

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Ashley Van Hemert

Period 1: Español I

Grade Level: 7-10 Course Length: Year

¡Bienvenidos a todos! A fun introduction to the Spanish language and Spanish/Latin culture. You will have lots of fun learning to speak about yourself, your needs and what you like to do in a new language. Communication will be our emphasis.

Credit Count: .25 Elective credit (upon completion of quarter 4, 7th and 8th graders receive .25 social studies credit)

AIDE WANTED: Spanish student preferred

Period 2: Español II

Grade Level: 8-11 Course Length: Year

¡Bienvenido a tu segundo año de español! Vamos a hablar y leer mucho. También, vamos a estudiar el pasado. This year we will talk about family, friends and vacations. We will read a short novel and perform skits and oral presentations.

Credit Count: .25 Elective credit

Period 3: Español I

Grade Level: 7-10 Course Length: Year

¡Bienvenidos a todos! A fun introduction to the Spanish language and Spanish/Latin culture. You will have lots of fun learning to speak about yourself, your needs and what you like to do in a new language. Communication will be our emphasis.

Credit Count: .25 Elective credit (upon completion of quarter 4, 7th and 8th graders receive .25 social studies credit)

AIDE WANTED: Spanish student preferred

Period 4: Español IV+

Grade Level: 11-12 Course Length: Year

Leeremos cuentos hispanos y los eventos actuales. Estudiaremos la gramática avanzada. Todos van a dar presentaciones orales.

Credit Count: .25 Elective credit

Period 6: Español II/III

Grade Level: 9-12 Course Length: Year

Continuaremos hablar, leer y escribir el español. Mucha participación oral con presentaciones orales, música, composiciones y una novela. We will be studying grammar through reading of a short novel, short stories and current events. This class is geared toward Spanish III and advanced Spanish II students. Spanish II students need prior approval from Ashley before signing up for this class.

Credit Count: .25 Elective credit (upon completion of second semester of Spanish III students receive .5 social studies elective credit)

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Alysha Gates

Period 1: Algebra I

Grade Level: 7-8

Course Length: Year

The prerequisite for this class is an average grade of C or better in a yearlong pre-algebra class. During first quarter we will start to get acquainted with the language of Algebra learning the properties and rules, working with equations, signed numbers, and absolute values. Evaluation in this class will be based on homework, tests, and weekly writing assignments. The percentage weight of each category can be negotiated.

Credit Count: Math Credit .5 per semester

Period 2: Basic Math

Grade Level: 7-8

Course Length: Year

Basic Math explores basic math topics such as fractions, decimals, and 1-2 step equations to prepare you for pre-algebra

Credit Count: Math Credit .25 per quarter

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Bob Vandergriff

Period 2: Creative Writing

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: Semester

This class will look at different genres of writing depending on what the class desires. This can include, but is not limited to, short story, poetry, plays/drama, autobiographies/memoirs/journals, etc. Students will write examples of all the styles that are agreed upon. Sharing will not be required, but will be encouraged.

Credit Count: Composition Elective or English Elective

Period 3: Introduction to Literature

Grade Level: 7-8

Course Length: Semester

Welcome to Introduction to Literature! Here we will read a number of examples of the short story genre, or style of literature, to access some of the general aspects of literature. The intent of the course is to give you tools to approach any literature confidently. The class will start off by looking at the historical roots of the short story and then dive right into reading different authors, styles, and time-periods. Along the way, you will be learning to search for meaning through many aspects of stories in general: character, plot, setting, theme, etc.

Credit Count: Literature

Period 4: Essay Composition

Grade Level: 7-8

Course Length: Semester

Essay Composition is Steller's introductory writing course. We will focus on the building blocks of writing: plagiarism, sentence structure, grammar and mechanics, paragraph construction, as well as Narrative and Descriptive essays. We will be using a number of different activities to help writers of all levels advance their skills. An emphasis on writing as a process will be used throughout the course.

Credit Count: Writing

Period 5: Passages

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: Semester

Passages are personally challenging projects developed by each student in one of six different areas to demonstrate the ability to apply their skills in the real world. The Passage process includes the writing of a proposal, which is approved by a committee of peers, the advisor and a staff consultant. Mentors and parents are encouraged to participate. The six Passage areas are: Adventure, Career Exploration, Creativity, Community Involvement, Logical Inquiry and Practical Skills.

Credit Count: Elective; other credit may be petitioned

Period 6: Debate

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: Semester

This is an introductory look at the sport of Debate. Introduction to research techniques and delivery, the different styles of debate (C-X, Lincoln-Douglas, and Crossfire), and the tools necessary to compete effectively will be the main focuses. The class will participate in building arguments, backing them up with evidence, and participating in their own debates. Topics will vary. Experienced students will be warmly welcomed.

Credit Count: Speech or English Elective

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Danelle Avellino

Period 1: Environmental Science

Course Length: Semester

Grade Level: 7-8

This is an environmental science course that will be taught with the assistance of two high school co-teachers. We will be completing a class project around an environmental problem that we identify as a class. We will then coordinate with local resources to carry out the project. This class will involve hands on activities such as geospatial mapping and analyzing data collected from around the anchorage area, both on land and water.

(Cost of field trips TBA).

Credit Count: .5 Physical Science Lab Fee: \$10.00

Period 3: Advanced Chemistry

Course Length: Semester

Grade Level: 10-12

Prerequisite: Chemistry I

This is an advanced course in chemistry that will cover the following topics during first semester: Heat, Gases, Solutions, Reaction Rates & Equilibrium, Acids & Bases, Electrochemistry, & Nuclear Chemistry. This class will be laboratory intensive.

Credit Count: .5 Physical Science Lab Fee: \$10.00

Period 4: Chemistry

Course Length: Semester

Grade Level: 9-12

Prerequisite: Algebra I

This is a beginning course that will include the following concepts: atomic structure, mole concept, chemical periodicity, writing formulas and equations, nomenclature of compounds, chemical bonding, use of symbols, valence, physical, and chemical properties, elements, mixtures, and compounds, kinetic molecular theory of solids, liquids, and gases. Laboratory skills will include measurements of mass, volume, temperature, and density, graphing, interpretation of data, observation, description, and recording.

Credit Count: .5 Chemical Science Lab Fee: \$10.00

Period 5: Chemistry

Course Length: Semester

Grade Level: 9-12

Prerequisite: Algebra I

This is a beginning course that will include the following concepts: atomic structure, mole concept, chemical periodicity, writing formulas and equations, nomenclature of compounds, chemical bonding, use of symbols, valence, physical, and chemical properties, elements, mixtures, and compounds, kinetic molecular theory of solids, liquids, and gases. Laboratory skills will include measurements of mass, volume, temperature, and density, graphing, interpretation of data, observation, description, and recording.

Credit Count: .5 Chemical Science Lab Fee: \$10.00

Period 6: Special Projects Science

Course Length: Semester

Grade Level: 7-8

This class is designed to cover the basics of the scientific method. We will look into the ways in which scientists gather information through hands on activities. Students will then use the knowledge gained to conduct their own original research and present it at an end of semester science fair.

Credit Count: .5 Science Lab Fee: \$10.00

****STUDENT AIDS WELCOME ALL CLASS PERIODS ****

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Danielle Sjoden

Period 1: English Independent Study

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: Semester

Students will choose an area of interest and, with teacher support, will design a self-directed curriculum, including a timeline, assignments, goals, and assessments. An I.S. is a great opportunity for students to explore in depth authors and genres they are interested in. Students are expected to meet regularly in small groups as well as with the teacher to discuss progress and challenges.

Credit: .50 English – specific credit will vary by student

Period 2: Intermediate Composition

Grade Level: 9-10

Course Length: Semester

Students will practice writing for different purposes with a focus on reviewing and improving the expository and persuasive essay. Students will also become familiar with literary analysis and citing sources using a standard method of documentation. Understanding writing as a *process* will be a major focus; students will gain a working knowledge of the steps in this process, from pre-writing to publishing. Special emphasis will be placed on revision as well as building grammar and vocabulary skills.

Credit: .50 Intermediate Composition

Period 4: American Literature

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: Semester

We will read classic and contemporary works by authors representing different periods in America's literary heritage. Class discussion will focus on style and fictional elements as well as what the works exemplify about the American experience. Major works will include John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* and Joseph Heller's *Catch 22*. In addition to exploring various style periods and the events that have shaped our nation and its literature, we will also view some of the works through the lens of censorship, exploring why so many good books have been called into question. First quarter will likely culminate with the opportunity to participate in Banned Books Week by doing a public reading at a local bookstore. Students can also expect to write papers, complete projects and take quizzes on the readings.

Credit: .50 American Literature or .50 English/Lit. Elective

Period 5/6: 8th Grade Seminar

Course Length: Semester

This class is Steller's introduction to Socratic Seminar. The course's readings will cover historical literature, some fiction, and philosophy. All of the reading will be done in class. Homework consists of writing responses to what we read in class. Students will learn and practice essay writing in addition to developing their group discussion and critical thinking skills. Acquiring new vocabulary from the readings will also be emphasized.

Credit: .50 English Seminar and .50 Social Studies Seminar

* I am looking for at least two **juniors** or **seniors** to be seminar coaches. See me if you are interested.

***I would love to have a Teacher Aide 3rd hour!**

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Deanna/Claudia

Periods 2-7: Community Involvement

Grade Level: 8-12 Course Length: Quarter

This course is designed to promote social and emotional learning for students involved in school-based community service while further developing their leadership and facilitation skills. Participating students will be expected to serve 60 hours of community service, attend 20 hours of facilitation training, complete reading response assignments, participate in a collaborative journaling and design and implement a service learning project. Since this is an open enrollment course, it is not a course that can be included for calculating eligibility or full-time student status. Students will have two consecutive semesters to complete all coursework to be eligible for a .5 elective credit. May be repeated 4 times. The focus of this course is tutoring at Northstar Elementary.

Periods 2, 3, 5, and 6: Study Skills

Grade Level: 7-12 Course Length: Quarter

This course is designated for students with an IEP. Students receive direct instruction in study skill strategies and assignments to reinforce the correct implementation of these skills. Students will also be offered time each day to work on their content area class work. This course may be counted for up to 1.0 English elective credit and then counted as general elective credits.

Periods 1-6: Study Hall

Grade Level: 7-12 Course Length: Quarter

No credit available

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Gerald Brown

Period 2: Life Science

Students will learn about cell structure and function along with cellular processes and energy. An introduction to the science of heredity will also be given. The plant and animal kingdoms will be stressed.

Credit .25/quarter

Grades 7-8

Period 3: Life Science

Students will learn about cell structure and function along with cellular processes and energy. An introduction to the science of heredity will also be given. The plant and animal kingdoms will be stressed.

Credit .25/quarter

Grades 7-8

Period 4: Geology

This course is designed to give students lab experience in the geology of Alaska, with special focus on the mineral wealth, which supports the present and past Alaskan economy. They will also study the geology base and impact of Alaska's oil and natural gas industries.

Credit .25/quarter

Grades 7-8

Period 5: Lifetime Personal Fitness

Students will learn the importance of being active their entire life. They will work towards the physical requirement for flexibility, muscular strength and endurance. They will participate in weight training, indoors games, running outside and stretching. Credit earned will be physical education .5 credit

Period 6: Health

All 8th graders need a semester of health; this class will cover wellness, nutrition, mental health, disease prevention, consumer health, substance abuse and sexual education. During the semester, students explore information on these topics so that they can make healthy choices through their life.

Credit: .25 Health/quarter

Grade 8th

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Jen Neff

Period 1: Algebra A Grade Level: 9-11

Course Length: Year

This course reviews and extends problem solving, data analysis, the use of technology (i.e., scientific calculator, graphing calculator, computer), the theory, use and understanding of the fundamental operations on real numbers. The course covers work with data, linear equations and functions, graphing linear equations, solving linear equations and inequalities, radicals, connects algebra with geometry and used algebra in appropriate related applications. *This course is the equivalent of the first semester of Algebra 1.* **In order to take this course a student can NOT have earned credit for the first semester of Algebra 1 or any higher level of math course

Prerequisite: D or better in Pre-Algebra or 8th grade math (basic math) or the recommendation or approval from the most recent math teacher

Credit Count: Math credit .25 per quarter

Period 1: Algebra B Grade Level: 10-12

Course Length: Year

This course reviews and extends problem solving, data analysis, the use of technology (i.e., scientific calculator, graphing calculator, computer), the theory, use and understanding of the fundamental operations on real numbers and linear equations, graphing linear equations in a variety of forms and work with data, equations, and functions. The course will cover systems of linear equations, quadratic functions, exponential functions, polynomial functions, rational functions, and discrete math using appropriate related applications. *This course is equivalent to the second semester of Algebra 1.*

**In order to take this course a student can NOT have earned credit for the second semester of Algebra 1 or any higher level of math course

Prerequisite: Successful completion of both semesters of Algebra A, or successful completion of the first semester of Algebra 1, or the recommendation from the most recent math teacher.

Credit Count: Math credit .25 per quarter

Period 2: Algebra I Grade Level: 7-12

Course Length: Year

The course reviews and extends problem solving, data analysis, the use of technology (i.e., scientific calculator, graphing calculator, computer), the theory, use and understanding of the fundamental operations on real numbers, expressing quantitative statements in the language of algebra, solving equations and inequalities, polynomials, the use of rational expressions in equations, coordinate graphing, irrational numbers, solution of quadratic equations and related applications.

Prerequisite: C or better in Pre-Algebra

Credit Count: Math credit .25 per quarter

Periods 3 and 4: Geometry Grade Level: 7-12

Course Length: Year

This class focuses on deductive and inductive reasoning. This first semester focuses more on deductive reasoning.

Prerequisite: A "C" or better in Algebra 1 both semesters.

Credit Count: Math credit .25 per quarter

Period 5: Pre-Calc Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: Year

This math course will consist of one semester of advanced algebra and one semester of trigonometry.

First semester we will focus on advanced algebra and further our knowledge of equations, functions, inequalities, linear systems, quadratic functions, and probability. Evaluation will be based on homework, in-class assignments, notes, projects, tests, and a cumulative final.

Prerequisite: A "C" or better in Algebra II both semesters.

Credit Count: Math credit .25

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Jennifer Wadsworth

Period 1: Advanced Composition

Grade Level: 11-12

Course Length: Semester

In this class, we will continue to develop your writing skills. This will include sentence variety, editing and revision, grammar usage, punctuation, and vocabulary. We'll learn the proper use of citation, how to avoid plagiarism, and how to conduct a thorough, comprehensive research for our papers. And we will learn how to write that all-important college admissions essay.

Required: 1G min. flash drive for storage and transportation of your projects.

Prerequisite: Intermediate Composition

Credit Count: Advanced Composition

Period 2: American Literature

Grade Level: 7-8

Course Length: Semester

We will be reading three novels chosen from a prepared list. These works will be your outside reading choices. A creative project and a writing assignment related to each individual work will be completed. The fourth project will be a paper exploring the common thread to these works. Class time will involve the reading of selections chosen for their use in the study and analysis of literature.

Required: 1G min. flash drive for storage and transportation of your projects.

Prerequisite: None

Credit Count: American Literature

Period 3: World Literature

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: Semester

This class is designed to supplement the traditional anthology used for World Literature and to encourage students to do independent reading and critical thinking. Students will choose three works from a prepared list and these will be your outside reading choices. After choosing one of four options with which to view your choices, a creative project and a writing assignment related to each individual work will be completed. The fourth project will be a paper exploring the common thread to these works. Class time will involve the reading of selections chosen for their use in the study and analysis of literature.

Required: 1G min. flash drive for storage and transportation of your projects.

Prerequisite: None

Credit Count: American Literature

Period 5: American Literature

Grade Level: 7-8

Course Length: Semester

We will be reading three novels chosen from a prepared list. These works will be your outside reading choices. A creative project and a writing assignment related to each individual work will be completed. The fourth project will be a paper exploring the common thread to these works. Class time will involve the reading of selections chosen for their use in the study and analysis of literature.

Required: 1G min. flash drive for storage and transportation of your projects.

Prerequisite: None

Credit Count: American Literature

Period 6: World History

Grade Level: 9-12

Course Length: Year

We'll begin this offering of World History with pre-Classical Greek history and will continue with ancient and classical Greece, ancient Chinese history, the Roman era and more during the first semester. We'll continue our study of our world history and uncover the foundations of Western culture as well as that of the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Early American cultures. Find out why civilizations rise and fall, what legacies they leave, if we are fated to rise and fall as well.

Required: 1G min. flash drive for storage and transportation of your projects.

Prerequisite: None

Credit Count: World History I

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Ken Varee

Period 1: US History

Grades 9-12

This year-long study of US History will begin with the French and Indian War and bring us to the present. While the potential class content is huge, we'll look at topics that are of particular interest to the class and spend more time on them where appropriate. Course work will include group work, cooperative group work, some lecture, and various other activities. Tests will be essay and some map work.

Credit: US History

Period 3: World Geography

Grades 7-8

This class will focus on the physical and human geography of the world with special emphasis on various regions. Students will produce country and regional studies that involve the use of maps, cultural studies, and ecological studies to explain the interdependency of a world growing smaller by the day.

Credit: Junior High Social Studies

Period 4: Media Literacy/United Nations

Grades 9-12

The first half of the semester will focus on the social issues surrounding the consumption of mass media today. We are constantly being bombarded with information of various types from all kinds of mass media including, social networks, email, text messages, cable, satellite, radio, television, and print media. Knowing the methods behind the messages is critical to becoming an informed and actively citizen in a democracy. The skills learned in this class will help students gain a better understanding of these media influences and how to deal effectively will all types of media. Course work will include group work, cooperative group work, some lecture, and various other activities.

The second half of the course will be devoted to learning about the United Nations and preparing for the Alaska Model United Nations in February. Students will learn the basic structure and functions of the UN and role-play as a UN delegate from a country of their choice. Students will learn how to write resolutions and position papers and debate issues currently before the real UN.

Credit: High School Social Science Elective

Period 5: US History

Grades 9-12

This year-long study of US History will begin with the French and Indian War and bring us to the present. While the potential class content is huge, we'll look at topics that are of particular interest to the class and spend more time on them where appropriate. Course work will include group work, cooperative group work, some lecture, and various other activities. Tests will be essay and some map work.

Credit: US History

Period 6: Field Studies Government/Government

Grades 11-12

Students will spend the quarter working on a local political campaign of their choice doing whatever the campaign manager or volunteer coordinator or both need to have done in support of their candidate. Students are expected to log at least 40 hours on their respective campaigns and may volunteer beyond the end of the quarter to work up to to election. This promises to be a pretty exciting year as many races will be closely contested and that, along with the presidential and state-wide races will make for a lively political season.

The second half of the semester will focus on constitutional issues and the basic structure of the federal government. Course work will include group work, cooperative group work, some lecture, and various other activities. Tests will be essay and some map work.

Credit: Government

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Lee Weiland

Period 1: Weight Training & Cross Training

Grades: 7-12

Learn how to develop a well-coordinated, strong, flexible, and balanced body for many different goals, including sports, personal fitness, and other athletics. You will also learn how to build your own exercise equipment. If you have taken both weight training and advanced weight training, you can earn Cross Training credit.

Modalities of training will include:

Powerlifting (as seen in competitions, useful for building raw strength)

Bodyweight & leverage training (used by athletes and gymnasts for incredible strength and muscle development)

Flexibility & mobility exercise (for injury prevention and increased range of motion)

Cross Training (useful for gaining explosive power and endurance)

\$15 materials fee

You will learn how to build a variety of effective exercise equipment that you will keep at the end of the course!

Period 2: Breakdancing & Hip Hop Peer Taught

Grades: 7-12

Semester long course

Learn the dance of Hip Hop culture known as b-boying, a dance also referred to as breakdancing. Study the history of Hip Hop culture, a culture that encompasses dance, as well as visual art, music, and poetic expression.

Period 3: Masters' Atelier Advanced Art

Grades: 9-12

This is a four-year visual arts program designed to equip the highly interested and motivated student for developing a strong portfolio ready for submission to college, to begin a career, or to share with College Board for potential college credit. Students will learn advanced techniques and methods in drawing, painting, sculpture, and design developed over centuries by the Old Masters as well as contemporary artists. Emphasis will be placed upon both the development of skill and conceptual expression. Admission is based upon grades, participation in exhibits, and dedication in the classroom. Interested students are welcome to apply with a minimum of 5 pieces of artwork, a review of grades, and a letter of recommendation from the advisor, all due one day prior to registration day.

\$15 materials fee

Period 4: Junior High Visual Art #1

Grade: 7-8

Year long course

If you would like to learn how to draw and paint well and use those techniques to create well-composed pieces of art that express exciting ideas and concepts, then this is the class for you! Students will learn how to use materials such as graphite, chalk pastel, oil pastel, colored pencil, watercolor, acrylic, oil, and mixed media along with the elements and principles of design to make fantastic works of art.

\$15 materials fee

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Period 5: Junior High Visual Art #2

Grade: 8

Year long course

If you have completed the Junior High Visual Art #1 course, then this second year class is your next step in developing strong skills and a robust portfolio of exciting and high quality artwork. Areas of focus will include illustration, 2D design, 3D design, and sculpture. Sign up for this class if you're ready to step up to the next level!

\$15 materials fee

Period 6: Drawing & Painting

Grades: 9-12

Year long course

This class will focus on developing a thorough understanding and use of drawing materials and techniques as well as fundamental painting techniques. Emphasis will be placed upon implementing the elements and principles of design with confidence as students pursue the development of a portfolio that exhibits a vivid expression of artistic voice.

\$15 materials fee

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Leigh Anne Bonney

Period 1: U.S. History and Government

Course Length: One Semester

This class will focus on the founding of our country, the writing of the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. government, and this year's election. Students will study our constitution through *We the People* and hold a mock Congressional Hearing. They will research the candidates that are running in the Presidential election and in other state and local elections. They will explore political issues from our history and today.

Credit: .50 U.S. History

Grades: 7-8

Period 2: World History

Course Length: 1 year

This course will focus on the world's history. Included in the first semester curriculum are the geographic regions of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Some of the major events that will be explored are the ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, India, and China. Geography, humanities, religions, government, economy, society, science, and technology are some of the themes/perspectives by which these areas of the world will be explored. Students will explore these topics through a variety of methods and material, including primary documents, simulations, and projects.

Credit: .50 per semester of World History

Grades: 9-12

Periods 3: Alaska Studies

Course Length: One Semester

This class offers an in-depth look at Alaska. Topics covered are Anchorage, Alaska's geography, Native Alaskan groups, history, politics, economics, and more. Students work individually, in groups, and as a class to explore these issues through projects, primary source readings, movies, simulations, and more.

Credit: .50 Alaska Studies

Grades: 10-12 graders

Period 4: Middle School Passages

Course Length: Quarter

Middle School Passages will introduce students to self-directed learning projects by allowing students to follow a passion. Students will be given the opportunity to pursue an area of interest while learning critical skills such as time management, writing, goal setting, researching, note taking, and more.

Students will develop their "Passage" curriculum with significant help from teachers, peers, and mentors in specific curricular areas. Each student's passage will be different and will fall into one of six areas (career exploration, creativity, practical skills, global awareness, logical inquiry, and adventure). This is a self-directed class where the goal is to stretch beyond your comfort zone! This is a great opportunity for students to push themselves and to give back to their community. Ideas for a Passage depend on your interests and creativity. Student will have the opportunity to complete two Passages, one per quarter.

Grade Level: 7-8 (high school students on approval and if room is available)

Credit Count: .25 elective/per quarter

Period 6: Social Issues

Course Length: Semester

This class will allow students to explore issues that concern them as citizens of our country and world. Topics covered will depend on student interest, but could include poverty, stereotypes, homelessness, environmental issues, and more. Exploration of these social issues will be through individual projects, group discussion, writing, and group projects. Students will have a chance to read about issues, write and share their opinion, and explore possible solutions to problems that concern them.

Grade Level: 7-8

Credit Count: .50 Social Studies Elective

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Natalie Foley

Period 3: Algebra II

Grade Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: This course is a second year algebra course. It will expand on the topics learned in a one or two year algebra class therefore you must have successfully completed that class with an average grade of C or better.

Description: Graphing calculators are required (TI-83 plus will be used by the instructor) and integrated into the class presentations. You will be responsible for learning your graphing calculator should you select one that is not Texas Instruments. The class will be expanding their knowledge of the language of Algebra. We will do this by learning more about equations, inequalities, graphing, matrices, probability, direct variation, compound functions, and quadratic equations. Evaluation will be based upon a combination of homework, tests, in class activities and a cumulative final. The percentage weight of each category can be negotiated.

Credit Count: .25 Math each quarter

Period 5: Calculus

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Prerequisites: The prerequisite for this class is an average passing grade of C or better in a yearlong Pre-calculus class.

Description: The class will be learning about continuity, limits, derivatives, derivative applications, and the basic rules of differentiation including implicit differentiation. Evaluation will be based on tests and weekly assignments/quizzes, and there will be a cumulative final.

Credit Count: .25 Math each quarter

Period 6: Algebra II

Grade Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: This course is a second year algebra course. It will expand on the topics learned in a one or two year algebra class therefore you must have successfully completed that class with an average grade of C or better.

Description: Graphing calculators are required (TI-83 plus will be used by the instructor) and integrated into the class presentations. You will be responsible for learning your graphing calculator should you select one that is not Texas Instruments. The class will be expanding their knowledge of the language of Algebra. We will do this by learning more about equations, inequalities, graphing, matrices, probability, direct variation, compound functions, and quadratic equations. Evaluation will be based upon a combination of homework, tests, in class activities and a cumulative final. The percentage weight of each category can be negotiated.

Credit Count: .25 Math each quarter

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Nobuo Toba

Period 1: Band

Prerequisite: Prior experience with a traditional band instrument in elementary and/or secondary school

Course Description: This class is designed to improve student's technical skills on their instrument.

Students will experience an awareness of music through theory and history of band music. Concert participation is mandatory. Full semester commitment is required. Repeatable unlimited times.

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Philip Fleckenstein

Period 2: Advanced Biology

Class Length: Semester

Grade Level: 9-12

Fee: \$10

Prerequisites: Biology

Topics covered in the course include chemistry of life, cells and cell energetics, heredity, molecular genetics, evolution, diversity of organisms, structure and function of both plants and animals, and ecology. The course is broken down into three areas of study: 25% molecules and cells, 25% genetics and evolution, and 50% organisms and populations.

Credit Count: Science

Period 3: Biology

Class Length: Year

Grade Level: 9-12

Fee: \$10

Prerequisites: none

This course is designed to study life starting from the microscopic and moving into the macroscopic world. The class will emphasis using the scientific method for research, and content areas will include, but not be limited to: chemistry of life, cell structure, genetics, evolution, animal behavior, botany, and ecology.

Credit Count: Life Science

Period 4: Biology

Class Length: Year

Grade Level: 9-12

Fee: \$10

Prerequisites: none

This course is designed to study life starting from the microscopic and moving into the macroscopic world. The class will emphasis using the scientific method for research, and content areas will include, but not be limited to: chemistry of life, cell structure, genetics, evolution, animal behavior, botany, and ecology.

Credit Count: Life Science

Period 5: Human Anatomy

Class Length: Semester

Grade Level: 7-8

Fee: \$10

Prerequisites: none

This class will cover the systems of the human body. In this course we will explore how the human body works with a focus on the interactions of the parts of each of the bodies major organ systems. We will cover concepts of nutrition, exercise physiology, human physiological function and their corresponding anatomical structures, and infectious disease.

Credit Count: Life Science

Period 6: Passages

Class Length: Semester

Grade Level: 9-12

Fee: 0

Prerequisites: none

Passages are personally challenging projects developed by each student in one of six different areas to demonstrate the ability to apply their skills in the real world. The Passage process includes the writing of a proposal, which is approved by a committee of peers, the advisor and a staff consultant. Mentors and parents are encouraged to participate. The six Passage areas are: Adventure, Career Exploration, Creativity, Community Involvement, Logical Inquiry and Practical Skills.

Credit Count: Elective, others upon petition.

STUDENT AIDES NEEDED ANY HOUR!!!

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Sally Jungreis

Period 1: Orchestra

Welcome to Orchestra!

Below are the basic guidelines for what to expect each day in class.

Supplies

- Instrument
- Folder
- Pencil

In-Class Expectations

FULL YEAR COMMITMENT

- Attend all classes.
- Have required materials always in hand.
- Keep a positive attitude and show willingness to try!

Outside Class Expectations

- PRACTICE!
- Participate in all orchestra concerts and events.
- Be on time to concerts , and come appropriately dressed as well.

Grading

Daily participation and behavior 25%

Playing tests/paper tests 25-50%

Practice sheets 25%

Concerts 0-25%

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Svetlana Jackson

Period 2 : Russian Language Level II +

I combine my Russian classes to Russian 2 +. I am going to provide differentiated instructions. It will be a small class; therefore, there is an opportunity to adjust the curriculum to individual needs, varying background knowledge, readiness, and language proficiency level. I am also expecting some students from Russian Immersion to be in this classroom. So it is going to be diverse. We will continue to practice in speaking, listening, reading, and writing with an emphasis on the development of oral and written communicative skills.

This course provides insight into many aspects of Russian culture and history. Studying Russian folklore, and Russian songs expands vocabulary, improves pronunciation, and helps develop a feeling for the rhythm of the language. The students will continue to learn about Russian food by sampling different menu items.

Credit Count: World Language

Course Length: Year

Period 3: Yearbook

Grade Level: 8-12 Prerequisite: None

The yearbook course offers the student total involvement in the production of the school yearbook. Activities include advertising, layout planning, photography, copy writing, and proofing. Students deepen their understanding of advertising.

Credit Count: Elective

No fee

Period 4: Area Studies

Grade Level: 7-8 Prerequisite: None

This course is an introductory survey to world history. First quarter includes history of China, Japan, and Korea. Students will study the cultural, literary, philosophical, and religious traditions of Asia as well as the historical conflicts that arose among various Asian civilizations. Purpose of this course is to provide a foundation for understanding of modern Asia. Students will also view and discuss video documentaries and film selections that illustrate how historical events influenced the world of art.

Second quarter is an introduction to the vast sweep of Russian and Eastern Europe cultures, societies and history. This region has produced some of the most enduring and beautiful works of music, literature, art, and cinema. It has a remarkable history and a culture that is as rich in experimentation and innovation as it is in tradition. This course provides pathways into discovering the region, geography, religions, government, economy, and society.

Credit Count: Social Studies

Course Length: Semester

Class Fee: \$5

Period 5& 6: Library & On-Line Courses

Grade Level: 11-12

APEX – APEX course offered through MYHIGH, an online program providing high school students in the ASD with opportunities to earn credit through online course work. Students are provided with high quality online courses that overcome scheduling challenges and meet student needs. LPF and Alaska Studies included. Course descriptions, application procedures, and deadlines are at <http://www.asdk12.org/schools/myhigh/pages/>

Application required.

Credit Count: APEX per course

Course Length: Semester

No fee

Course Descriptions 1st Semester 2012-2013

Troy Fast

Period 1: Pre-Algebra

Grade Level: 7-9

Course Length: Year

Students will continue to practice and improve their number sense. Measure sense, and estimation skills. They will review and extend their arithmetic, calculator, and thinking skills by working with fractions, decimals, percents, large and small numbers, and negative numbers, variables, expressions, equations, graphing, and other algebra topics. Successful completion will prepare a student for Algebra.

Period 2: Pre-Algebra

Grade Level: 7-9

Course Length: Year

This is the same course as period one.

Period 3: Flag Football

Grade Level: 7-12

Course Length: Quarter

The purpose of this course is to learn the fundamentals to football without major pain. NO PADS, NO HELMETS and NO TACKLING... Yes you will get blocking, running, and passing. This class is designed for students who desire to improve their skill in football. All fundamentals of the game will be covered. Drills will be used as well as team play. You will be graded on improvement, attendance, behavior, sportsmanship, and participation. (Teamwork is the key to any team sport.) *Students are required to wear appropriate clothing and shoes for outdoors. Students should expect a vigorous workout.*

Credit Count: P.E.

Period 4: Volleyball

Grade Level: 7-12

Course Length: Quarter

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the basic skills and knowledge associated with volleyball through active participation in the sport. In addition, this course provides students with opportunities to improve physical fitness, acquire knowledge of health-related fitness concepts, practice positive personal and social skills, and gain an understanding of how a wellness lifestyle affects health, fitness and physical performance.

Credit Count: P.E.

Period 6: Soccer

Grade Level: 7-12

Course Length: Quarter

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic skills and knowledge associated with soccer. By applying these principles through active participation, students develop the necessary skills and knowledge to play soccer. In addition, this course provides students with opportunities to improve physical fitness, acquire knowledge of fitness concepts, and practice positive personal and social skills. Students will gain and understanding of how a wellness lifestyle affects one's health, fitness and physical performance.

Credit Count: P.E./ Elective