

9th Grade Course Descriptions

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

English 9 (1130)

The course focuses on the study of fiction and nonfiction literature from various cultures and periods of time (from ancient Greek literature to present-day American works). The course helps students develop narrative, expository, and persuasive writing skills; as the course progresses, students will learn to self- and peer-edit using correct grammar, usage, and mechanics. English 9 also features research, media literacy, and public speaking components. Most readings and assignments are completed in class, but students will be expected to complete some independent homework assignments.

English 9 Honors (1130H)

The course focuses on the study of fiction and nonfiction literature from various cultures and periods of time (from ancient Greek literature to present-day American works). The course helps students develop narrative, expository, and persuasive writing skills; as the course progresses, students will learn to self- and peer-edit using correct grammar, usage, and mechanics. English 9 Honors also features research, media literacy, and public speaking components. In contrast to English 9, English 9 Honors students are expected to be willing and able to complete reading and writing assignments on a more comprehensive, more independent level.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

World History I (2215)

In World History I students will study the development of world civilizations from the prehistoric era to 1500 A.D. Emphasis is placed on Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Asian contributions to the modern world. This class focuses on helping students to appreciate history with a special emphasis on the appreciation of the religions of the world.

*Students in World History I will complete the World History I Standards of Learning test upon completion of this course.

World History I Honors (2215H)

In World History I students will study the development of world civilizations from the prehistoric era to 1500 A.D. Emphasis is placed on Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Asian contributions to the modern world. This class focuses on helping students to appreciate history with a special emphasis on the appreciation of the religions of the world.

*Students in World History I will complete the World History I Standards of Learning test upon completion of this course.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation.

Humanities (2315)

Humanities is the study of various culture-oriented topics such as philosophy, pop culture, television, art, theater, film, death, religion (studied from only a historical perspective), and human emotion. The class also includes a brief study of American (and some world) history, which is intended to illustrate how historical events and culture have influenced each other throughout the 20th and 21st centuries.

MATH DEPARTMENT

Algebra I (3130)

This course contains both content that reviews or extends concepts and skills learned in previous grades, plus the addition of new, more abstract concepts in algebra. Students

will gain proficiency in computation with rational numbers (positive and negative fractions, positive and negative decimals, whole numbers, and integers) and algebraic properties. New concepts include solving two-step equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations/inequalities, simplifying algebraic expressions with exponents (monomials and polynomials, factoring, and solving systems of equations), functions, and statistics (analyzing box and whisker plots, standard deviation, and z scores).

*Students enrolled in Algebra I will complete the Algebra I Standards of Learning End of Course Test upon completion of the course.

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra in 8th grade

Geometry (3143)

The study of geometry focuses on plane and solid figures and their properties. An emphasis is placed on triangle properties and relationships. Coordinate graphing, slope, and linear equations are also presented. The student will develop proficiency in using geometry to solve problems in everyday life, expand understanding of mathematical concepts, improve logical thinking skills, gain an understanding of geometry as a study of the mathematical relationships of objects in the world around us, and gain an appreciation of how mathematics relates to the world of work.

*Students enrolled in geometry will complete the Geometry Standards of Learning End of Course Test upon completion of the course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I

***Recommendation: Proficiency on the Algebra I Standards of Learning End of Course Test

Geometry Honors (3143H)

The study of geometry focuses on plane and solid figures and their properties. An emphasis is placed on triangle properties and relationships. Coordinate graphing, slope, and linear equations are also presented. The student will develop proficiency in using geometry to solve problems in everyday life, expand understanding of mathematical concepts, improve logical thinking skills, gain an understanding of geometry as a study of the mathematical relationships of objects in the world around us, and gain an appreciation of how mathematics relates to the world of work.

Honors Geometry includes all the subject content of the regular geometry course, but more emphasis is given to algebra, logic, third dimension, and transformational geometry.

*Students enrolled in Honors Geometry will complete the Geometry Standards of Learning End of Course Test upon completion of the course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I.

***Recommendations: Proficiency on the Algebra I Standards of Learning End of Course Test. Students are expected to utilize the concepts of Algebra 1 throughout the Honors Geometry course. Therefore, to be successful in Honors Geometry, a grade of "B" or better is recommended in Algebra I if the student has just completed 8th grade Algebra I, or a grade of "A" is recommended if the student has just completed 9th grade Algebra I.

9th Grade Course Descriptions

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Earth Science (4210)

Students in earth science will apply basic concepts in all branches of the field, which include geology (rocks /minerals, and Earth processes), meteorology (weather and climate), astronomy (space exploration, planets, and galaxies), and oceanography. Problem solving and decision-making will be stressed as well as map reading skills and making and reading graphs, tables, and charts. The scientific approach to problem solving and the development of scientific thought is emphasized in connecting key concepts involving the Earth's structure, processes, history, atmosphere, water systems, and its position in space. A primary goal is to prepare students for making informed decisions in matters involving the Earth, its natural resources and space. *Students enrolled in earth science will complete the Earth Science Standards of Learning End of Course Test upon completion of the course.

Earth Science Honors (4210H)

Students in earth science will apply basic concepts in all branches of the field, which include geology, meteorology, astronomy, and oceanography. Problem-solving and decision-making will be stressed as well as interpretation of maps, graphs, tables, and charts in each of these areas. The scientific method and the development of scientific thought, is emphasized in connecting key concepts involving the earth's structure, processes, history, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and its position in space. Major topics of study include plate tectonics, the rock cycle, Earth's history, the oceans, weather, climate, and the solar system and universe. A primary goal of these objectives is to prepare students for making informed decisions in matters involving the earth, its natural resources, and space. Students will be expected to read the chapters and do homework regularly.

*Students enrolled in Earth Science Honors will complete the Earth Science Standards of Learning End of Course Test upon completion of the course.

**This is a fast paced class intended for the advanced student.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

PE 9/Health (7300)

Ninth grade physical education class is designed to introduce incoming freshmen to a wide variety of both individual and team based sports while focusing on the five areas of physical fitness and working toward achieving the National Standards of fitness. Students will engage in a variety of modified game activities as well as lifelong wellness activities to help prepare them for PE10 and Advanced PE. This class is one where active participation is required therefore; students must be dressed in appropriate athletic clothing. This is a required course for all ninth grade students.

Ninth-grade health class is designed to help students become more aware of lifestyle choices they make and how those choices affect their overall health status. Students will cover a wide range of health related topics with the goal of the class to make students more aware about personal choices that they make and to promote a lifetime of healthy decisions.

**This course is required for all ninth-grade students.

Strength & Conditioning (7650)

The strength and conditioning classes are designed to develop a high level of physical fitness in our students. Class activities will include running, strength training, speed and agility drills, flexibility, and other aspects of fitness training. Proper dress is required for class, and complete participation is necessary. This is a physically demanding class.

Prerequisite: Students should have a grade of A or B in physical education. Teacher recommendation is required.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Spanish I (5510)

This course provides an introduction for absolute beginners to the language and cultures of Spain and Latin America. Successful students will develop basic listening, speaking, reading and writing skills necessary to communicate about self, family and daily life, as well as basic survival needs. Students will also explore cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world. **Prerequisite:** Successful students in Spanish I bring with them a good understanding of English grammar.

Spanish II (5520)

This course is a continuation of the first level of Spanish. Students will learn the use of the past tense structures and pronoun usage. Students will continue to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills necessary to communicate about self, family and daily life, as well as abstract concepts such as feelings and emotions. Students will also explore cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world. **Prerequisite:** Successful students in Spanish II bring with them the good foundation acquired in a successful year in Spanish I.

French I (5110)

This course is an introduction to the French language that focuses on four essential parts of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students can expect to learn about the French language and culture through books, videos, music, skits, games, and more.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Art I (9120)

Art I is an introductory course that requires no prerequisite. It builds on the knowledge of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design which are taught in elementary and middle school art. Following Virginia state guidelines, this course includes art history, aesthetics, art criticism and studio production. The students will work in drawing from life, painting with watercolor and acrylics, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, bookbinding, and visual journaling.

Art II (9130)

Art II requires the prerequisite of Art I. It extends and refines the student's abilities to investigate and respond to the visual arts. Areas of art not studied in Art I are introduced. Practice in other areas improves skills. The students will work in drawing, painting with water color and acrylic, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, and fiber arts. Following Virginia state guidelines, this course includes art history, aesthetics, art criticism and studio production.

Chorus (9285)

Chorus is for students who love to express themselves through music. This course focuses on and challenges students to achieve the normal requirements of a singleton chorus class.

9th Grade Course Descriptions

Areas of learning are breathing, listening, sight singing, working on the vocal register, and achieving a pure sound of singing. Opportunities to audition for the Washington All-County Chorus, Virginia District VII Choruses, and Virginia All-State are possibilities for excelled learners. Performance in concerts is a requirement for assessment.

General Music (9214)

This course will help students enjoy and know more about the different genres of music. The emphasis will be on the elements of music, the styles and history of the different musical eras, and composers - including some current musicians. There will also be guest speakers/performers and use of the media and technology to research topics. Students will be expected to participate in class activities and even learn to play simple melodies on the keyboard. No previous musical experience is required.

Band (9234)

The Instrumental Music Instructional Program is committed to ensuring that all students have an opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills needed for success playing as a soloist and in large ensembles.

The Instrumental Music Program is a sequential and continual program of study. Students generally begin instruction in middle school, but may begin in high school after the student and parents have met with the band director to develop a specialized path of learning an instrument. High school students enrolled in band class are required to participate in the marching and concert band components of the instrumental class and earn a credit for the year.

All instrumental music curricula is designed to foster competence in playing proficiency, note reading, ensemble performance skills, and musical understanding and is aligned with the Virginia State Music SOLs.

Percussion/Ensemble (9250)

The Instrumental Music Instructional Program is committed to ensuring that all students have an opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills needed for success playing as a soloist and in large ensembles.

The Instrumental Music Program is a sequential and continual program of study. Students generally begin instruction in middle school, but may begin in high school after the student and parents have met with the band director to develop a specialized path of learning an instrument. High school students enrolled in band class are required to participate in the marching and concert band components of the instrumental class and earn a credit for the year.

The Percussion Class/ Band Ensemble Class is specifically designed to meet the instrumental curriculum aligned with the Virginia Music SOLs. The Percussion/Ensemble class meets the specific needs that are associated with the percussion family of instruments. Students enrolled in the percussion class are full participants in the band program. Students in the Ensemble portion of the class must have permission from the band director to enroll in that class.

Band Guard (9296)

The Color Guard Class is specifically designed to meet the special needs that are associated with the artistic skill sets required by the visual ensemble component of the overall instrumental program; especially during marching band. Students in color guard class are expected to attempt learning

an instrument as a mean of expanding their skill sets, therefore helping them acquire addition marketable skills in the music industry. Enrollment in the class is by audition only. The auditions are held during March and/or April.

Music Theory I (9222)

In this course we will fundamentally break down music into its simplest, most basic forms. With each basic component of music, we will study it in written, aural, and audiated forms. Basic components will then be combined / supplemented to study progressively more advanced topics within music theory. You will be asked to listen, read, write, sing, correct errors, create exercises, review a music performance, and peer teach topics as part of this course. While we start at the very beginning as if students have zero musical knowledge, this course is very fast paced, and is often difficult for students without some sort of a musical background. That being said, some of my best students have been non-musicians, but have had to put forth a great deal of time and effort into daily study. This is not an acceptable course for students who are in need of a general music elective course, and do not want / have ample time to study daily.

Music Theory II (9225)

Music Theory is a block class course offered to students with substantial musical backgrounds (either formal, notation-based training, or significant amounts of self-taught or "by ear" knowledge) who wish to become more familiar with musical structure, language, and notation; and/or to advance personal musicianship and prepare for college. The course includes: introduction/review in the fundamentals and materials of music (notation, rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and texture); substantial amounts of ear training, arranging and composition; harmonic and formal analysis of both classical and pop/ jazz works; and ample opportunities for students to explore music of their own choosing.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Information Technology Fundamentals (6670)

Information Technology (IT) Fundamentals is an introductory class that introduces students to basic computer information. Students must take Information Technology before taking the advanced computer classes. Students will produce simple business documents using Microsoft Office software. Basic internet skills, computer concepts, and Workplace Readiness will also be covered. Information Technology introduces the essential skills needed for students to pursue specialized programs leading to technical and professional careers and certifications in the IT industry.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Foundations of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (8006)

Grades: 9-10

This course is designed to develop competencies in each of the career pathways as they pertain to agricultural education, including the areas of Virginia's agriculture industry; the global scope of agriculture; scientific research of opportunities; agricultural skills and safety in power, structural, and technical systems; and natural resources and environmental systems.

9th Grade Course Descriptions

Introduction to Animal Systems (8008)

Grades: 9-10

Students develop competencies in each of the major areas of the Animal Systems career pathway including animal nutrition, reproduction, breeding, care, and management. Students learn agricultural mechanics applicable to animal systems. Students will be exposed to principles of leadership and opportunities of the FFA.

Equine Management and Production (8080)

Grades: 9-12

Equine management is a class that explores the basic needs and care of the horse, anatomy, first aid, nutrition, reproduction, breeding, genetics, and many more hands on topics involved with the horse. The class will travel to farms with horses a couple of times a semester in order to learn hands on how to properly groom, tack, train and handle horses.

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Horticulture Science I (8034)

Grades: 9-10

Students develop the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes for entry-level employment and advancement in areas such as floriculture, landscape design, greenhouse operation, and nursery plant production. Students receive instruction in using soil and other plant growing media, identifying propagation methods, and growing plants in the school greenhouse. Leadership development activities are included and participation in FFA activities is encouraged.

Greenhouse Plant Production and Management (8035)

Grades: 9-12

Students enrolled in this course learn the operating procedures for a greenhouse. Units of instruction include developing plant production facilities, science application in plant production, and identification of plants. Business management and marketing skills are emphasized to prepare students for careers in the greenhouse plant production and management industry. Leadership development is offered through participation in FFA.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Study Skills (0130)

Students in study skills class work one-on-one with a special education teacher to increase test preparation skills in all subjects. Students receive tutoring, homework help, and SOL remediation. Lessons are prepared for individual students needing assistance with basic life skills such as counting money, making change, working on a budget, completing a job application and writing a resume, etc.

Prerequisite: Individualized Education Plan through Special Services Department.

WASHINGTON COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Career Pathways and Career Rotation (9071)

This course is designed to be in 9 week rotations, students will take one class per 9 weeks. The classes offered are as follows: Auto Body Repair, Advertising Design, Health Careers, Computer Maintenance, Basic Carpentry, and Electricity.