

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 9TH GRADE 2005-2006

REQUIRED COURSES (English, Geography, Math, Science, and PE is required of every 9th grader)

ENGLISH 9: Required of all 9th graders.

ENGLISH 9 HONORS: This class will fulfill the 9th grade English requirement and requires a teacher signature.

GEOGRAPHY FOR LIFE: Required of all 9th graders.

SCIENCE/EARTH SYSTEMS: Basic course in earth/space science.

BIOLOGY: Basic course in life science.

Note: According to the new high school science curriculum, four science courses will be taught in grades 9 through 12: Earth Systems, Biology, Physics, and Chemistry. Two of the four must be taken before graduation.

BIO AGRICULTURE SCIENCE 1: This course and Agriculture Science 2 will give one life science and one vocational credit if completed and taken consecutively. FFA Club optional.

PREALGEBRA: Basic mathematics course. Beginning concepts of algebra will be taught.

APPLIED MATH I: Applied Mathematics I is targeted but not restricted to students who are working toward technical training or college entrance. This course may be the last algebra class for these students before entering their technical training. Applied Mathematics I contains the same concepts as an elementary algebra course, with necessary extensions that prepare students for future technical training. After successfully completing Applied Math I, a student is prepared for either Applied Math II, which is an applied approach to Geometry, or a traditional Geometry course.

ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA: A study of basic algebra principles and methods.

GEOMETRY: A study of the properties of plane and solid geometric figures.

ALGEBRA II (INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA):

PARTICIPATION SKILLS (PE): Basic physical education class. ½ years is required of all 9th graders.

RESOURCE AND LIFE SKILLS CLASSES: Students must meet state guidelines for these special services before they can be placed in the program. Qualifying tests must be given and additional IEP meetings with the resource staff are necessary for inclusion into this program.

ELECTIVES

ART FOUNDATIONS 1: This course is an extension of the elementary core with emphasis on drawing, color, and design objectives. Some emphasis may be given to skill Development in drawing. May not be repeated if taken in 8th grade.

ART FOUNDATIONS 2: This class is a continuation of Art 1 which was taken in 8th grade. Prerequisite: Art 1. B+ or greater average from Art 1. Teacher signature is required.

MEN'S CHORUS II: A continuation of Men's Chorus I. Performance, team work, correct singing techniques stressed.

WOMEN'S CHORUS II: A continuation of Women's Chorus I. Performance, team work, correct singing techniques stressed.

PERFECT HARMONY: This full-year class is open to all 8th and 9th grade students by audition. The class is limited to 50 students. Singers learn and perform challenging music. In addition to performing at PJHS choir concerts, Perfect Harmony is often asked to perform at community functions and always participates in the UVSC Jr. High Choral Festival. Perfect Harmony auditions are held before students need to hand in registration materials for the following school year.

BAND 9: Advanced technical training in all aspects of playing an instrument to allow performance of Grade III band literature.

ORCHESTRA 9: Advanced technical training in all aspects of playing an instrument including shifting and vibrato to allow performance of Grade III string orchestra literature.

INTRO BAGPIPES: Students will learn about the history of bagpipes, the different parts of bagpipes, the uniform parts, and how to play the bagpipes. They will start by learning songs on the practice chanter. After successful completion of this class, students will be able to try out for the high school or community pipe band. Students will need to buy a practice chanter.

DRAMA: Students will explore various areas of theater such as acting, voice and speech, improvisation, pantomime, monologues, and scenes. Students will perform all final projects in class for a live audience at the end of each study unit.

ANIMAL SCIENCE: This class is offered for students who want to find out more about how to care for and the responsibilities of owning pets and/or livestock. FFA Club optional.

READING OPTION: This class is for students who are interested in improving their reading skills, and for those who enjoy reading.

CREATIVE WRITING FOR PUBLICATION HONORS: This class is for the highly motivated and talented writer who wishes to refine his/her writing skills and learn the methods of becoming published. Students will be required to independently prepare several major pieces for submission to publishers, as well as participate in class work and discussions aimed at the improvement and critique of writing. Teacher's signature required.

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY: This class focuses on reading science fiction/fantasy novels and mythological stories. Students will also study the elements and themes of these stories and work on writing stories of their own in this genre.

CAREER EXPLORATION: An introduction to careers and the world of work. Importance of job preparation, resumes, applications, and personal relationships will be taught.

FRENCH 1, SPANISH 1: Introductory language courses. Prerequisite to 2nd year language courses.

FRENCH 2, SPANISH 2: An extension of 1st year language courses. These classes may be taught at the high school if there are not enough students to carry the course at the Jr. High.

KEYBOARDING 1: Beginning keyboarding course. This class is pre-requisite to all computer courses.

WORD PROCESSING: A computer class offered for students who are serious about learning more advanced functions of computers, including reports, business letters, spread sheets, etc. Keyboarding 1 or 1A required as a pre-requisite. The student must know correct fingering and be able to type by touch using correct keyboarding techniques. Learn the excitement of adding watermarks, etc. to reports, tables. Learn to make basic letters and reports very professional looking. A fun class for any ninth grader.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY: This class is open to 9th grade only and requires a 3.0 GPA. It will fill .5 unit of graduation requirement for high school graduation. Prerequisite: Keyboarding I in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade and achieved a minimum of 25 – 30 net words per minute. The student must know correct fingering and be able to type by touch using correct keyboarding techniques.

INTRO TO CONST (BASIC WOODS): A hands-on course that allows students to explore construction method and basic wood working practices. Students will construct a project where they will learn the safe and proper use of both hand and power tools.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 1 (COMPUTER TECH): An action based, computer assisted, hands on program designed to introduce students to the broad variety of technological innovations happening in the world about us. Students will be introduced to such areas of interest as computer aided drafting, desk top publishing, multimedia presentations, electronics, engineering principles, design, material development and testing, construction, manufacturing, and mass production. Student projects will be constructed to provide hands-on application of the concepts taught. This course is designed to help students identify their own areas of interest and thus be able to better develop their own student educational occupational plan.

INTRO TO COM/ DRAFTING: A hands-on course that allows students to explore graphic and electronic communication technologies. They will learn basic technical drawing methods and methods and blueprint making. They will be introduced to role that electronics, fiber optics, satellites and lasers play in modern communication.

TEEN LIVING: Offers a variety of activities and projects related to teen living. Decision making, money management, family relationships, etc. will be taught.

FOOD AND FITNESS: This course is a follow-up to 8th grade foods. Students would work more independently and have more choice in the experiences they wish to have. The semester class would include meal planning, ethnic food, food preservation, outdoor cooking, a field trip, careers in food service as well as a cooking experience in each of the food groups.

STRENGTH TRAINING/CONDITIONING: This class will study the muscular and cardiovascular systems. Students will develop a workable fitness plan with the help of their instructor. They will train on a variety of weight training and fitness equipment to build their muscular strength and cardiovascular endurance.

ADVANCED POWER LIFTING: This class is for 9th grade students only. Prerequisite – Strength Training in 8th grade.

SEWING I (SPORT SEWING): An introduction to sewing. Reading patterns will be taught and simple projects, such as bags, apron, p.j. pants, stuffed animals, and quilt blocks will be made.

SEWING II (DYNAMICS OF CLOTHING): An introduction to sewing. Reading patterns, clothing articles, quilting blocks will be made. (Prerequisite – Sewing I) **Teacher signature required.**

ESL: English as a Second Language. This class is for native speakers of other languages who are still acquiring the necessary English skills to be academically successful.

STUDY HALL: A class for students who want to work during school on homework, reading and other assignments.

RELEASED TIME: Religious instruction offered off-campus in the seminary or other approved building. Students who take Released Time must attend or be subject to truancy laws.

YEARBOOK/ST. COUNCIL: This is an elective course for students who would like to be leaders of the school. Voting will be done in the Spring for the 9th grade members of the student council. Yearbook staff members will also be chosen. All members of the class must submit an application and be approved by the faculty. A 3.00 GPA the previous term is required.

PEER TUTOR: This class requires a teacher signature.

TEACHER ASSISTANT: This class requires a teacher signature.