowledge and methods effectively in everyday life. All AMHS Science Courses include a lab.

521 COLLEGE BIOLOGY Grade 9 5 credits

This course seeks to develop an appreciation for the complex interrelationship between human beings and the rest of the biological world. Through cooperative learning, writing activities, and scientific experimentation, students will gain insight into the nature of the cell, modern genetic theory, the diversity of living organisms, the relationship between structure and function in animals and plants, and the interdependency of all living organisms with their environment.

520 HONORS BIOLOGY Grade 9 5 credits

This honors course is offered to accelerated ninth graders. It is designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to understand the molecular basis of the biological world. Regularly assigned readings from popular scientific literature will emphasize that science is an ever-expanding body of information. Discovery-based laboratory activities will allow students to uncover biological principles using the methods of science that are employed by modern biologists. In addition, students will explore topics such as the greenhouse effect, gene therapy, or the destruction of the rainforests through independent projects.
Prerequisite: B or better in Grade 8 science and/or teacher recommendation.

563 COLLEGE PHYSICAL SCIENCE Grade 10 5 credits

This is a college preparatory course that introduces students to basic topics in physics, such as motion, heat, sound, electricity, magnetism, atomic structure, and basic inorganic chemistry.

560 HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE Grade 10 5 credits

This is an advanced science course designed for students planning careers in science, engineering, mathematics, computers or medicine. There is a heavy emphasis on creative, mathematical problem solving. Students will be exploring acceleration and velocity, the nature of electricity and light, waves and motions, the structure of atoms, and how to write and balance equations.

Prerequisites: C+ or better in Honors Biology and Honors Geometry or B or better in College Biology and Geometry; recommendation of previous science teacher. Must be taking Honors Algebra II concurrently.

531 COLLEGE CHEMISTRY Grade 11 5 credits

This course is an experimental approach to the development of chemical concepts with less emphasis on mathematical problem solving. Development of lab skills necessary for success in an introductory college level chemistry course is stressed.

530 HONORS CHEMISTRY Grade 11 5 credits

This course uses an experimental approach to the development of chemical concepts. There is a heavy emphasis on mathematical problem solving. This is a college preparatory course for students interested in careers in engineering, medicine, or any of the sciences.

Prerequisites: C+ or better in Honors Physical Science, Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra II or B or better in college levels and/or recommendation of previous science teacher.

555 EARTH AND THE UNIVERSE Grade 12 5 Credits

The first part of the course will revolve around the shallow layer of lands and oceans containing the majority of life. Students will investigate the factors and forces coming from both our atmosphere and below the surface of our planet that contribute to our physical environment. The second part of the course will be extended out from our planet and give introductory coverage of our solar system and the stars.

540 ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS 1 Grade 12 5 credits

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of Physics through inquiry-based investigations. This course requires that 25 percent of the instructional time will be spent in hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry based investigations that provide students with opportunities to apply the science practices. Students who successfully complete the course and exam may receive college credit, advanced placement or both for a one-semester algebra-based introductory college physics course. Students enrolled in this course must take the AP examination to receive AP credit for the class. The fee for this examination is the responsibility of the student. Fee reductions are available for qualified students.

Prerequisites: C+ or better in Math I, Math II, and Math III and/or permission of the instructor.

550 ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY Grade 12 5 credits

This course follows the curriculum established by the College Entrance Examination Board and prepares students for the AP Biology Exam. It is equivalent to a first year course in biology at the college level. Students enrolled in AP Biology take the AP examination. The fee for this examination is the responsibility of the student. Fee reductions are available to qualified students.

Prerequisites: B or better in College Chemistry or B- or better in Honors Chemistry; B or better in College Biology or B- or better in Honors Biology; completion of required summer assignments; interview with the AP instructor.

551 PSYCHOLOGY Grades 9-12 2.5 Credits

Students will examine the principles of psychology through an experimental approach. These principles are organized in seven broad content domains: Scientific Inquiry, Biopsychology, Development and Learning , Sociocultural Context, Cognition, Individual Variations and Applications of Psychological Science. Each

principle will be taught via the scientific method; creating a hypothesis, designing an experiment, collecting data, and drawing conclusions.

552 MOVIE PHYSICS Grades 9-12 2.5 Credits

Students will delve into the physics of cinema as seen on the big screen. Movie scenes will be analyzed to see if the laws of physics are being obeyed or broken. Concepts learned in the sophomore year physical science class will be revisited and elaborated on.
Prerequisite: passing grade in Physics.

553 MARINE BIOLOGY Grades 9-12 2.5 Credits

The study of marine science explores the diversity of coastal marine habitats and ecosystems. Students will explore and utilize the tools scientists use to study these areas, with an emphasis on topics related to human impacts and environmental health. Fieldwork and data collection sites will include explorations of the rocky intertidal zone, neighboring island ecosystems, as well as seabird and marine mammal foraging habitats.

554 ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY Grades 9-12 2.5 Credits

Anatomy and Physiology is the study of the structure and function of the human body. This course will prepare students for advanced biological studies, work in the allied health fields, and other science-based careers. Laboratory experiences, case studies, and data analysis activities will provide students the opportunity to explore the following topics: the major body systems, how the body systems work together to provide homeostasis, body functions in the healthy and diseased states, blood typing, muscle and nerve action, and bioethics.

555 SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATIONS Grades 9-12 2.5 Credits

Look at the world around you–what do you see? There is all this “stuff” that things are made of, and there is even more “stuff” that we can’t see (for example oxygen or microorganisms). Explore the foundational nature of chemistry that structures the technological world in which we live. Examine the ways in which different materials interact, and how these materials and reactions are used in the modern world.

Social Studies

The Social Studies courses support the Academic, Civic, and Social Expectations, with an emphasis on acquiring, evaluating, and applying information. The students utilize questions to drive their research in a variety of topics from US History I and II and World History. They use multiple resources for their research topics and apply the acquired information in a new product. The students in Civics courses cooperate as individuals by acknowledging others’ ideas and perspectives in lively discussions of current events. The Social Studies courses apply the Social and Civic Expectations by respecting intellectual property, works and ideas through the use of proper citations in their research projects.

603 COLLEGE WORLD HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY II Grade 9 5 credits

This course examines world history from 1800 to the present time. Facts and events will be presented clearly and accurately to provide students with the opportunity to discuss the significance of these events. Cause and effect relationships will be explored and the students will be encouraged to draw their own conclusions.

602 HONORS WORLD HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY II Grade 9 5 credits

This course examines world history from 1800 to the present time. All political, social and intellectual topics will be discussed in detail. Special attention will be paid to cause and effect relationships and people as part of a larger global culture. Primary sources will be studied and students will be asked to draw conclusions based on these sources. There will be substantial independent study.
Prerequisite: B or better in Grade 8 social studies and/or teacher recommendation.

611 COLLEGE UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1877 Grade 10 5 credits
This course will follow the progress of U.S. history from the Constitution to the period of Reconstruction following the Civil War. Major political, intellectual, and social topics of the period will be studied. Special emphasis will be placed on the Constitution.

639 HONORS UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1877 Grade 10 5 credits
This course will follow the progress of U.S. history from the Constitution to the period of Reconstruction following the Civil War. Major political, intellectual, and social topics of the period will be studied. Special emphasis will be placed on the Constitution. Students will read, evaluate, and analyze primary sources and literature to help them understand topics.
Prerequisite: C or better in Honors World History II or a B or better in College World History II.

617 COLLEGE UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1877 Grade 11 5 credits
This course covers the evolution of the United States as a world power. All major political, intellectual, and social topics between the Industrial Age and the present will be studied. There will be special emphasis on the increasing diversity of the United States population and the role they will serve as world citizens. Students will become familiar with geography related to all topics studied.

640 HONORS UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1877 Grade 11 5 credits
This course will cover the United States History from the Industrial Age through the present. Students will be exposed to different points of view on some of the most controversial topics in modern American history. Cause and effect relationships will be explored and students will be encouraged to draw their own conclusions after exposure to primary sources. There will be substantial independent study.
Prerequisite: C or better in Honors U.S. History I or a B or better in College U.S. History I.

606 CIVICS/AMERICAN GOVERNMENT Grades 11 & 12 2.5 credits
American Government will focus on three fundamental topics: the institutions of American government; the historical development of governmental procedures, actors, and policies; and who governs in the United States and to what end. It will emphasize the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship.

651 HISTORY OF THE 20TH CENTURY Grade 12 2.5 credits
This class will cover issues from the beginning of the cold war through the end of the 20th century. Students will look at how the Cold War and its aftermath affect each region of the world politically, economically, and geographically. Students will learn how the 20th century has shaped the world we live in today.

654 AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM Grades 9-12 2.5 credits
When a movie comes out and is promoted as "based on actual events," it's not always accurate, and it may even be biased by current events. In this course, students will look at movies that cover major events in American history, and also look at how ideas at the time of the filming influence the tone of movies. They will also examine the movies to find out whether or not there are inaccuracies in the manner in which the events are portrayed.

A HISTORY OF ESPIONAGE AND SPYING Grades 9-12 2.5 Credits
Throughout history, spies have collected information that has changed the course of history. This course will look at how spying and espionage has changed the course of history, starting in ancient Greece until today. Explore history through the eyes of spies and secret agents.

655 HISTORY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Grades 9-12 2.5 Credits
This course will cover the history of Massachusetts from the time when it was the home to native peoples to the 21st century. Students will see how Massachusetts history relates to New England, the United States and the world. Particular attention is placed on the Avon area in relation to Massachusetts history.

656 THE HISTORY OF ART IN THE WESTERN WORLD Grades 9-12 2.5 Credits
This course will focus on fine arts in the western world from prehistoric times to the present. Students will study symbolism and types of art. Students will also follow changes in western art throughout time.

657 NEWS/MEDIA LITERACY Grades 9-12 2.5 Credits
This course examines topics such as analysis of media, and the impact of journalism at various periods of United States history. Students study these topics by exploring and researching guiding questions such as, "Why is a free press essential to democracy?" and "What are principles of responsible journalism?"

Arts

The Art Department offers courses for students of all levels, abilities, and interests. Students engage in a broad range of studio production using a wide variety of subjects, media, and methods in order to communicate their ideas about the themes that they have studied. Through the study of art history and aesthetics, they develop awareness about the role of visual art in communities and culture. By critiquing their own work and the work of others, they reflect on their own progress and set goals for future learning. This process of creating and self-evaluation fosters personal responsibility for learning and the practice of the AMHS 21st century Learning Expectations of acquiring, evaluating and applying information, effective visual communication, problem solving, collaboration, and cooperation both individually and as a group. In addition, Visual Art courses foster decision-making skills, personal responsibility for behavior, initiative, respect for intellectual property and the contributions of each student to the studio environment. Important note: **Students interested in attending an art college or majoring in art are strongly urged to take an art course each year of high school. They should inform the guidance office and the art instructor of their intentions as soon as possible**.

820 DRAWING/PAINTING Grades 9-12 2.5 credits
This course is designed for students who wish to explore new possibilities in the communication of ideas through the visual language of art, in projects that promote in-depth experiences, self-evaluation, and creative problem-solving, as well as many other 21st century skills (see the general statement for Art). Students will investigate a variety of drawing and painting approaches, working from life as well as the imagination. Research and writing assignments provide opportunities for the examination of ideas and self-reflection. Quality artwork of past and contemporary artists will be studied for appreciation and reference. With the permission of the instructor, this course may be repeated for credit.

849 SCULPTURE Grades 9-12 2.5 credits
In this course, students explore the communication of ideas in 3-dimensions through the visual language of art, with a wide variety of materials, working from life as well as the imagination. Projects promote in-depth experiences, self-evaluation, and creative problem-solving, as well as many other 21st century skills (see the general statement for Art). Research and writing assignments provide opportunities for the investigation of ideas and self-reflection. Quality artwork of past and contemporary artists will be studied for appreciation and reference. With the permission of the instructor, this course may be repeated for credit.

830 PORTFOLIO Grades 11-12 2.5 credits
This course is appropriate for self-motivated students who are interested in concentrated, individualized study in visual arts. Preparation of a college/art school admission portfolio can be accomplished through this

course. Students work to develop a personal vision which communicates their ideas using a variety of student-chosen media. Rigorous engagement with in-depth projects requires self-evaluation, creative problem-solving, as well as many other 21st century skills (see the general statement for Art). Students planning to major in visual arts in college should take this course both junior and senior years. A summer assignment is required prior to the start of the course.
Prerequisites: Drawing/Painting or Sculpture or Digital Art and interview with/approval of instructor.

855 DIGITAL ART Grades 9-12 2.5 credits
This course focuses on photographic content, visual communication, and the expansive possibilities in the world of digital imagery. The class explores the range and depth of the imagination through the use of current image-making and image-processing software, and the communication of ideas through the visual language of art. Projects promote in-depth experiences, self-evaluation, creative problem-solving, as well as many other 21st century skills (see the general statement for Art). Research and writing assignments provide opportunities for the investigation of ideas and self-reflection. Quality artworks of past and contemporary artists are studied for appreciation and reference.
Prerequisites: Students who take this course must own, or have access to, a digital camera that can be adjusted to a variety of settings.

114 DRAMA Grades 9-12 2.5 credits
Drama teaches students to develop self-confidence and poise. This full-year course covers basic theatre terminology, appreciation of various dramatic forms, and appropriate audience response. Awareness of theatre production processes, understanding of theatre literature, and beginning performance skills will also be introduced. Students will experience all aspects of the theatrical process including improvisation, memorization, scene study, design, playwriting, and more. Students will attend 3-4 theatrical productions per year, visiting local performing arts organizations including the Huntington Theatre Company and Wheelock Family Theatre. *Note: As these trips take place during school hours, students must have the permission of their other teachers in order to participate.*
This course may be repeated for credit with the permission of the instructor

856 FILM EDITING AND PRODUCTION Grades 9-12 2.5 credits
This course is an introductory course that allows students to explore the importance of narrative structure and how it's achieved through editing. Lessons include continuity, rhythm, pace, the role of editing in the final product, the aesthetics of editing style, and the craft of hands-on editing work using typical film editing software.

857 METALSMITHING Grades 9-12 2.5 credits
Over the course of the semester students will develop a skill set in metalsmithing and create both jewelry and sculptural objects. Students apply the elements and principles of art to their designs and practice self-expression. Students will explore techniques and processes using non-ferrous metals in a safe environment while finding solutions to challenging assignments. The emphasis of this course is active participation, skill development, and problem solving.

145 WRITER'S WORKSHOP Grades 9-12 2.5 Credits
This course is an opportunity for students to explore their voice and style as a writer; throughout the semester students will be exposed to different purposes for writing (creative, informative, persuasive, etc.) as well as a range of possible genres (fiction, poetry, spoken word, editorials, memoir, documentary, drama, etc.). Students will have the opportunity to explore topics and genres that interest them. Journaling and free writing will be part of almost every class and will play an important part in generating ideas and material to later expand into more complex writing. Students will also participate in writer's workshops to receive peer and teacher feedback. Students are expected to publish at least 1 piece of writing each term in the school newspaper. At the end of each semester, students will produce a portfolio of their work as well as participate in a writer's showcase. This course can be taken for a semester or for the entire year.

816 YEARBOOK PRODUCTION Grade 12 2.5 credits

Students will experience the issues, concepts, and techniques of preparing and producing a yearbook. Using an established online program, students will plan, organize, schedule, and construct layouts. Students will learn about advertising, photography, and the creation of copy for a yearbook. Official yearbook deadlines must be met; time outside of class may be required to do so. Admission to the class requires a completed application form in the spring and an interview with or permission from the instructor.

Music

869 MUSIC METHODS AND MATERIALS Grades 9 – 12 2.5 credits

This fast-paced, hands-on beginner's course provides students with the primary skills needed for musical independence. Ear training, vocal training and instrumental techniques will be covered, along with music notation, composition and improvisation. Course work will include performances and written work.

875 KEYBOARD/GUITAR Grades 9 – 12 2.5 credits

Keyboard and Guitar will focus on teaching the basic skills for both instruments. Students will learn to read music and perform individually and in groups. Music theory, ear training, and composition will be major components of the course. Course work will include both performances and written work. Instruments are not required.

870 BAND Grades 9 – 12 2.5 credits

Band is open to any student who plays a musical instrument and is willing to learn music representing a wide variety of styles from classical to pop and jazz. Music theory, ear training, sight reading and improvisation will also be covered. Public performances are mandatory. In addition to performance, written work will also be expected.

874 CHORUS Grades 9-12 2.5 credits

General Chorus is open to any student who enjoys singing. The student must be willing to learn music representing a wide variety of styles from classical to pop and jazz. Music theory, sight singing, and vocal techniques will be covered. Public performances are mandatory. In addition to performance, written work will also be expected.

Computers, Technology, And Engineering

Technical skills are of value to all students. With the increasingly expanding role of the computer in today's society, it is required that all students complete at least one year (5 credits) of a computer-based course. These courses offer exciting and challenging opportunities for students who are continuing their education after high school or entering the workforce.
NOTE: STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN A COMPUTER COURSE WILL BE LIMITED TO THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE COMPUTERS.

719 SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS Grades 9-12 2.5 credits

This course is intended to continue the development of a student's computer literacy by reinforcing the skills necessary to efficiently operate computers and iPads. Students will be expected to attain proficiency level of competence using the popular Microsoft/Apple applications: Word/Pages, Excel/Numbers, and PowerPoint/Keynote, as well as other appropriate software packages. Macbooks and iPads will be used throughout the entire course.

760 DIGITAL MEDIA Grades 9-12 2.5 credits

Digital Media is a project-based class that uses Adobe Creative Cloud Software such as Illustrator, Photoshop, and Animate. Students will be encouraged to focus on their own personal strengths and interests when creating for themselves, and consider empathy when designing for others. By the end of the class, students will have developed the fundamental design skills needed to enter the fields of graphic design and marketing. This class includes a free subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud products for all enrolled students.

780 TECH SUPPORT Grades 9-12 5 credits

Student-run tech support is for self-directed, detail-orientated students. Students will be troubleshooting all technology equipment, maintaining the web site, and assisting students and staff.

770 CODING Grades 9-12 2.5 credits

This class focuses specifically on the programming area of computer science, with an emphasis on helping students develop logical thinking and problem solving skills. Students will experiment with text-based programming languages such as Python and Javascript to create art, games, animations, and apps. Students will leave this class with foundational knowledge of programming that can be used in a variety of fields and careers.

772 COMPUTER SCIENCE Grades 9-12 2.5 credits

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of computer science. Topics covered include programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. Students use their computer science skills for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

768 TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING Grades 9-12 2.5 credits

This class is designed to examine the way that practical problems are solved by the development or use of technology. Students will focus on applied technologies such as engineering design, construction, energy and power, communication, transportation, and bioengineering. Through hands-on, project based curriculum, students will achieve a first-hand understanding of the interactions between science, technology, engineering, and math and learn how each of these relates to real world applications

772 BIOTECHNOLOGY 1 Grades 9-12 2.5 credits

This is a one semester course designed to introduce the basic principles of biotechnology, molecular biology as well as basic laboratory skills using state of the art laboratory equipment. Students will conduct a Forensics Lab where students will use synthetic blood and gel electrophoresis to simulate the use of molecular technology techniques used in criminal investigations. Additionally, a Food Safety Lab will be conducted where students will perform PCR amplification on food samples to determine if they are contaminated with pathogenic E. coli.

771 ROBOTICS/ELECTRONICS I Grades 9-12 2.5 credits

This is a one-semester project-based course designed to provide an introduction to electricity and electronics, robotics, and computer programming. Projects will include designing a control panel for a spaceship, a digital hourglass, a mechanical animation that plays forward and reverse, a lamp that responds to touch, a master controller for electronic devices, and more. These projects will be constructed via an open-source electronics prototyping platform known as Arduino. Arduino is a single-board computer which students will use to control the physical world with sensors and actuators.
Prerequisite: Technology/Engineering

Special Education

(For those students with Individual Education Plans)

300 ACADEMIC SUPPORT Grades 9-12 1 Credit/Day

This course is designed to provide direct instruction in organization, time management, and study skills so that students can make progress in their general education courses. Students have the opportunity to improve their study skills and work habits in a small, structured setting with the support, guidance, and instruction of a Special Education Teacher. Academic support is provided for test preparation, reading and writing strategies, the use of graphic organizers and outlines, and specific subject areas as needed. The small student to staff ratio allows for individualized support in each student's identified area/s of need.

302 HIGH SCHOOL ELA Grades 9-12 5 Credits

This course is designed for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) who have been identified as requiring intensive support with oral and written language. Taught by a Special Education Teacher in a self-contained, small group environment, students receive direct instruction in English Language Arts skills such as reading, comprehension, and written language and expression, with a program developed through the Team process that focuses on the individual needs of each student.

304 HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS Grades 9-12 5 Credits

This course is designed for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) who have been identified as requiring support in fundamental numeracy skills, math reasoning, problem solving, and/or other math skills. Taught by a special education teacher in a self-contained, small group environment, students receive direct instruction that parallels general education math courses.

310 HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY Grades 9-12 5 Credits

This course scaffolds skills over the four-year academic period. All curricula will be presented at entry levels based on the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks/ Common Core constraints and standards. This course will follow the progress of U.S. history from the Constitution to the period of Reconstruction following the Civil War.

312 HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE Grades 9-12 5 Credits

This course will teach specific concepts, mostly in Biology, using the high school standards at entry or access level points. They will be taught the concepts in depth and throughout the entire year. During this year, an MCAS Alternative Assessment Portfolio will be constructed for the students as required by the state. The concepts taught will include cell biology, genetics, anatomy, physiology, evolution, and ecology. Students will work directly with the instructor in order to execute all tasks with increased accuracy and maximum independence.

Vale Program

AMHS offers a Vocational and Life Skills Experiences (VALE) Program through the Special Education Department. The VALE Program is a blend of functional academics, pre-vocational training, and daily living skills. The mission of the VALE Program is to help students become productive members of their own communities to the fullest extent possible. In-class instruction, hands-on learning activities, on- and off-site work experiences as well as community outings provide a wide range of learning opportunities for students so that they make a successful transition to adult life.

306 LIFE SKILLS Grades 9-12+ 5 Credits

This course for special needs students is specially designed instruction to assist students with meeting everyday challenges. Curriculum topics include oral communication and presentation, structures of

conversation, perspective taking, identifying big vs. small problems, appropriate language and communication for desired settings, self-advocacy and others. Other topics include social skills, health and hygiene, finances, and self-esteem.

308 VOCATIONAL SKILLS Grades 9-12+ 5 Credits
This course is designed to help students with Individualized Education Programs learn and develop skills to assist them in transitioning to post-secondary vocational opportunities. Students participate in vocational/training opportunities in a variety of areas in and outside of the classroom and school environment. Students are assessed on their progress in these skill areas through hands-on activities.

College & Career Readiness

445 TEACHER ASSISTANTS Grade 12 1 credit
Interview required. Approval of Teacher, Guidance Office and Principal.

990 COLLEGE/CAREER/LIFE READINESS Grade 11 2.5 Credits
This course will help students develop strategies to find their appropriate college/career path. Students will gain an understanding through self-assessment and career exploration. The students will also develop skills and competencies including preparing a resume, writing a cover letter, filling out an application, learning soft skills and developing interviewing techniques. Students who take this course will never be able to say “I wish they would have taught us this in high school.” The class will also help develop life savviness and domestic skills necessary for the adult world. This course will help students become knowledgeable in practical “real world” skills to supplement their academic knowledge. Young adults need to be exposed to the basic skills to be confident, successful and independent learners. Students will learn to develop important strengths such as goal setting, overcoming setbacks, applying for and keeping a job, basic home/self care, etiquette, growth mindset, mindfulness and time management.

Online Courses

The following guidelines apply to any student who intends to enroll in an approved online course.

- A student must meet all core graduation requirements by taking courses at AMHS (4 English, 4 Math, 3 Soc. Studies, 3 Lab Sciences, and 2 Foreign Language). With approval of the administration, a student who fails a core requirement can enroll in an approved online course. A student taking an online class to recover credits may either take an online class concurrent to the in-school class or at the conclusion of the in-school class. When a student is using an online class for credit recovery, like summer school, the student needs a minimum failing grade between 50-59 to qualify for a credit recovery class and must also earn a 70 or better in the online class to earn the credit.

- Students can use online classes in lieu of or in addition to AMHS electives in order to meet the graduation requirement when the class is not offered at AMHS or when there is a problem with scheduling an AMHS course in a student’s schedule.

- Students who choose to take an approved online course not offered through the school are responsible for all of the costs associated with participation in the online course.

- Any exceptions to these guidelines require the principal's approval.