Program of Studies
Career Pathways

VICKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

2025-2026

VICKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
501 E. HIGHWAY
VICKSBURG, MICHIGAN 49097
(269) 321-1100
FAX (269) 321-1155

CONTENTS

VICKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Adam Brush - Principal
Matthew Hawkins- Assistant Principal
Michael Roy – Athletic Director

VICKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Andrew Lothschutz
Jessica Peck

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY /ACCESS

Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against or denied equal opportunity or access to programs or services may file a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance, with the District's Civil Rights Compliance Officers,

Steve Goss
Assistant Superintendent
269-321-1000
301 S. Kalamazoo St.
Vicksburg, MI 49097

Lourdes Puzevic
HR Coordinator
269-321-1018
301 S. Kalamazoo St.
Vicksburg, MI 49097

The individual may also, at any time, contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 600 Superior Avenue, Room 750, Cleveland, OH 44114-2611.

Michigan Merit Curriculum
High School Graduation Requirements

Subject Area	Description	Personal Curriculum (Modifications)
English Language Arts **4 Credits**	• Aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the Department and approved by the State Board of Education	✔ No modifications except for students with an IEP
Mathematics **4 Credits**	• Algebra 1 • Geometry • Algebra 2 (algebra 2 may be taken over a 2 yr. Period for 2 credits or 1.5 yrs for 1.5 credits) • Algebra 2 can be substituted with a CTE program if the student successfully completes the tested content • 1 additional math or math related credit or a course in financial literacy • 1 math or math related credit must be taken in the last year of high school	✔ Complete at least 3.5 math or math related credits ✔ Complete a math or math related credit in the final 2 years **OR** ✔ Complete a two year Career and Technical Education curriculum, which includes Algebra 2 content as assessed on State assessments **OR** ✔ Completes 1 semester of statistics or technical math
Science **3 Credits**	• Biology • Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy or agricultural science • 1 additional credit that covers same content as Chemistry or Physics benchmarks • Additional credit can be a CTE program in MDE approved Computer Science or other CTE program (regardless of content)	✔ No modifications except for students with an IEP
Social Studies **3 Credits**	• .5 Civics • .5 Economics • U.S. History and Geography • World History and Geography	✔ No modification to Civics ✔ 2 credits must be earned ✔ Modified only if the student takes an additional credit beyond the required credits in English Language Arts, Math, Science, or World Languages **OR** ✔ Completes a CTE program
Health and Physical Education **1 Credit**	• 1 Credit developed by the Michigan Department of Education **OR** • .5 credit in health and .5 credit in an extracurricular activity that involves physical activity	✔ Modification only if student takes additional credit(s) beyond the required credits in English Language Arts, Math, Science, or World Languages **OR** ✔ Completes a CTE Program
Visual, Performing, Applied Arts **1 Credit**	• Credit guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Education	✔ Modification only if student takes additional credit(s) beyond the required credits in English Language Arts, Math, Science, or World Languages **OR** ✔ Completes a CTE Program
World Language **2 Credits**	• Credits are earned in grades K-12 (course content must be age appropriate- not H.S. equivalent) **OR** • An equivalent learning experience in grades K-12 • Pupils may substitute 1 credit in CTE or Visual Performing Arts	✔ No modifications
Online Learning Experience	Online course or learning experience **OR** Online experience is incorporated into each of the required credits	✔ No modifications

NOTES: Every class will need a MINIMUM of 24 total credits in order to graduate from Vicksburg High School.
Additional restrictions may apply to CTE programs, Personal Curriculums and Special Education students.

VICKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
CAREER PATHWAYS

ARTS AND COMMUNICATION PATHWAY

The Arts and Communication Pathway includes careers related to the humanities and to the performing, visual, literary and media arts.

Characteristics of this pathway include:

- ✓ Creative thinkers
- ✓ Individuals who are imaginative, innovative and original
- ✓ Individuals who like to communicate ideas

Interests and abilities typical of this pathway include:

- ✓ Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- ✓ A special talent in performing (acting, singing, or dancing)
- ✓ The ability to write or draw creatively

Careers in this pathway may include:

Creative or Technical Writing
Illustrating
Graphic Designing
Publishing
Theater Arts
Journalism
Languages
Radio and Television Broadcasting
Photography
Advertising
Public Relations

Specific examples include:

Artists
Journalists
Industrial Designers
Musicians
Photographers
Theater Technicians

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, MARKETING AND TECHNOLOGY PATHWAY

The Business, Management, Marketing and Technology Pathway includes careers related to all aspects of business including accounting, business administration, finance, information processing, and marketing.

Characteristics of this pathway:

- ✓ Work that involves convincing others of your point of view
- ✓ Work with ideas, products and people
- ✓ Working with computer technology
- ✓ Working in a competitive work environment
- ✓ Work which is structured with clear guidelines
- ✓ Working indoors
- ✓ Planning and directing the activities of an organization

Interests and abilities typical of this pathway:

- ✓ Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- ✓ The ability to think logically and make decisions
- ✓ The desire to perform detail work with numbers or words
- ✓ The ability to meet and talk with new acquaintances
- ✓ The ability to inspire customer confidence

Careers in this pathway may include:

Entrepreneurship
Sales
Marketing
Hospitality and Tourism
Computer/Information Systems
Finance
Accounting
Office Administration
Personnel
Management

Specific examples include:

Accountants
Business Managers
Salespersons
Buyers
Computer Network
Administrators
Secretaries
Stock Analysis
Economics

ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY PATHWAY

The Engineering, Manufacturing and Industrial Technology Pathway includes careers related to the technologies necessary to design, develop, install, or maintain physical systems.

Characteristics of this pathway include:

- ✔ Figuring out how things work
- ✔ Building things
- ✔ Working with your hands

Interests and abilities typical of this pathway include:

- ✔ The ability to use tools to properly gather data
- ✔ The ability to understand and interpret data
- ✔ The ability to think independently to solve problems and draw conclusions
- ✔ The ability to read and understand technical information

Careers in this pathway may include:

Designing
Engineering and Science
Service Technicians
Manufacturing Technology
Transportation
Construction

Specific examples include:

Architects
Airplane Pilots
Engineers
Carpenters
Microcomputer Specialists
Equipment Operators
Technicians
Mechanics

HEALTH SCIENCES PATHWAY

The Health Sciences Pathway includes careers related to the promotion of health, as well as, the treatment of injuries, conditions, and disease.

Characteristics of this pathway include:

- ✔ Helping people when they are sick
- ✔ Learning about diseases and how the body works

Interests and abilities typical of this pathway include:

- ✔ An interest in the science field
- ✔ The ability to make decisions
- ✔ The ability to work under stress
- ✔ Flexibility, willingness to change
- ✔ Patience and understanding
- ✔ Self-discipline
- ✔ The desire to serve or help other people
- ✔ The willingness to work as part of a team

Careers in this pathway may include:

Medicine
Dentistry
Nursing
Therapy and Rehabilitation
Nutrition
Fitness and Hygiene
Public Health
Physical Therapists

Specific examples include:

Physicians
Nurses
Pharmacists
Health Facility
Administrators
Dental Assistants
Medical Technicians

HUMAN SERVICES PATHWAY

The Human Services Pathway includes careers in child care, civil service, education, hospitality, and the social services.

Characteristics of this pathway include:

- ✔ Working directly with people or groups of people
- ✔ Working with people to help solve problems
- ✔ Making things better for other people

Interests and abilities typical of this pathway include:

- ✔ The ability to lead and/or influence others
- ✔ The ability to work under stress
- ✔ Enthusiasm
- ✔ Flexibility
- ✔ Patience and understanding
- ✔ Self-discipline
- ✔ The ability to speak and write well
- ✔ The desire to serve or help other people
- ✔ The willingness to work as part of a team

Careers in this pathway may include:

Law and Legal Studies
Law Enforcement
Public Administration
Child and Family Services
Social Services
Public and Private Education

Specific examples include:

Postal Workers
Police Officers
Lawyers
Teachers
Counselors
School Administrators
Fire Fighters
Clergy
Social Workers

NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRISCIENCE PATHWAY

The Natural Resources and Agriscience Pathway includes careers related to natural resources, agriculture and the environment.

Characteristics of this pathway include:

- ✔ Working outdoors with plants and/or animals
- ✔ Improving the environment
- ✔ Studying wildlife

Interests and abilities typical of this pathway include:

- ✔ The ability to use tools to properly gather data
- ✔ The ability to understand and interpret data
- ✔ The ability to think independently to solve problems and draw conclusions
- ✔ The ability to read and understand technical information

Careers in this pathway may include:

Agriculture
Earth Sciences
Environmental Sciences
Fisheries Management
Forestry
Horticulture
Wildlife Management
Veterinary Science

Specific examples include:

Environmentalists
Turf Grass Managers
Farmers
Landscape Architects
Plant Scientists
Marine Biologists
Agricultural Equipment Mechanics
Conservation Officer
Meteorologist
Forester
Veterinarians

APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES

Applied Engineering and Robotics (CTE) **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit/sem**
(Full year/semester) **1 Credit/year**
This hands-on course introduces students to the fundamentals of engineering and robotics through design, problem-solving, and real-world applications. Students will explore engineering concepts, mechanical systems, and programming skills needed to create functional robotic systems. Using cutting-edge tools and technology, students will design, build, and program robots to perform specific tasks, emphasizing teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking.

BUSINESS

Accounting I (CTE) **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**
An introduction to double-entry accounting procedures.Students will learn to keep financial records for a service or retail business. Principles covered include the bookkeeping cycle,debit/credit theory, financial statements, use of various journals and ledgers, worksheets, accounts receivable and payable, payroll systems, work based learning opportunities, office safety training, employability skills development, and student leadership opportunities. This is a yearlong course.

Marketing (CTE) **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**
Marketing is designed to prepare students to conduct the critical business functions associated with directing the flow of products and services from the producer to the consumer. Basic job skills and attitudes for success in the business world will be the focus for this course. A fundamental understanding of the marketing concepts and basic marketing skills are essential not only to students entering the field of marketing but to everyone entering the workforce. Marketing provides students with knowledge and skills that are highly transferable and will last a lifetime. Topics of study will include, but are not limited to:
The World of Marketing,Economics,Business and Society,Skills for Management,Selling,Promotion,Distribution,Pricing Marketing Information Management,Product and Service Management and Career Planning. This course also offers work based learning opportunities, office safety training, employability skills development, and student leadership opportunities.

AP Computer Science Principles **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**
AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level course that introduces high school students to the foundations of modern computing. The course covers a broad range of foundational topics such as programming, algorithms, the Internet, big data, digital privacy and security, and the societal impacts of computing.

ENGLISH

English 1 **Grade Level: 9** **1 Credit**
English 1 is a study of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Reading is varied and is assigned from a variety of short stories, poetry, novels, and drama. Writing instruction focuses on several strong building blocks of writing, including creating effective thesis statements, finding strong topic sentences, using sound support, and using proper grammatical structure. Students can expect one to three hours of homework each week.
Prerequisite: None

English 2 **Grade Level: 10** **1 Credit**
English 2 continues the development of the reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills introduced in English 1. Students will be asked to make connections between real life and literature through a variety of themes, including decision making, leadership, family matters, aging, and social and cultural awareness. Reading will be assigned from a variety of genres, including short stories, novels, memoirs, and poetry. Writing skills will continue to develop through increasingly rigorous writing assignments. Students can expect one to three hours of homework each week.
Prerequisite: Credit earned in English 1

English 3 **Grade Level: 11** **1 Credit**
English 3 further extends students' reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Reading will be assigned from a variety of genres, including drama, short stories, novels, memoirs, and essays. Themes include the individual's role in society, justice, friendship, civic responsibility, and loyalty, among others. Writing skills will continue to develop through increasingly rigorous writing assignments. Students can expect one to three hours of homework each week.
Prerequisite: Credit earned in English 2

English 4 **Grade Level: 12** **1 Credit**
English 4 is designed to help students polish reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Reading will be assigned from a variety of genres, including, but not limited to, drama, short stories, novels, memoirs, and essays. Themes will include existentialism, justice, compassion, the American Dream, and satire, among others. Writing skills will continue to develop through still more rigorous writing assignments. Students can expect one to three hours of homework each week.
Prerequisite: Credit earned in English 3

AP English Language and Composition **Grade Level: 11, 12** **1 Credit**
This class is an extensive study of writing and rhetorical analysis that is comparable to an entry-level college composition course. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences, as well as practice timed writing and AP test-taking strategies, including in-depth evaluations of rhetorical styles and strategies. Writing will include weekly essays and an extensive writing portfolio. Students should expect three to five hours of homework per week.
A summer reading assignment and essay may be required.

AP English Lit & Composition **Grade Level: 11, 12** **1 Credit**
This course is an extensive study of writing and literary analysis that is comparable to an entry-level college English literature course. Students will carefully read and critically analyze a variety of literary works and practice AP test-taking strategies. Analysis will focus on structure, style, themes, figurative language, symbolism, and tone. Writing instruction will include frequent essays and timed writings. Reading will be assigned from 5-7 major literary works per semester. Students should expect three to five hours of homework per week.
A summer reading assignment and essay may be required.

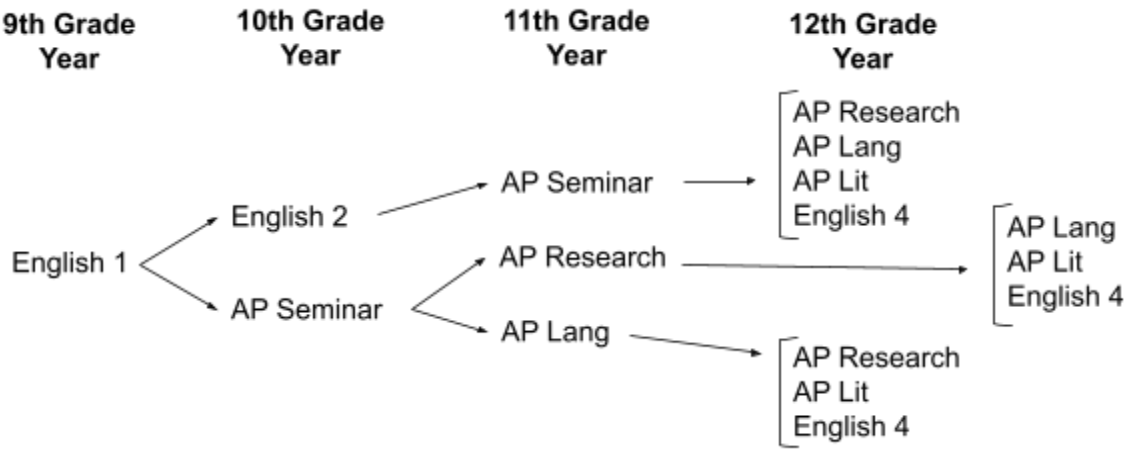
Creative Writing (English) **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**
This is a writing course which focuses on using descriptive and figurative language to write for the purpose of entertaining or informing. Topics include journaling, the art of writing poetry, short stories, plays, narrative writing, and writing for publication. Writing will include short stories, poetry, plays, and narrative writing. Academic and literary vocabulary will be developed. Reading will be assigned from various poems, essays, novels and short stories. There will be 2-4 hours of homework per week.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 1.

Human Issues **Grade Level: 11, 12** **.5 Credit**
This is a one-semester course which focuses on research, writing, and speaking and listening to explore and learn about complex current issues. The class will learn about database research and developing personal positions based upon research. Writing will include a few researched-based personal position essays, and speaking and listening will include Socratic seminars. Reading will be assigned from nonfiction articles. There will be 1-2 hours of homework per week.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 1 and English 2, or equivalent credits.

AP Capstone (AP Sem. & AP Research) Grade Level: 10, 11, 12 1 Credit

AP Capstone is a two-year arc focusing on research, teaming, project management, and presentation skills. Students wishing to take the courses DO NOT need to commit to completing the full Capstone Diploma, and they do not commit to both years. Students who wish to take AP Research must complete AP Seminar, but students who complete AP Seminar do not need to continue on to AP Research. Students fulfill required English credits by taking either course in any of the indicated years. For more information on VHS's Capstone program, please see: https://sites.google.com/vicksburgschools.org/vhs-capstone/home

Capstone Course Pathways



FINE ARTS

Art I **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**
This is an introductory-level art class where students do a wide variety of hands-on projects. Students will study various techniques and create finished projects using the following mediums: graphite, color pencil, oil pastel, printmaking, paint and clay. Students will also focus on learning and effectively incorporating the elements and principles of art, the history of art, and art criticism into their artwork and daily routine. Art I provides students with a sound foundation in relation to technique, composition, and art history which they can build upon in advanced art courses offered at VHS.

2-D Drawing **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**
This is an advanced-level art class where students will refine their art production skills. Students taking this course will read and write about the work of various artists and apply what they learn to their own work. They will self-evaluate and make personal judgments about their work and the work of others. They will mat and display their work for viewing. Students will use direct observation and personal expression to create their works of art. Graphite, charcoal, colored pencil, scratchboard, pastels, are the mediums explored in this course.
Prerequisite: Art 1 recommended

2-D Printmaking **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**
This is an advanced-level art class where students will refine their art production skills. Students taking this course will read and write about the work of various artists and apply what they learn to their own work. They will self-evaluate and make personal judgments about their work and the work of others. They will mat and display their work for viewing. Students will learn various printmaking techniques including monotypes, collographs, relief printing, silk and various intaglio processes. In addition, some fiber arts and drawing projects will be included.
Prerequisite: Art 1 recommended

2-D Painting **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**
This is an advanced-level art class where students will refine their art production skills. Students taking this course will read and write about the work of various artists and apply what they learn to their own work. They will self-evaluate and make personal judgments about their work and the work of others. They will mat and display their work for viewing. Students will study a variety of painting styles and techniques using watercolor, acrylics, tempera, and mixed media.
Prerequisite: Art 1 recommended

3-D Sculpture **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**
This is an advanced-level class that explores different sculptural techniques using different media through hands-on experience, reading, and written assignments. You will use clay, wood, metal, found objects, and stone to create works of art in a wide range of subject matter. In addition, other multimedia and drawing based work will be included. The focus will be on improving your sculpture skills and increasing your knowledge of private, public, and monumental sculptures and the artists that create them. Class participation is a requirement.
Prerequisite: Art 1 recommended

Advanced Placement Art - Drawing **Grade Level: 11, 12 (Full Year)** **1 Credit**
This course is designed for the serious art student who has taken an appropriate selection of art classes prior to enrolling. The class will emphasize high quality work with product orientation. Students will complete in class assignments as well as develop a body of work unique to them in a concentrated portfolio. Extensive work outside the classroom is required. The end product for students will be a portfolio which will be submitted for evaluation by the art teacher and Collegeboard. This course is designed to assist students in the preparation of that portfolio.
Prerequisite: Must have Art I and 2-D Drawing, OR portfolio review and teacher approval before enrolling in this class.

TV Production (VBTV) **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit/sem**
(Full year/semester) **1 Credit/year**
This course offers students an introduction to the art of Multimedia Journalism. Students will learn the skills necessary to produce a school news show produced for public viewing. All facets of public speaking, first amendment issues, camera operation, graphic editing, and technical skills will be addressed on a basic level. Students will also learn the basics of video editing and production. Students are introduced to several software applications that when used together can produce professional quality digital media. Students may be placed in various positions depending on their strengths-anchoring, editing, filming, writing, photography, etc. Students will have the opportunity to create more in depth feature pieces and explore the elements of digital storytelling.
Prerequisite: None

Photography I **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

Students will learn how to express themselves by integrating artistic and technical aspects of black and white photography. Hands-on activities will be the focus of this course. Students will learn about the aperture/shutter principles, B&W film processing, 35 mm camera techniques, darkroom techniques, and digital editing software techniques. Students will learn about the history of photography and the various styles of famous photographers. Students will also keep a portfolio and be expected to take pictures during and outside of class.

Prerequisite: None

Photography II **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

Students who have completed Photography I would be able to build upon their skills and portfolio in Photography II. Students will learn about advanced black and white techniques when working with film such as the multiple exposure technique. Students will also learn advanced digital editing techniques within Photoshop and various RAW editing tools. Advanced processing techniques in film and slow shutter effect in digital are a few of the units that will be highlighted during the semester. Students will be asked to take pictures during and outside of class time. Students will be required to photograph and edit within the RAW format. Students will also keep and maintain a digital portfolio throughout the semester.

Prerequisite: Photography I

Film & Video Arts **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit/sem**
(Full year/semester) **1 Credit/year**

EFA Film & Video Arts teaches the fun skills of filming, editing, directing, producing, and scriptwriting. Students receive in-depth training in professional filmmaking and work on projects such as music videos, short comedies, action movies, and more. Students will work on group videos during class while working on individual projects outside of class. Students will enter several film contests, take field trips, and attend the EFA Film Festival. No prior knowledge or experience is necessary.

Prerequisite: none

Advanced Video Arts Studio **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit/sem**
(Full year/semester) **1 Credit/year**

This is a project-based film class for students 10^{th}-12^{th} who have already taken at least one semester of the EFA Film & Video Arts. The class will concentrate on individual student films that will be used for portfolio work and entered into video competitions. Students will learn about lighting, sound, directing, and advanced filming and editing techniques. Students can also work on animation, documentaries, or other projects. The class can be taken repeatedly and by semester or full year.

Prerequisite: One semester of Video Arts

Treble Chorus **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

Treble Chorus is a select group of motivated students of 9th through 12th grades. This group focuses on performing advanced music from a variety of genres and reading music at an advanced level. We will sing, study music theory and composition, listen to and evaluate musical performances and discuss music's place in history and culture. Members of Treble Chorus will participate in after school rehearsals and events. Enrolling in Treble Chorus for the full year is encouraged.

Prerequisite: Audition with instructor.

Chorale **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

Chorale is a group of singers of grades 9 through 12. This ensemble is dedicated to singing a wide variety of choral music, including music from different historical periods, different popular genres, Broadway musicals and African-American spirituals. We will focus on developing our choral singing technique and improving our ability to read music. We will learn musical vocabulary, sing, compose, listen to and evaluate musical performances and discuss music's role in history and culture. Students will participate in required after school rehearsals and performances. Students may register for one semester or a full year.

Prerequisite: None.

Chamber Singers **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

Chamber Singers is an elite group of motivated and responsible singers of 10th through 12th grades, though exceptions may be granted for 9th graders in some cases. Chamber Singers members are dedicated to learning and performing a wide variety of advanced choral music. Membership in Chamber Singers requires participation in after school events and rehearsals. We will sing, develop advanced music-reading skills, study music theory, listen to and evaluate musical performances and discuss music's place in history and culture. Enrolling in Chamber Singers for the full year is encouraged.

Prerequisite: Audition with instructor.

Early Dawgs Jazz Band **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

The VHS Jazz ensemble is open to all students who are able to play on a jazz instrument; saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, guitar, bass and drum set. Jazz Band is a full year long course devoted to the performance of jazz literature. Students will study and perform swing, be-bop, Latin, funk and rock jazz. The class meets 6:30-7:20 a.m. on selected days. The Jazz Ensemble will perform at VHS band concerts and jazz festivals throughout Michigan and nationally.

Top Dawgs Jazz Band **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

The VHS Top Dawgs Jazz ensemble is open to all students. Jazz Band is a full year long course devoted to the performance of jazz literature and is the top performing jazz ensemble at VHS. Students will study and perform swing, be-bop, Latin, funk and rock jazz as well as explore more in-depth jazz theory. Students must be able to play on a jazz instrument; saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, guitar, bass and drum set. The class meets daily. The Jazz Ensemble will perform at VHS band concerts, and perform at Jazz Festivals throughout Michigan and nationally.

Marching Band (1st semester) **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

The ensemble is open to all students who participate in the band program. The Big Red Machine consists of brass, woodwind, percussion, and a flag corps. Students are required to attend band camp in August, as well as participate in summer rehearsals. The Big Red Machine performs at home football games, parades, and marching band competitions in the West Michigan Area. Memorization of music and drill is also required. The ensemble changes over to Symphonic Band at the conclusion of the marching season.

Concert & Symphonic Band (2nd semester) Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12 **.5 Credit**

Open to all band students in the music program. The concert and symphonic bands perform a variety of literature throughout the winter and spring and will attend festivals in Michigan and nationally. Students will be exposed to baroque, classical, and modern concert band music. Students will be exposed to scales and rhythms and will require playing assessments to determine ensemble placement. Students will perform multiple concerts during the semester. All concerts are required.

Wind Ensemble **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

Wind Ensemble is accessible by audition only. The wind ensemble is the top concert ensemble at VHS. Students who participate in the group will be challenged with a variety of band literature, including modern, classical, romantic, and baroque. The band will perform both in school and at band festivals throughout Michigan and nationally. The ensemble is dedicated to the excellence in performance of band literature. All wind ensemble students will be encouraged to perform at Solo & Ensemble Festival. Private lessons will be highly suggested.

Family and Consumer Science

Nutrition **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

Nutrition Education assists students in considering the complexity of their environment in making choices about diet and behavior. Topics include the food pyramid, vitamins, minerals, exercise, weight management, fad and balanced diets, nutrition careers, foreign food, food selection, and basic food prep. Writing will include classroom assignments and research. Reading will be assigned for the text and current media. There will be approximately 1 hour of homework per week.

Prerequisite: None.

Family Living/Child Development **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit/sem**
(Full year or semester) **1 Credit/year**

A study of the unique and common characteristics we find in the families of this decade. Emphasis in family relations and parenting skills. Topics include family issues, the family life cycle, relationships, marriage, pregnancy, labor and delivery, child care, and child development. Reading will be assigned from the text and current media. There will be 1 hour of homework per week. Community Service (3 hrs) and "Baby Think It Over" infant simulators are required for successful completion of the course.

Prerequisite: None.

Personal Finance-Family and Consumer Science **Grade Level: 12** **1 Credit**

Personal Finance is a two-semester, one credit course that helps students to develop skills in managing their personal finances today and in the future. Areas of study include the acquisition of information, skills and strategies to get, earn, grow, stretch, keep, invest and protect money. Decision-making to consider wants vs. needs, goals (short and long term) and the application of knowledge will be incorporated. Topics include basic consumer economics, financial planning, career exploration, developing a financial plan, savings, investing, credit, gambling, consumer fraud, identity theft and insurance. Personal planning and cost related evaluations will be explored for major life cycle events; buying a car, paying for college, renting an apartment, living on your own, health care, designing a vacation plan, buying a home, parenting, divorce, aging and funerals. **This class counts as a 4th related math credit.**

Prerequisite: None

MATHEMATICS

***Technology recommendations: TI graphing calculators (83, 84+) strongly recommended for all math courses. A TI-83+ would be best for any new purchase.**

Algebra I **Grade Level: 9** **1 Credit**
An introduction to the discipline of algebra. Topics include statistics and linear algebra with applications to "real life" situations. There will be 2-3 hours of homework per week. Writing will include explaining math procedures and concepts on assignments or journals.
Prerequisite: None

Geometry **Grade Level: 9, 10** **1 Credit**
A study of the mathematical properties of space. Topics include geometric art, circles, reasoning, construction, area, volume, congruence, similarity, and trigonometry. Writing will include notes, terminology, and a conjecture list. There will be 2-3 hours of homework per week.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I.

Algebra II **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**
A bridge to higher math. Challenging. Topics include exponents, logarithms, variation equations, series and sequences, and trigonometry. There will be 2-3 hours of homework per week. An A.E. is recommended. Writing will include data descriptions and explaining math procedures on assignments or journals.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of both Algebra I and Geometry.

Advanced Geometry **Grade Level: 9** **1 Credit**
A study of the mathematical properties of space through a proof-oriented approach. Topics include proof, circles, area, volume, congruence, similarity, trigonometry, and algebra connections. Writing will include notes, terminology, and formal proofs. There will be 2-3 hours of homework per week.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I in 8th grade or teacher recommendation.

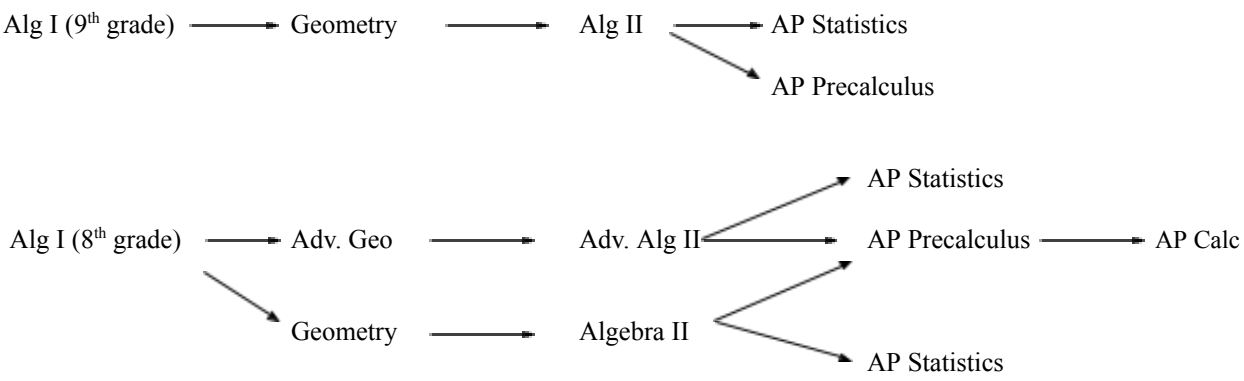
Advanced Algebra II **Grade Level: 10** **1 Credit**
An accelerated extension of Algebra. Topics include linear modeling, systems of equations, quadratic equations, exponential equations, rational equations, etc. Writing will include explaining the real world meanings of numbers found through mathematical models. Reading will be assigned from the textbook. There will be 2-3 hours of homework per week.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Advanced Geometry

Advanced Placement Statistics **Grade Level: 11, 12** **1 Credit**
An introduction to the study of statistics. Topics will include exploring data - observing patterns and departures from patterns, planning a study - deciding how and what to measure, producing models for predicting from data, statistics inference - confirming models. Writing will include journals and projects. Reading will be assigned from the text and other supplements. There will be 3-4 hours of homework per week. Recommended for all college-bound seniors. This course should be considered rigorous and only serious students should register.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II or Advanced Algebra II.

Advanced Placement Precalculus **Grade Level: 11, 12** **1 Credit**
The course provides an excellent foundation for calculus but also serves as an appropriate capstone mathematics course that will open pathways to success in STEM fields. The curriculum, while remaining true to traditional precalculus topics such as logarithmic and trigonometric functions, includes additional tools and skills such as the use of logarithmic scales, and modeling discrete dynamical systems with matrices. These together with an emphasis on rates of change and applications provide students with the mathematical knowledge and skills that will prove tremendously beneficial in biology, chemistry, environmental science, kinesiology, and other sciences.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Advanced Algebra II or B or better in Algebra II or teacher recommendation

Advanced Placement Calculus AB **Grade Level: 11, 12** **1 Credit**
AP Calculus AB is an introductory college-level calculus course. Students cultivate their understanding of differential and integral calculus through engaging with real-world problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and using definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions as they explore concepts like change, limits, and the analysis of functions.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP Precalculus

*MATH SEQUENCE**



***Any other sequencing must be agreed upon by teacher and student and will be addressed on an individual basis.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Advanced Physical Education **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

PE is mandatory for all students under the Michigan Merit Curriculum. This class provides for the development of physical fitness, knowledge, goal setting, skills and attitudes necessary for enjoyable participation to remain physically active throughout life in a variety of athletic and recreational activities. Personal wellness, lifetime activities, cooperative learning activities incorporated with games and personal activity goals. Activity selection based upon season, personal fitness goal, facilities available and class size. Evaluation based on attendance, participation, personal social skills, class preparedness, and successful completion of a personal fitness goal.

Prerequisite: None

Health **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

Health is mandatory for all students under the Michigan Merit Curriculum. This is a mandated course designed to foster positive attitudes, awareness and knowledge intended to enhance personal health and quality of living. This class provides opportunities to acquire experiences and skills to encourage students to engage in healthy behaviors through exposure to speakers, projects, interactive activities and visual aids. The curriculum includes human growth and development, emotional health, nutrition, environmental health, family life, diseases and disorders, consumer health, substance abuse, safety, first aid and community health. Health literacy is to obtain, interpret and understand health information and related services in a custom which are health enhancing.

Prerequisite: None

Strength & Conditioning I **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

An introductory class to strength training and speed and agility development. Proper lifting and spotting techniques, proper running mechanics, and change of direction mechanics are emphasized; as are developing core strength, shoulder stability, and hip mobility. Progressions on learning on how to Squat properly and introduction to Olympic lifts like the Clean are a point of focus. Physical testing takes place at the end of the semester. Physical tests include a 1 rep max on the Bench and Squat (also Clean should the student so choose) and a 10 yard dash, 40 yard dash, Standing Long Jump, and a 5-10-5 Agility test. Physical tests are scored (Performance Scores), but not graded. There is some classroom work at the beginning of the class, approximately 15 minutes per week, which are assessed by quizzes. Daily grading is based on effort, proper execution of lifts, following of assigned workout including following assigned tempo's, rest times, and weights.

Prerequisite: None

Strength & Conditioning II **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

A continuation of Strength and Conditioning, but with greater intensity, greater focus on movement skills (Speed/Agility), and more emphasis on recovery. Focus is placed on developing greater proficiency on Olympic lifts such as the Power Clean and Snatch. Rotational movements also become a greater point of emphasis. Improvements on physical tests (Performance Scores) are graded. There is little to no classroom work. Daily grading is based on effort, proper execution of lifts, following of assigned workout including following assigned tempos, rest times, and weights.

Prerequisite: Strength & Conditioning I

Sports Officiating **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit/sem**
(Full year or semester) **1 Credit/year**

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to sports officiating, covering rules and techniques for various sports. Students will gain official certification upon passing the certification test, while also developing team-building and leadership skills essential for effective officiating. Ideal for those pursuing officiating opportunities or seeking to enhance their leadership and team building skills within a sports context.

Prerequisite: None

SCIENCE

REQUIRED COURSES

Biology **Grade Level: 9** **1 Credit**

The study of life begins at the level of organisms, delving into the many processes and structures, at scales ranging from components as small as individual atoms to organ systems that are necessary for life to be sustained. Our focus then broadens to consider organisms in their environment-how they interact with the environment's living (biotic) and physical (abiotic) features. Next we consider how organisms reproduce, passing genetic information to their offspring, and how these mechanisms lead to variability and hence diversity within species. Finally, the core ideas in life sciences culminate with the principle that evolution can explain how the diversity that is observed within species has led to the diversity of life across species through a process of descent with adaptive modification. Evolution also accounts for the remarkable similarity of the fundamental characteristics of all species.

Prerequisite: None

Chemistry **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

An introductory general chemistry course. Topics include atomic theory, chemical bonding. stoichiometry, kinetic molecular theory, gas laws, pH, and thermochemistry. This course is a formula driven, math based approach to chemistry. Students will solve chemical problems and perform and report laboratory activities. There will be 3 hours of homework per week.

Prerequisite: Biology.

Physics **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

A course in the scientific principles of the physical world. Topics include motion, mechanics, light, electricity, magnetism, and modern physics. This is a formula driven, math based approach to physics. Students will solve physical problems, and perform and report laboratory activities. There will be 3-5 hours of homework per week.

Prerequisite: Biology.

Active Physics **Grade Level 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

Active Physics includes thematic science units the students can relate to: driving safety, safety features in cars, roller coasters, and off grid power systems to explain basic physics principles of motion, forces, momentum, electricity and energy. The focus will be on scientific investigations.

Prerequisite: Biology and teacher recommendation

* Students should not take both Active Physics and Physics.

MINIMUM Recommendation for college bound students:

Biology → **Chemistry or Physics** → **Chemistry or Physics or an AP Class** → **AP or an elective**
9th **10th** **11th** **12th**

Alternative Pathway:

Biology → **Chemistry or a Physics class** → **An elective Science Class**
9th **10th** **11th**

Recommended Sequence to take AP Science Courses
Freshman Year –Biology
Sophomore Year – Chemistry and/or Physics (1-2 courses)
Junior Year – AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics
Senior Year – AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics

SCIENCE ELECTIVES

Advanced Placement Biology **Grade Level: 11, 12** **1 Credit**

A study of the functioning of organisms on a molecular and cellular level. Topics included are biomolecules, cell structure and functions, cellular respiration, protein synthesis, genetics, biotechnology, evolution, organisms and populations and ecology. Writing will include extensive laboratory write-ups and one research paper. Reading will be assigned from the text and a variety of sources needed to write a research paper. There will be 4+ hours of homework per week. A summer assignment will be required and assigned the semester before enrollment.

Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry I and Physiology are strongly recommended.

Advanced Placement Chemistry **Grade Level: 11, 12** **1 Credit**

This course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry lecture and laboratory course usually taken during the first college year. Topics covered in AP Chemistry include: Atomic structure, periodicity, bonding, stoichiometry, solutions, liquids, solids and gas laws, equilibrium, acid/base, kinetics, and thermodynamics. There will be approximately 3-5 hours of homework per week. AP Chemistry course is geared to prepare students for the AP Exam in May.

Prerequisites: Chemistry and Algebra II

Advanced Placement Environmental Science **Grade Level: 11, 12** **1 Credit**

The study of how the earth affects humans and how humans affect the earth. This is the equivalent of a 1 semester introductory environmental science college class. We will explore and investigate the interrelationships of the natural world and analyze environmental problems, both natural and human-made, as well as their potential solutions. It includes concepts from your previous **science** courses (biology, chemistry, physics and earth science) as well as **social science** (economics, politics, sociology, geography) and **humanities** (literature, art, debate, and history). We'll study topics such as toxic waste, soil composition, global weather patterns, human population dynamics, endangered species, mining impacts, and nuclear power. You'll take part in laboratory investigations and field work. The course follows the objectives instituted by the College Board and is geared to help prepare students for the AP Exam in May.

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry or Physics (Chemistry is recommended)

Advanced Placement Physics **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

A study of the science of the physical world. This course is representative of a college physics class. Topics include Newtonian mechanics, thermodynamics, vibrations, and waves electricity, magnetism, light, optics, modern physics, and other topics from the AP Syllabus. AP Physics is geared to prepare students for the AP Exam in May. There will be approximately 3-5 hours of homework each week.

Prerequisite: B or better in Algebra II or Geometry, Physics I strongly recommended

Anatomy and Physiology **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

A study of the structures of the body systems. Major structures of the body will be discussed including histology, musculoskeletal, digestive, cardiovascular, endocrine, immune & lymphatic, digestive, and nervous systems. An intensive cat dissection unit is required during the 1st semester. Reading will be assigned from the textbook and other sources. Writing will include a research paper. There will be 3+ hours of homework per week.

Prerequisite: Biology

Forensic Science **Grade Level: 11, 12** **.5 Credit/sem**
(Full year or semester) **1 Credit/year**

Forensic science is an inquiry-based course that uses applied science in civil and criminal cases. The course includes the applications of concepts from the areas of biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, mathematics, and psychology to analyze and investigate evidence that may be discovered in criminal investigations. The application of the scientific method is central to this course – observation, collection and classification of data, examining relationships, forming and testing hypotheses and making conclusions based on evidence. Students will use scientific techniques and technology in order to solve forensic investigations. Research, case studies, mock crime scenes and career exploration are also components of this course. Topics covered include the following: Crime-Scene Investigation and Evidence Collection, A Study of Fibers and Textiles, Fingerprints, Blood and Blood Spatter, Drug Identification and Toxicology, Handwriting Analysis, Forensic Anthropology, Glass Evidence, Casts and Impressions, Tool Marks, Ballistics, Death: Meaning, Manner, Mechanism, Cause, and Time.

Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

Wildlife and Natural Resources (CTE) **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

This class introduces students to identification and distribution of wildlife and natural resources. Special emphasis is given to identifying wildlife native to Michigan; including mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, trees, and plants. Other topics include forestry and land management, fisheries, air and water quality, and careers in wildlife and natural resources management. This inquiry-based class will involve time spent outdoors observing various ecosystems, field trips, and student investigations. There will be 1-2 hours of homework per week.

Botany (CTE) **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of plant science, horticulture, and agronomy. Students will gain a solid foundation in plant physiology, propagation techniques, and environmental factors influencing plant growth. Through hands-on experiences in greenhouse management, nursery/landscape practices, and agronomy, students will develop practical skills and knowledge essential for a successful career in the green industry. Topics include classification, selection, anatomy, physiology, genetics, breeding, nutrition, health, and fundamentals of soil science, hydroponics and plant pest management.

Zoology (CTE) **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

The major focus of the Zoology course is to expose students to experiences in various animal science concepts with exciting "hands-on" activities, projects, and problems. The student will develop a basic understanding of the role of livestock in agriculture.Students will be introduced to careers in the animal industries, principles of animal husbandry, breed identification and selection, nutrition, animal products, animal handling and basic behavior and genetic selection. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have an overview of animals and their place in human society, the variety of species and breeds and their uses, general and specific care of various domestic species, wildlife conservation, and other animal-related topics of interest to the students.

When both the Botany and Zoology classes are completed, and the student earns their FFA Degree, the student is awarded 6 free college credits at Michigan State University, if they enroll there(in any 2 year Certificate or 4 year BS program of their choice) after graduation from high school. Membership and participation in activities of the National FFA Student Organization, leadership, communication, teamwork skills, and other personal development skills are part of all agricultural, food & natural resources (ANFR) classes. Students apply hands-on skills outside of the classroom to work-based and research type career experience projects as part of their evaluation and grade.

SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY

US History **Grade Level: 9** **1 Credit**
This course is designed to further develop social studies skills, such as reading for understanding, identifying main ideas, graph and chart analysis, research and verbal communication. The historical period to be studied is the turn of the 20th century to the present, with additional information on basic civics, economics and geography. Topics that will be covered are the Gilded Age, Progressive Era, World War I, The Great Depression, The Roaring 20's, World War II, The Holocaust, The Cold War, The Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam and Watergate just to name a few. Students will use narratives, graphic data, primary and secondary documents to sequence, analyze and compare these influential events. Students will then be able to describe and explain how events, patterns and processes have affected people and regions in the United States.
Prerequisite: None

World History/Geography **Grade Level: 10** **1 Credit**
The content of this class will be about human beings and how at different times and in different places people and their cultures have changed, developed, died out and affected each other. Students will study the past to better understand our current world. Students will examine patterns in how humans confronted problems in past civilizations and compare human behavior as well as relationships between people and their geography. Some of the most significant problems that we face today have roots that reach back 5,000 years. The emphasis of "World History and Geography" will be to use the past to better understand our current world and hopefully develop a more wise vision for the future. As a philosopher once remarked, "We live our lives forward, but we understand them backwards."
Prerequisite: Social Studies/US History

Economics **Grade Level: 11** **.5 Credit**
The economics course enables students to understand and consider potential implications of the basic scarcity problem faced by individuals, businesses, and societies as a whole. From personal decisions to global concerns, economics teaches students how to successfully evaluate the concept of "choice". Through weighing both short and long term costs and benefits, examining alternatives and anticipating both intended and unintended consequences, students will be prepared as citizens able to make personal and societal decisions regarding the market economy, the national economy, the international economy and personal finance.
Prerequisite: Social Studies/World History/Geography

Government **Grade Level: 11** **.5 Credit**
The American Government course will expose students to a vast amount of information on what defines America, and who America is as a nation. Starting at the very roots and foundation of democracy students will explore the founding fathers and their task of creating the republic. Students will also dive into other forms of government and how America's government operates today. By the end of the course, students will be able to become a more active and informed citizen, along with making educated political decisions.
Prerequisite: Social Studies/World History/Geography

SS/HISTORY ELECTIVES

America Since 1980: Recent Am. History **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**
This is a one-semester course that delves into the complex and dynamic era of American history since 1980. We will explore the significant political, social, economic, and cultural transformations that have shaped the United States in the past four decades. Through a blend of primary sources, historical analysis, and current events, students will develop a deep understanding of the key events, figures, and movements that have defined this period.
Prerequisite: US History (or AP US History)

AP Human Geography **Grade Level: 11, 12** **1 Credit**
The Advanced Placement Human Geography course reflects the content of a typical college level survey introductory course in human geography. Through the five goals of the course, students will refine their analytical and problem solving skills using creative and critical thinking to develop abilities to: Use and think about maps and spatial data, understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places, recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes, define regions and evaluate the regionalization process, characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places. These skills will be practiced and mastered through the investigation of seven interdependent units of study as outlined by the College Board Advanced Placement Human Geography course description. Throughout these units, students will examine current trends in geography as well as geography related careers.
Prerequisite: Completion of assigned summer assignments.

AP Macroeconomics **Grade Level: 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

AP Macroeconomics is an introductory college level macroeconomics course. Students cultivate their understanding of the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole by using principles and models to describe economic situations and predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data as they explore concepts like economic measurements, markets, macroeconomic models, and macroeconomic policies.

Prerequisite: B or better in World History.

AP Psychology **Grade Level: 12** **1 Credit**

An extensive study of psychology equivalent to an entry level college course. Topics include learning, memory, research, theories, sensations and perceptions, physiology, therapy, abnormal behavior. Writing will include weekly essays related to psychological research and labs. Reading will be assigned from the text and various non-fiction selections. There will be 8 hours of homework per week.

AP United States Government and Politics **Grade Level: 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

AP United States Government and Politics is a college level semester-long course that not only seeks to prepare students for success on the AP exam, but also provides students with the political knowledge and reasoning processes to participate meaningfully and thoughtfully in discussions and debates that are currently shaping American politics and society. It is important to note that this course is not a history course; it is a political science course that studies the interconnectedness of the different parts of the American political system and the behaviors and attitudes that shape this system and are the byproduct of this system.

Prerequisite: B or better in World History.

AP United States History (APUSH) **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

APUSH is a challenging course that is designed to be the equivalent of a freshman college course in a high school setting. This class is a year-long survey of American history from the age of exploration to the present. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of original documents and historiography. Besides lectures or PowerPoint presentations on important themes of United States history, students are expected to participate in class verbally through discussions of primary documents and events, debates of key issues and possible mock trials. Furthermore, students are expected to continually develop writing skills through regular short essays, essay exams and maintain a notebook of all class materials. The volume of material involved in a survey course of US history is extensive and you can expect to do a lot of reading not only in the text, but also from outside sources and research both in the library and through the internet. Students can expect some summer course work to prepare for this class.

Prerequisite: Strong study/writing skills.

AP World History **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

The purpose of the AP World History course is to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts in different types of human societies. This understanding is advanced through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. The course highlights the nature of changes in global frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. It emphasizes relevant factual knowledge, leading interpretive issues, and skills in analyzing types of historical evidence. Periodization, explicitly discussed, forms an organizing principle to address change and continuity through the course. Specific themes provide further organization to the course, along with consistent attention to contacts among societies that form the core of world history as a field of study.

Prerequisite: B or better in U.S. History.

History Through Film **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

This one-semester course explores the intersection of history and film, analyzing how films shape and reflect our understanding of the past. Students will engage with films that depict historical events, figures, movements, and time periods, examining both artistic and historical elements. Through discussions, assignments, projects, and assessments, students will learn how to analyze historical films, evaluate their accuracy, understand their impact, and further their understanding of history as a whole.

Prerequisites: US History (or AP US History) World History recommended.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish 1 **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11** **1 Credit**

An introduction to the Spanish language and Hispanic culture with an emphasis on communication. Topics include: naming classroom objects; describing personality and physical characteristics of self, friends and family; ordering food, expressing likes and dislikes, identifying rooms,naming household chores, weather and places in the city. Students will be assessed in the areas of listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Spanish 2 **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

A continued focus on Spanish language skills (speaking, reading, listening and writing) as well as exposure to Spanish, Mexican and Hispanic American cultures. Topics include describing vacations, talking about clothes and preferences, telling what happened in the past, expressing opinions, and discussing television programs, movies and computers.

Spanish 3 **Grade Level: 10, 11, 12** **1 Credit**

A review and expansion of all Spanish language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) and knowledge of grammatical structures; class will be conducted primarily in Spanish. Topics include describing the past, giving advice, discussing special events, weather, movies, sports, expressing opinions,future plans and natural disasters.

Spanish 4 **Grade Level: 11, 12** **1 Credit**

An advanced level course emphasizing expansion and utilization of Spanish language skills (vocabulary, grammar structures, reading and listening comprehension and speaking and writing practice). Class will be conducted primarily in Spanish and includes current events, historical and cultural essays, and Spanish literature.

Advanced Placement Spanish **Grade Level: 11, 12** **1 Credit**

This course prepares students to perform at a high level of proficiency in the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Coursework is designed to not only review and reinforce students' knowledge, but also to increase vocabulary and sharpen grammatical skills. The focus of AP Spanish includes six themes.

World Foods and Cultures **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**

In this one-semester course students will examine the impact of culture, history, and geography on the development of regional cuisines and the role food plays in culturally significant traditions. In addition, students will analyze the impact of the globalization of food markets and technology on the disbursement of regional cuisine throughout the world.

MISCELLANEOUS

Independent Study **Grade Level: 11, 12** **.5 Credit**
Independent study is a half credit course designed by the student and an **on-site** mentor teacher. The course **must** relate to the student's college or career goals and include a detailed project, daily log or journal, an evaluation essay and presentation. Juniors and seniors may register for the program pending recommendation from school counselor, principal, parents and mentor teacher. Only students who have proven their ability to responsibly and independently complete their assignments will be considered.

Yearbook **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**
The Yearbook class focuses on creating the High School Yearbook over the course of the school year. Students will learn page design, photography, and ad sales. Students will need to be able to take pictures both in and out of school, meet deadlines, be responsible for creating pages, and work well with others. Some students will be allowed to leave school and sell ads.

Peer to Peer **Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12** **.5 Credit**
Peer to Peer is an elective course that provides students an opportunity to support and model academic and social skills from one non-disabled peer to a peer with a disability. There is a focus on leadership skills, understanding and adapting to individual differences in the school setting, written and verbal communication skills, modeling social experiences, and advocating for others. The curriculum includes and evaluations are based on; journaling and/or blogging, participation through internet disability modules, pre/post assessments, attendance, classroom participation with peers, and a final project.
Prerequisite: None. Students must fill out an application form and if selected, go through a short interview process to determine an appropriate fit for a peer.

ALTERNATE PLAN FOR STUDENTS

Cooperative Learning Program **Grade Level: 11, 12** **.5 Credit/Sem**
The Cooperative Learning Program is a school-to-work initiative designed for 11th and 12th-grade students. It fosters collaboration among schools, students, parents/guardians, and the business community. This program aligns a student's academic coursework and career interests with hands-on, work-based learning opportunities. Unlike a traditional job placement service, the Cooperative Learning Program provides students with valuable career exploration and training in a structured, supervised work environment. Through this experience, students gain insight into real-world employment conditions while continuing to pursue their academic studies. Interested students must first meet with their school counselor to determine eligibility and to get started on the application process.

Dual Enrollment **Grade Level: 11, 12** **.5 Credit/Sem**
An educational option which provides the student an opportunity to earn college credits through release time. Students may enroll in courses not offered at Vicksburg High School. Students must have qualified by meeting the cut-off scores on qualifying standardized tests. Enrollment includes college tuition paid by the local district up to a set amount determined by the state. Interested students must first meet with their counselor to determine eligibility and to work through the process.

Michigan Virtual University Classes
These classes are available and intended for motivated self-directed students. The course offerings under this category can be found at www.mivhs.org. If you are hoping to include one of these courses in your schedule you must meet with your respective counselor to discuss the process for scheduling.

KALAMAZOO RESA
Career Connect
Explore | Engage | Experience

Kalamazoo RESA's Career Connect team is leading a new, innovative approach to career development in Kalamazoo County, providing K-12+ learners with a robust continuum of world class programs and services. From career exploration, to work-based learning, to hands-on training and specialized high school classes, Career Connect helps learners cultivate in-demand skills while gaining a competitive advantage. Read on to explore all the offerings and learn about the new Career Connect Campus, opening to students in fall of 2025. Make this the year you get career connected!

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)
2025-2026 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All classes are yearlong, Monday-Friday
All classes are located at the Career Connect Campus (CCC), unless otherwise noted
www.kresa.org/careerconnect

Career and Technical Education (CTE) offers a wide range of cutting edge, hands-on career preparation programs to high school students across Kalamazoo County. CTE courses emphasize real-world application and maintain the rigorous requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum, as well as state, national, and industry technical standards. CTE students have the opportunity to earn marketable, industry-recognized credentials through their CTE courses.

CTE programs are held at multiple locations across the county: at the Career Connect Campus, local high schools, on college campuses and business, and at industry work sites.

All CTE courses are located at the Career Connect Campus (CCC), unless otherwise noted for satellite programs.

Morning Session Time: 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Session Time: 11:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.
*Satellite programs may have an adjusted session time.

All CTE courses may meet Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements for the following areas:

- 2nd world language credit
- 3rd science credit
- 4th related math credit/senior year
- Visual, performing and applied arts credit (VPAA)

Contact your high school counseling staff with questions related to graduation requirements.

CTE Career Connect Campus + Satellite Programs

Class Locations: New in the 2025-2026 school year, students will have the opportunity to participate in programs at the Career Connect Campus (CCC). The inaugural class of students at the CCC will learn from industry experts in a new, state-of-the-art facility opening in August 2025 at 3500 Vanrick Drive in Kalamazoo.

Students additionally have opportunities to participate in classes at satellite locations, including the Kalamazoo Nature Center, Air Zoo, and Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

All satellite locations are noted by the course title.

- **Who can participate?** Classes taught at the CCC and satellite locations are open to students from across the county.
- **What kinds of classes are offered?** A wide range of courses are available across a variety of career pathways. All CCC and satellite programs are aligned to in-demand, well-paying fields in Kalamazoo County.
- **What about transportation?** Transportation will be provided to the CCC and satellite locations.

Skills for Success: All students enrolled in CTE classes at the CCC and satellite locations will also participate in an online course, Skills for Success, as a requirement for CTE enrollment. Skills for Success is an online course that helps students develop critical skills required for success in work and life. By cultivating mastery in the areas of collaboration, communication, critical thinking, personal management, and p roblem-solving, students will grow their skills and gain a competitive advantage as learners, in the job market, and beyond.

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES CAREER PATHWAY

Conservation Biology (held at the Kalamazoo Nature Center Heronwood Field Station)
Examine ecological and applied biological science through classroom, lab, and field work outdoors at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Major units of the class include: biodiversity, forestry, climate change, soil, water, wildlife, and human impacts on the natural world. Interact with natural resource conservationists and wildlife biologists to gain the necessary skills for employment in this field.

Horticulture
Engage in every aspect of plant production, from crop selection to final sale. Learn plant biology, taxonomy, soil science, and modern production techniques while building a professional portfolio of work. This program prepares students for continued education or employment in the horticulture industry.

Veterinary Science
Strengthen an understanding of animal anatomy, medical terminology, and healthcare. To prepare for veterinary assistant and veterinary technician careers, learn animal care and handling, anatomy/physiology, surgical preparation, pharmacology, and client relations.

ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES CAREER PATHWAY

Construction Trades
Build hands-on skills in the construction industry. Learn hand and power tool use, blueprint reading, design, and basic carpentry skills to support successful careers in residential and commercial construction. This course provides a foundation to pursue a wide variety of construction pathways, including related apprenticeships, residential building, and commercial construction careers.

Electrical Technology
Engage in hands-on electrical installations ranging from residential wiring to commercial building projects. To prepare for apprenticeships and residential, commercial, and industrial electrical careers, the course focuses on electrical theory, electrical code, installation, troubleshooting, sustainable energy, and project management.

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
Engage in hands-on layout design, installation, and service of residential and commercial HVAC R systems. Learn blueprint design and reading, tools and equipment, residential installation, troubleshooting, and project management. This course prepares students for continued learning in related apprenticeships, and careers in residential and commercial sales, service, and maintenance careers.

Plumbing
Gain skills in the design, installation, and maintenance of both residential and commercial plumbing systems. Learn blueprint design and interpretation, foundational tools and equipment, plumbing code, project management, and work with fittings, valves, and fixtures. This course prepares students for plumbing apprenticeships, residential and commercial sales, service, and maintenance careers.

CULINARY ARTS CAREER PATHWAY

Culinary Arts
Step into a commercial kitchen setting with hands-on instruction and practical learning. Learn cooking principles, sanitation, food safety, management, and culinary skills. This program prepares students for occupations within the restaurant, baking, and catering industries.

DESIGN CAREER PATHWAY

Design
Explore various careers in design, develop creative thinking skills, and understand the design process used by professionals. Create projects across multiple design fields, including: graphic design, fashion accessory design, interior and landscape design, product design and much more. Collaborate in design teams, present and discuss work and build a professional portfolio to prepare for success in a variety of design careers.

HEALTH SCIENCE CAREER PATHWAY

Dental Assisting (dual enrolled course held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College)
Learn the fundamental knowledge and skills of dental anatomy, physiology, terminology, dental materials, chairside assisting, sterilization, radiology, laboratory, and clinical procedures. This course prepares students to work in a dental office as dental assistants.

Emergency Medical Technician (dual enrolled course held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College)
Get prepared to work in an out-of-hospital setting as an entry level Emergency Medical Technician. Emphasis is placed on mastery of CPR, simple pharmacology for common medical emergencies, patient assessment, bandaging and splinting, and vehicle extrication. The course introduces the clinical component of EMT education which is the minimum level of training required for work on a transporting ambulance.

Medical Laboratory Sciences
Step into a simulated functioning medical laboratory providing services ranging from basic specimen collection to handling and analysis. To prepare for laboratory assistant roles across various clinical and medical settings, learn healthcare communication and terminology, anatomy/physiology, phlebotomy, infectious disease identification/protocols, and medical records documentation.

Patient Care Technician
Explore healthcare communication and terminology, anatomy/physiology, clinical skills, and ethics/confidentiality in a simulated clinical setting. Learn skills ranging from basic patient care to phlebotomy and EKG. Get prepared for patient care technician, nursing, and related healthcare careers.

Pharmacy Technician
Gain a comprehensive understanding of the roles and responsibilities of pharmacy technicians within the healthcare system. Dive into a range of topics, including pharmacology, medication management and regulations, anatomy/physiology, prescription processing, personal and workplace safety, healthcare communication and terminology, math skills and hands-on learning to be prepared to enter a pharmacy technician or related pharmaceutical research/development career.

Rehabilitation Therapy
Explore a range of therapy fields, from basic physical therapy to occupational therapy, injury prevention, and rehabilitation, in a hands-on environment mimicking a functioning therapy clinic. To prepare for physical therapy assistant, occupational therapy assistant, athletic training, and related sports medicine careers, learn personal and workplace safety, healthcare communication and terminology, anatomy/physiology, injury care assessment/skills, and rehabilitation.

HUMAN SERVICES CAREER PATHWAY

Barbering (held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College)
Step into a functioning barber shop and state-of-the-art training facility at Kalamazoo Valley Community College School of Cosmetology and Barbering. Gain skills in hair cutting and facial hair design techniques from master instructors. Prepare for the State of Michigan Barbering License.

Cosmetology (held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College)
Learn in a functioning salon and state-of-the-art training facility at Kalamazoo Valley Community College School of Cosmetology and Barbering. Cultivate skills through direct instruction and practice of hair, skin, and nail services. Prepare for the State of Michigan Cosmetology License.

Criminal Justice & Public Safety (held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College)
Through a close partnership with local law enforcement agencies and Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC), gain the skills and ethical perspectives needed to become a successful police or fire academy recruit. Develop a foundation for additional careers in criminal justice. Explore topics such as criminal law, patrol procedures, fire ground operations, safety and first aid, ethics, defensive tactics, crime scene investigation, and communication skills.

Educator Academy
Cultivate foundational skills for a successful career in the field of education. Learn the fundamentals of child development, from early childhood through adolescence, and principles of effective teaching through classroom instruction and internships. Work directly with young learners in an educational setting, while preparing for work as a paraprofessional, childcare professionals, or continued education as a teacher.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CAREER PATHWAY

Computer Programming
Explore real-world scenarios to gain knowledge of hardware components and software applications, perform installation, identify new IT trends and technologies, and understand device cross-platform development. Learn User Experience (UX), User Interface (UI), and responsive design while preparing for careers in the computer programming field.

Computer Systems- Networking and Telecommunications
Learn to implement and manage high-performance, reliable, and scalable computer networks that connect devices, systems, and users across organizations or even globally. Gain insight into concepts such as performance and reliability, scalability, security, network architecture, network management, collaboration and convergence, standards, and troubleshooting, while preparing for careers in the computer networking field.

Cybersecurity
Engage in real-world scenarios to learn topics and skills related to protecting computer operating systems (Windows, Linux, and macOS), networks, IP addresses, and data from threats. Explore new IT trends and technologies, and demonstrate knowledge of network integrity protection, quality assurance, interpreting documentation, coding, cryptographic protocols, and security to prepare for careers in the cybersecurity field.

MANUFACTURING CAREER PATHWAY

Machine Tool
Get immersed in machine tool technologies, from basic to advanced. Learn the stages of manufacturing from idea to fabrication, including the use of CAD/CAM software, mills, lathes, and other industry related equipment. Build a solid foundation of manufacturing skills, including metalworking theory, problem solving, design, measurement, and quality inspection, to prepare for machining and engineering careers.

Mechatronics: Robotics and Automation
Dive deep into the use of robotics for processes that combine mechanical, electrical, computer, and automation technologies. Build a solid foundation of skills including electrical theory, robotics, CAD/CAM, hydraulics/pneumatics, and project management to prepare for machining and engineering careers.

Supply Chain
Explore the flow of materials from raw material to finished product and delivery to customers. This foundational course introduces key concepts such as global supply chains, warehouse location, contingency planning, and in-sourcing and out-sourcing decisions. Learn how professionals optimize resources and establish physical networks, while gaining real-world experience by operating the Career Connect Campus warehouse.

Welding
Get immersed in hands-on welding processes using professional equipment, applying various techniques to design and fabricate professional-grade metalwork. Gain expertise in safety, metalworking theory, welding techniques/tools, cutting/torches, automation, and quality inspection.

TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION AND LOGISTICS CAREER PATHWAY

Automotive Technology
Engage in hands-on learning in a simulated model of a fully functioning auto service center. To prepare for occupations within the rapidly evolving auto service industry, learn safety, engine repair, automatic transmission and transaxle, manual drivetrain and axles, suspension and steering, brakes, electrical/electronic systems, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, engine performance, and foundational tasks of auto maintenance and repair.

Aviation Technology (held at the Air Zoo)
Develop an understanding of the aviation industry, including airplane evolution, commercial aviation, flight operations and regulations, weather, airspace, navigation, and more. Interact with industry experts and visit leaders in the field of aviation while cultivating skills with drone technologies.

Heavy Equipment Maintenance
Engage in hands-on training in the maintenance, repair, and operation of off-road diesel equipment, in partnership with AIS Construction Equipment. Explore heavy machinery used in construction, trucking, agriculture, and material handling industries. Learn engine systems, hydraulic systems, powertrain systems, electrical systems, and maintenance fundamentals. Work with industry-standard equipment and tools, and gain valuable practical experience and prepare for careers as heavy equipment technicians, diesel mechanics, construction equipment operators, and agricultural equipment mechanics.

EDUCATION FOR THE ARTS (EFA)
2025-2026 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All classes are yearlong, Monday-Friday unless otherwise noted www.kresa.org/efa

MEDIA ARTS DUAL-ENROLLED PROGRAM

KVCC Media Arts
Create artworks using computers and learn how art communicates emotions and ideas. Projects include digital photograph manipulation, art for the Internet, stereo 3D images, digital painting, and combining traditional media with new technologies.

DANCE

Beginning Dance Studio
Semester Based
Learn the basic elements and discipline of formal dance technique, exploring classical modern dance, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and cultural dance styles. Exploration of dance-related subjects will include movement improvisation, composition, and dance history. Students gain performance skills, learn how to choreograph their own dances, and are required to participate in an EFA dance concert at the end of each term. They will have the opportunity to take field trips to see live dance concerts and attend master classes. Students will work with professional dance educators and guest artists.

Intermediate Dance Studio (Prerequisites)
Intermediate Dance is for students who have completed a beginning EFA class, have previous dance/movement experience and are committed to a full year of dance instruction. Students will further their training through in-depth instruction and structured small group student exploration in formal dance technique, classical modern dance, ballet, jazz, hip hop, and cultural dance styles. Exploration of dance-related subjects will include movement improvisation, composition, and dance history. Students will gain performance, composition, and choreographic skills and develop observation, analysis, critical thinking, and reflection skills. Students will prepare and produce a dance presentation each trimester. The class will take field trips to professional dance concerts and work with master guest artists.

World Dance
Semester Based
Students will learn about the origins and history of Dance from around the world. This class will explore the cultural and historical context of many indigenous dances from across the globe through media and readings. Students will experience kinesthetically authentic dance forms and their influence on contemporary dance.

LITERARY ARTS

Creative Writing Online: Web-Based
Semester Based
Through studying written works in various forms and the regular practice of writing, students will better understand the creative writing process. Students will also collaborate on a few projects and read and critique one another's work through small group workshops (held through discussion forums). Students will turn in four major creative writing assignments, regular creative writing exercises, three short reflections, a recording of a student performing one of their assignments, and an online portfolio.

Comics, Manga, and Graphic Novel Arts: Hybrid
Semester Based
Learn to write and produce compelling, artistic, inventive comics or manga, and Graphic Novels. Research the history of comics, study the elements of story, plot, and character development, and the productive use of imagery, layout, and composition. Work individually and collaboratively on projects and develop projects by manipulating and editing found media and open-source graphics.

MEDIA ARTS

Film and Video Arts
Semester Based
Film and video arts introduces students to the creation and study of time-based media in video and film. Students work with the latest digital technology to create a variety of works that help them mold and define their own personal visual style for innovative, artistic communication.

Advanced Video Arts Studio
Advanced Video Arts Studio (AVAS) is a project-based video class for students who have already taken EFA Film Video Arts. The class concentrates on individual student films that will be used for portfolio work and entered into video competitions. Students learn about lighting, sound, directing, and advanced filming and editing techniques.

3D Computer Animation
Introduction to the technical and creative fundamentals of 3D Animation software. Students learn core concepts such as modeling, mapping, storyboard/scripting, and rendering. Students create original characters and environment designs and animate characters in landscapes.

Creative Game Design
This project-focused course will teach students the fundamentals of game design. Through practice and study students learn about the powerful stories that can be told through in-person, real-time games. Students create board games, card games, role-playing games, and video games, and explore adjacent forms of interactive media. Students develop storytelling and graphic design skills while gaining a greater understanding of fun and the nature of play.

Multimedia Storytelling
Learn how to tell true stories with real impact by creating podcasts, documentaries, and news segments. Students have hands-on experience with recording interviews, capturing footage, and editing while exploring the power of journalism and documentaries to share real-world issues and unique perspectives. By the end of the course, you create original projects to show off—perfect for anyone ready to create content that makes a difference!

Digital PhotoArt (Hybrid: Web-based and In-Person)
Semester Based
This class will introduce, enhance, and refine students' ability to express themselves with the aid of digital cameras. Students will learn proper photographic techniques, computer enhancement of photos, printing, and professional presentation techniques. Students will have many assignments ranging from core photography fundamentals to immersive pieces of personal expression. They will leave class with the beginnings of a portfolio and knowledge to continue and expand their work in the future.

Digital Studio Art (Hybrid: Web-based and In-Person)
Semester Based
This class introduces the basics of drawing and painting using digital means, as well as the basics of digital imaging using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. The course is built around the core elements of visual art, such as line, shape, value, and color, with an additional emphasis on learning and using imaging software tools.

VISUAL ARTS

Visual Arts Exploration
Explore creating sculpture, photography, jewelry, painting, and more at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Work alongside practicing professional artists as they share their art-making knowledge and expertise.

Advanced Visual Arts Studio
Deepen your creativity and visual arts skills at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Take advantage of the professional facilities, equipment, and master guest artists. This studio class offers advanced study in sculpture, oil painting, jewelry, photography, welding, printmaking, ceramics, and more. Develop a Visual Arts Portfolio and learn presentation skills to apply for college scholarships and student art shows.

Theatre and Performing Arts

Advanced Musical Theatre
Using a workshop approach, students will experience an in-depth study of musical theatre to enhance their appreciation of the genre and improve their practical performance skills in acting, vocal, and dance performance. Mentored by theatre, vocal, and dance educators and guest artists, students will explore, perform, and critique various aspects of musical theatre from the past to the present. Emphasis will be placed on creative and innovative approaches to performing works.

Theatre Improv and Scriptwriting
Through in-depth study and practice, students will learn the basics of improvisation, writing, directing, and acting for the stage, as well as integrating images and music into their theatrical performances. Students work with practicing artists exploring different forms of theatre, from classical to contemporary. These experiences will inform the development of each student's distinct writing style. Students will participate in at least two class performances and visit area theatres to experience a variety of stage productions.

Hip Hop 180: Loy Norrix Only
Semester Based
Activate your voice and amplify your vision through the power of performance rap/poetry, music, and movement. Dig into the history of Hip Hop culture and social justice leadership to build skills, decipher contexts, and determine truths. Then merge your artistic and activist knowledge and techniques to enact meaningful, positive social change in y(our) community.

EARLY MIDDLE COLLEGE (EMC) PROGRAMS
2025-2026

Kalamazoo County Early/Middle College Program Overview

Overview: The Early/Middle College (EMC) program is an opportunity for students to earn an associate's degree or certificate along with their high school diploma. Students will be able to save both time and money as they pursue a college degree and access support services designed to enhance their success as they work towards achieving their educational goals.

How does EMC work? Students are enrolled in a focused program of study at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Students have an additional 13th year of high school for program completion. The local school district pays the tuition and fees up to an allocated amount.

The EMC program is structured so that students gradually increase their exposure to college courses over a five-year span:

- Initially (9th/10th grades), the bulk of the student schedule will be traditional high school classes.
- As the student progresses through their educational plan, they will be exposed to more and more college courses.
- By the time they reach 13th grade (or 5th year), all of their coursework will be on-site at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

What additional supports are available through EMC? Students who participate in EMC also receive support services to assist them in their transition from high school to college:

- All EMC students take a College Success Strategies Course in 10th grade to enhance their academic preparation, study skills development, and social maturity skills.
- All EMC students have a coach that they meet with regularly.

What programs are available? Students may participate in one of the following programs. For specific options within each program, please refer to the EMC website at www.kresa.org/emc.

Degrees in Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

AAS degrees are occupational in orientation and are designed to prepare graduates for immediate employment. They require successful completion of a minimum of 62 credit hours.

Certificates (CERT)

Certificate programs prepare graduates for a specialized occupation. They require the successful completion of 30 credits hours or more.

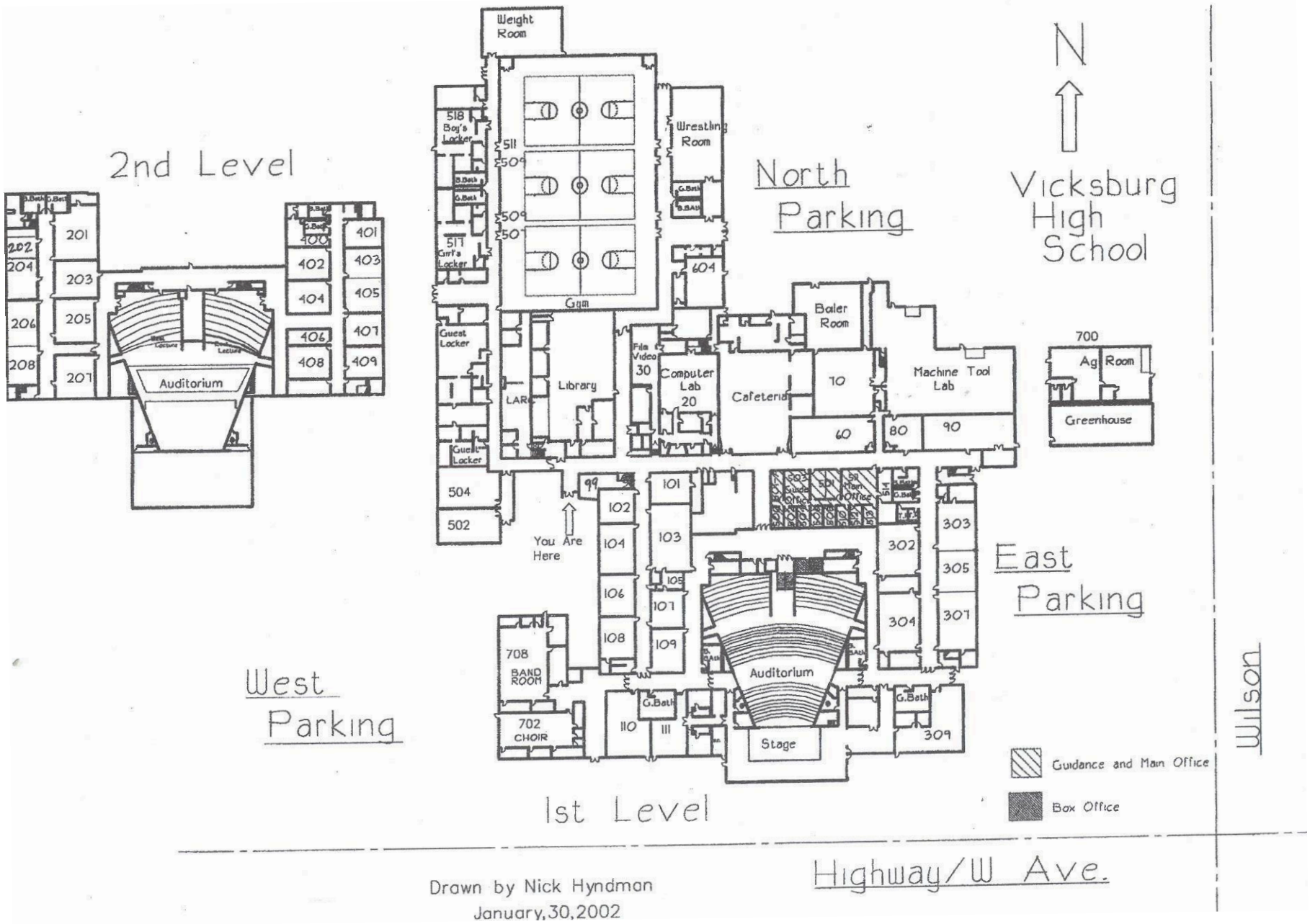
Certificates of Achievement (COA)

Certificate of Achievement programs require fewer courses than a regular certificate program providing training in a specific set of skills for employment in a specific occupation. They require successful completion of more than 3 but less than 30 hours of credit.

Transfer Degrees in Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS)

AA or AS degrees are for students planning to transfer to a four-year university. They require successful completion of a minimum of 62 credit hours.

The application packet and other information can be found on the Kalamazoo County EMC website www.kresa.org/emc.



Drawn by Nick Hyndman
January, 30, 2002